George Peele was educated at Oxford, but he lived the life of a literary hack, writing a variety of poems, pamphlets, and plays in search of a patron. No single work of his achieves greatness, but he is remarkable for being the first writer to bring the language of poetry to the stage. His *Fair and Fair* is a roundelay (a dance-song, often written to an old tune) in the courtly play *The Arraignment of Paris* (in Peele’s treatment of the legend, Paris gives the golden apple not to one of the three goddesses but to Queen Elizabeth). Oenone, with whom he sings the song reprinted below, is a nymph whom Paris loved before his judgment of the goddesses.

**Fair and Fair**

OENONE. Fair and fair and twice so fair,  
As fair as any may be;  
The fairest shepherd on our green,  
A love for any lady.

PARIS. Fair and fair and twice so fair,  
As fair as any may be;  
Thy love is fair for thee alone,  
And for no other lady.

OENONE. My love is fair, my love is gay,  
As fresh as been the flowers in May,  
And of my love my roundelay  
Concludes with Cupid’s curse:  
They that do change old love for new,  
Pray gods they change for worse.

AMBO SIMUL. They that do change, etc.  
OENONE. Fair and fair, etc.  
PARIS. Fair and fair, etc. Thy love is fair, etc.  
OENONE. My love can pipe, my love can sing,  
My love can many a pretty thing,  
And of his lovely praises ring  
My merry, merry roundelay.  
Amen to Cupid’s curse:  
They that do change, etc.

PARIS. They that do change, etc.  
AMBO. Fair and fair, etc.

1. Both together.