

1937

## Could I But Choose

Mabel Major

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### Recommended Citation

Major, Mabel. "Could I But Choose." *New Mexico Quarterly* 7, 4 (1937). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol7/iss4/10>

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tion, the abominable lack of public health facilities, poverty and illiteracy—are also data of our regionalism. Across the infinite landscape of the awed-regionalist are shadows. And a regionalism that denies, often with frantic ignorance, or decorates the experiences of a people with the fastidious jargon of culture salesmen, must be clearly accused of being more than an amiable ally of conscious reactionaries.

### Could I But Choose

*By* MABEL MAJOR

Could I but choose one virtue of the seven,  
 Those sisters white, confronting the Deadly Sins,  
 My choice would be the last within the line,  
 Stern Fortitude with lineaments unmoved  
 By swift-wheeled pleasures or the hours that burn.  
 Faith, Hope, sweet Charity are well  
 Enough for self-sure youth wrapped blind in dreams;  
 Spare Temperance and fruitless Chastity  
 For those whose eyes held fast on other bliss  
 Find no temptation in the world of flesh.  
 Prudence, the most unlovely of the seven,  
 Belongs to age who talks and ventures none.  
 Thou Virtue stern, lips pressed and tears unshed,  
 Make firm the step of us within the stream.