



WHITTIER'S
POETICAL
WORKS



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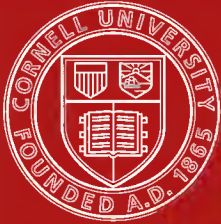
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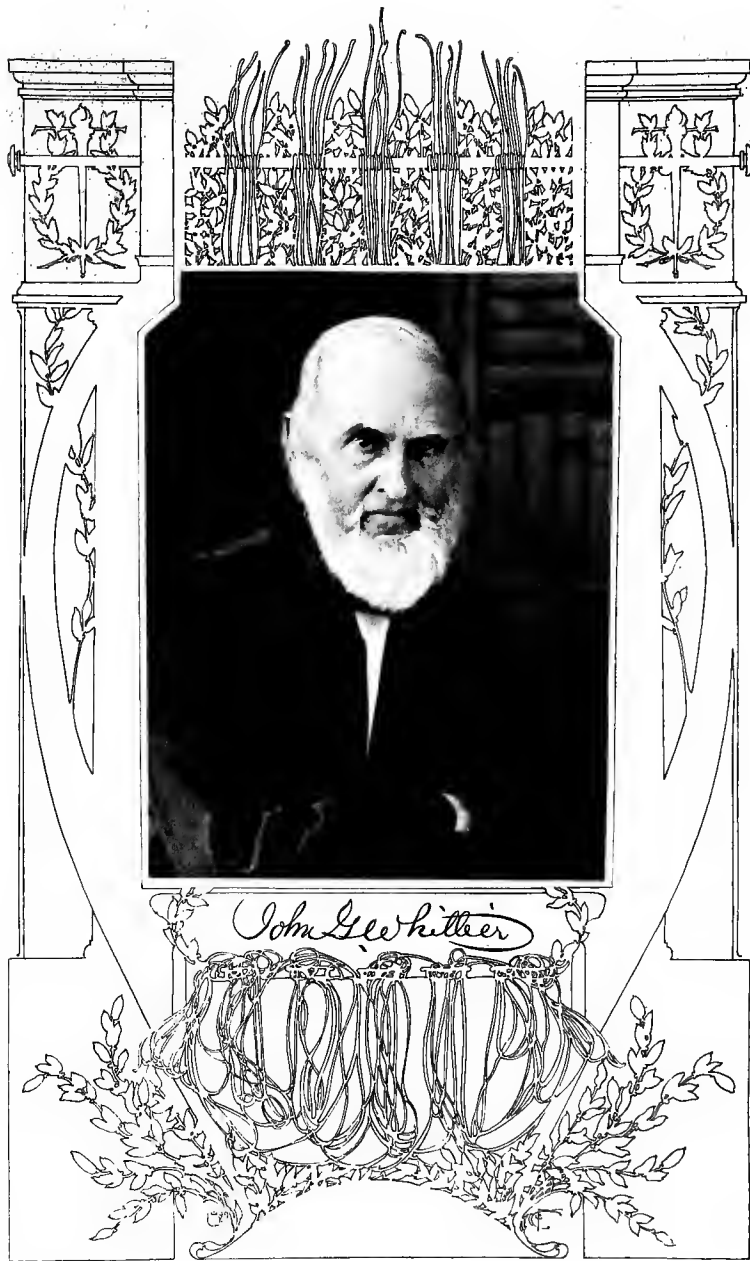


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WHITTIER'S POEMS



John Lee Killee

THE COMPLETE
POETICAL WORKS
OF
JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

Library Edition

WITH ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX ILLUSTRATIONS



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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER, of Quaker birth in Puritan surroundings, was born at the homestead near Haverhill, Massachusetts, December 17, 1807. Until his eighteenth year he lived at home, working upon the farm and in the little shoemaker's shop which nearly every farm then had as a resource in the otherwise idle hours of winter. The manual, homely labor upon which he was employed was in part the foundation of that deep interest which the poet never ceased to take in the toil and fortunes of the plain people. Throughout his poetry runs this golden thread of sympathy with honorable labor and enforced poverty, and many poems are directly inspired by it. While at work with his father he sent poems to the *Haverhill Gazette*, and that he was not in subjection to his work is very evident by the fact that he translated it and similar occupations into *Songs of Labor*. He had two years' academic training, and in 1829 became editor in Boston of the *American Manufacturer*, a paper published in the interest of the tariff. In 1831 he published his *Legends of New England*, prose sketches in a department of literature which always had strong claims upon his interest. No American writer, unless Irving be excepted, has done so much to throw a graceful veil of poetry and legend over the country of his daily life. Essex County, in Massachusetts, and the beaches lying between Newburyport and Portsmouth, blossom with flowers of Whittier's planting. He made rare use of the homely stories which he had heard in his childhood, and learned afterward from familiar intercourse with country people, and he used invention delicately and in harmony with the spirit of the New England coast. Although he came of a body of men who in earlier days had been persecuted by the Puritans of New England, his generous mind did not fail to detect all the good that was in the stern creed and life of the persecutors, and to bring it forward into the light of his poetry.

In 1836 he published *Mogg Megone*, a poem which stood first in the collected edition of his poems issued in 1857, and was admitted there with some reluctance, apparently, by the author. In that and *The Bridal of Pennacook* he draws his material from the relation held between the Indians and the settlers. His sympathy was always with the persecuted and oppressed, and while historically he found an object of pity and self-reproach in the Indian, his profoundest compassion and most stirring indignation were called out by African slavery. From the earliest he was upon the side of the abolition party. Year after year poems fell from his pen in which with all the eloquence of his nature he sought to enlist his countrymen upon the side of emancipation and freedom. It is not too much to say that in the slow development of public sentiment Whittier's steady song was one of the most powerful advocates that the slave had, all the more powerful that it was free from malignity or unjust accusation.

Besides the poems already indicated, there are a number which owe their origin to Whittier's tender regard for domestic life and the simple experience of the men and women about him. Of these *Snow-Bound* is the most mem-

orable. Then his fondness for a story led him to use the ballad form in many cases, and *Mabel Martin* is one of a number in which the narrative is blended with a fine and strong charity. His catholic mind and his instinct for discovering the pure moral in human action are disclosed by a number of poems, drawn from a wide range of historical fact, dealing with a great variety of religious faiths and circumstances of life, but always pointing to some sweet and strong truth of the divine life. Of such are *The Brother of Mercy*, *The Gift of Tritemius*, *The Two Rabbins*, and others. Whittier's *Prose Works* are comprised in three volumes, and consist mainly of his contributions to journals and of *Margaret Smith's Journal*, a fictitious diary of a visitor to New England in 1678.

Mr. Whittier died at Hampton Falls, N. H., September 7, 1892. His life has been written by his literary executor, Samuel T. Pickard, under the title *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*.

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PROEM

[Written to introduce the first general collection of Whittier's Poems.]

I LOVE the old melodious lays
Which softly melt the ages through,
The songs of Spenser's golden days,
Arcadian Sidney's silvery phrase,
Sprinkling our noon of time with freshest morning dew.

Yet, vainly in my quiet hours
To breathe their marvellous notes I try;
I feel them, as the leaves and flowers
In silence feel the dewy showers,
And drink with glad, still lips the blessing of the sky.

The rigor of a frozen clime,
The harshness of an untaught ear,
The jarring words of one whose rhyme
Beat often Labor's hurried time,
Or Duty's rugged march through storm and strife, are here.

Of mystic beauty, dreamy grace,
No rounded art the lack supplies;
Unskilled the subtle lines to trace,
Or softer shades of Nature's face,
I view her common forms with unanointed eyes.

Nor mine the seer-like power to show
The secrets of the heart and mind;
To drop the plummet-line below
Our common world of joy and woe,
A more intense despair or brighter hope to find.

Yet here at least an earnest sense
Of human right and weal is shown;
A hate of tyranny intense,
And hearty in its vehemence,
As if my brother's pain and sorrow were my own.

O freedom! if to me belong
Nor mighty Milton's gift divine,
Nor Marvell's wit and graceful song,
Still with a love as deep and strong
As theirs, I lay, like them, my best gifts on thy shrine!

AMESBURY, 11th mo., 1847.



“ Too early voyager with too frail an oar ” (see p. 39)

NARRATIVE AND LEGENDARY POEMS

THE VAUDOIS TEACHER

“ O LADY fair, these silks of mine are beautiful and rare, —
The richest web of the Indian loom, which beauty’s queen might wear;
And my pearls are pure as thy own fair neck, with whose radiant light they
vie;
I have brought them with me a weary way, — will my gentle lady buy ? ”

The lady smiled on the worn old man through the dark and clustering curls
Which veiled her brow, as she bent to view his silks and glittering pearls;
And she placed their price in the old man’s hand and lightly turned away,
But she paused at the wanderer’s earnest call, — “ My gentle lady, stay ! ”

“ O lady fair, I have yet a gem which a purer lustre flings,
Than the diamond flash of the jewelled crown on the lofty brow of kings;
A wonderful pearl of exceeding price, whose virtue shall not decay,
Whose light shall be as a spell to thee and a blessing on thy way ! ”

The lady glanced at the mirroring steel where her form of grace was seen,
Where her eye shone clear, and her dark locks waved their clasping pearls
between;

“ Bring forth thy pearl of exceeding worth, thou traveller gray and old,
And name the price of thy precious gem, and my page shall count thy gold. ”

The cloud went off from the pilgrim's brow, as a small and meagre book,
 Unchased with gold or gem of cost, from his folding robe he took !
 "Here, lady fair, is the pearl of price, may it prove as such to thee !
 Nay, keep thy gold — I ask it not, for the word of God is free !"

The hoary traveller went his way, but the gift he left behind
 Hath had its pure and perfect work on that highborn maiden's mind,
 And she hath turned from the pride of sin to the lowliness of truth,
 And given her human heart to God in its beautiful hour of youth !

And she hath left the gray old halls, where an evil faith had power,
 The courtly knights of her father's train, and the maidens of her bower ;
 And she hath gone to the Vaudois vales by lordly feet untrod,
 Where the poor and needy of earth are rich in the perfect love of God !

THE FEMALE MARTYR

"BRING out your dead!" The mid-
 night street
 Heard and gave back the hoarse,
 low call ;
 Harsh fell the tread of hasty feet,
 Glanced through the dark the coarse
 white sheet,
 Her coffin and her pall.
 "What — only one!" the brutal hack-
 man said,
 As, with an oath, he spurned away
 the dead:

How sunk the inmost hearts of all,
 As rolled that dead-cart slowly by,
 With creaking wheel and harsh hoof-
 fall !
 The dying turned him to the wall,
 To hear it and to die !
 Onward it rolled ; while oft its driver
 stayed,
 And hoarsely clamored, "Ho! bring
 out your dead."

It paused beside the burial-place ;
 "Toss in your load!" and it was
 done.
 With quick hand and averted face,
 Hastily to the grave's embrace
 They cast them, one by one,
 Stranger and friend, the evil and the
 just,
 Together trodden in the churchyard
 dust!

And thou, young martyr! thou wast
 there;
 No white-robed sisters round thee
 trod.

Nor holy hymn, nor funeral prayer
 Rose through the damp and noisome
 air,
 Giving thee to thy God ;
 Nor flower, nor cross, nor hallowed
 taper gave
 Grace to the dead, and beauty to the
 grave!

Yet, gentle sufferer! there shall be,
 In every heart of kindly feeling, 30
 A rite as holy paid to thee
 As if beneath the convent-tree
 Thy sisterhood were kneeling,
 At vesper hours, like sorrowing an-
 gels, keeping
 Their tearful watch around thy place
 of sleeping.

For thou wast one in whom the light
 Of Heaven's own love was kindled
 well ;
 Enduring with a martyr's might,
 Through weary day and wakeful
 night,
 Far more than words may tell: 40
 Gentle, and meek, and lowly, and un-
 known,
 Thy mercies measured by thy God
 alone!

Where manly hearts were failing,
 where
 The throngful street grew foul with
 death,
 O high-souled martyr! thou wast there,
 Inhaling, from the loathsome air,
 Poison with every breath.
 Yet shrinking not from offices of dread
 For the wrong dying, and the uncon-
 scious dead.

And, where the sickly taper shed ⁵⁰
 Its light through vapors, damp, con-
 fined,
 Hushed as a seraph's fell thy tread,
 A new Electra by the bed
 Of suffering human-kind!
 Pointing the spirit, in its dark dismay,
 To that pure hope which fadeth not
 away.

Innocent teacher of the high
 And holy mysteries of Heaven!
 How turned to thee each glazing eye,
 In mute and awful sympathy, ⁶⁰
 As thy low prayers were given;
 And the o'er-hovering Spoiler wore,
 the while,
 An angel's features, a deliverer's
 smile!

A blessed task! and worthy one
 Who, turning from the world, as
 thou,
 Before life's pathway had begun
 To leave its spring-time flower and
 sun,
 Had sealed her early vow;
 Giving to God her beauty and her
 youth,
 Her pure affections and her guileless
 truth. ⁷⁰

Earth may not claim thee. Nothing
 here
 Could be for thee a meet reward;
 Thine is a treasure far more dear:
 Eye hath not seen it, nor the ear
 Of living mortal heard
 The joys prepared, the promised bliss
 above,
 The holy presence of Eternal Love!

Sleep on in peace. The earth has
 not
 A nobler name than thine shall be.
 The deeds by martial manhood
 wrought, ⁸⁰
 The lofty energies of thought,
 The fire of poesy,
 These have but frail and fading hon-
 ors; thine
 Shall Time unto Eternity consign.

Yea, and when thrones shall crumble
 down,
 And human pride and grandeur fall,

The herald's line of long renown,
 The mitre and the kingly crown, —
 Perishing glories all!
 The pure devotion of thy generous
 heart ⁹⁰
 Shall live in Heaven, of which it was
 a part.

EXTRACT FROM "A NEW ENGLAND LEGEND"

How has New England's romance fled,
 Even as a vision of the morning!
 Its rites foredone, its guardians dead,
 Its priestesses, bereft of dread,
 Waking the veriest urchin's scorn-
 ing!
 Gone like the Indian wizard's yell
 And fire-dance round the magic
 rock,
 Forgotten like the Druid's spell
 At moonrise by his holy oak!
 No more along the shadowy glen ¹⁰
 Glide the dim ghosts of murdered
 men;
 No more the unquiet churchyard dead
 Glimpse upward from their turfy bed,
 Startling the traveller, late and
 lone;
 As, on some night of starless weather,
 They silently commune together,
 Each sitting on his own head-stone!
 The roofless house, decayed, deserted,
 Its living tenants all departed,
 No longer rings with midnight revel
 Of witch, or ghost, or goblin evil; ²¹
 No pale blue flame sends out its flashes
 Through creviced roof and shattered
 sashes!
 The witch-grass round the hazel spring
 May sharply to the night-air sing,
 But there no more shall withered hags
 Refresh at ease their broomstick nags,
 Or taste those hazel-shadowed waters
 As beverage meet for Satan's daugh-
 ters;
 No more their mimic tones be heard, ³⁰
 The mew of cat, the chirp of bird,
 Shrill blending with the hoarser laugh-
 ter
 Of the fell demon following after!
 The cautious goodman nails no more
 A horseshoe on his outer door,
 Lest some unseemly hag should fit
 To his own mouth her bridle-bit;

The good wife's churn no more refuses
 Its wonted culinary uses
 Until, with heated needle burned, 40
 The witch has to her place returned !
 Our witches are no longer old
 And wrinkled beldames, Satan-sold,
 But young and gay and laughing crea-
 tures,

With the heart's sunshine on their
 features :

Their sorcery — the light which dances
 Where the raised lid unveils its glances ;

Or that low-breathed and gentle tone,
 The music of Love's twilight hours,
 Soft, dream-like, as a fairy's moan 50
 Above her nightly closing flowers,
 Sweeter than that which sighed of yore
 Along the charmed Ausonian shore !
 Even she, our own weird heroine,
 Sole Pythoness of ancient Lynn,

Sleeps calmly where the living laid
 her ;

And the wide realm of sorcery,
 Left by its latest mistress free,
 Hath found no gray and skilled in-
 vader.

So perished Albion's "glammarye," 60
 With him in Melrose Abbey sleep-
 ing,

His charmed torch beside his knee,
 That even the dead himself might see
 The magic scroll within his keeping.

And now our modern Yankee sees
 Nor omens, spells, nor mysteries ;
 And naught above, below, around,
 Of life or death, of sight or sound,
 Whate'er its nature, form, or look.

Excites his terror or surprise, — 70
 All seeming to his knowing eyes
 Familiar as his "catechise,"

Or "Webster's Spelling-Book."

THE DEMON OF THE STUDY

THE Brownie sits in the Scotchman's
 room,

And eats his meat and drinks his ale,
 And beats the maid with her unused
 broom,

And the lazy lout with his idle flail ;
 But he sweeps the floor and threshes
 the corn,

And hies him away ere the break of
 dawn.

The shade of Denmark fled from the
 sun,

And the Cocklane ghost from the
 barnloft cheer,

The fiend of Faust was a faithful one,
 Agrippa's demon wrought in fear, 10
 And the devil of Martin Luther sat
 By the stout monk's side in social chat.

The Old Man of the Sea, on the neck
 of him

Who seven times crossed the deep,
 Twined closely each lean and withered
 limb,

Like the nightmare in one's sleep.
 But he drank of the wine, and Sind-
 bad cast

The evil weight from his back at last.

But the demon that cometh day by
 day

To my quiet room and fireside
 nook, 20

Where the casement light falls dim
 and gray

On faded painting and ancient book,
 Is a sorrier one than any whose names
 Are chronicled well by good King
 James.

No bearer of burdens like Caliban,

No runner of errands like Ariel,
 He comes in the shape of a fat old
 man,

Without rap of knuckle or pull of
 bell ;

And whence he comes, or whither he
 goes,

I know as I do of the wind which
 blows. 30

A stout old man with a greasy hat

Slouched heavily down to his dark,
 red nose,

And two gray eyes enveloped in fat,
 Looking through glasses with iron
 bows.

Read ye, and heed ye, and ye who
 can,

Guard well your doors from that old
 man !

He comes with a careless "How d' ye
 do?"

And seats himself in my elbow-
 chair ;

And my morning paper and pamphlet
new

Fall forthwith under his special care,
And he wipes his glasses and clears
his throat,⁴¹
And, button by button, unfolds his
coat.

And then he reads from paper and
book,

In a low and husky asthmatic tone,
With the stolid sameness of posture
and look

Of one who reads to himself alone ;
And hour after hour on my senses
come

That husky wheeze and that dolorous
hum.

The price of stocks, the auction sales,
The poet's song and the lover's

glee,⁵⁰
The horrible murders, the seaboard
gales,

The marriage list, and the *jeu d'es-*
prit,

All reach my ear in the self-same
tone, —

I shudder at each, but the fiend reads
on!

Oh, sweet as the lapse of water at noon
O'er the mossy roots of some forest
tree,

The sigh of the wind in the woods of
June,

Or sound of flutes o'er a moonlight
sea,

Or the low soft music, perchance,
which seems

To float through the slumbering sing-
er's dreams,⁶⁰

So sweet, so dear is the silvery tone,
Of her in whose features I some-
times look,

As I sit at eve by her side alone,
And we read by turns, from the
self-same book,

Some tale perhaps of the olden time,
Some lover's romance or quaint old
rhyme.

Then when the story is one of woe, —
Some prisoner's plaint through his
dungeon-bar,

Her blue eye glistens with tears, and
low

Her voice sinks down like a moan
afar ;

And I seem to hear that prisoner's⁷⁰
wail.

And his face looks on me worn and
pale.

And when she reads some merrier
song,

Her voice is glad as an April bird's ;
And when the tale is of war and
wrong,

A trumpet's summons is in her
words,

And the rush of the hosts I seem to
hear,

And see the tossing of plume and
spear!

Oh, pity me then, when, day by day,
The stout fiend darkens my parlor
door ;⁸⁰

And reads me perchance the self-same
lay

Which melted in music, the night
before,

From lips as the lips of Hylas sweet,
And moved like twin roses which
zephyrs meet!

I cross my floor with a nervous tread,
I whistle and laugh and sing and
shout.

I flourish my cane above his head,
And stir up the fire to roast him
out ;

I topple the chairs, and drum on the
pane,

And press my hands on my ears, in
vain!⁹⁰

I've studied Glanville and James the
wise,
And wizard black-letter tomes which
treat

Of demons of every name and size
Which a Christian man is presumed
to meet,

But never a hint and never a line
Can I find of a reading fiend like mine.

I've crossed the Psalter with Brady
and Tate.

And laid the Primer above them all,

I've nailed a horseshoe over the grate,
 And hung a wig to my parlor wall
 Once worn by a learned Judge, they
 say, ¹⁰¹
 At Salem court in the witchcraft
 day!

"*Conjuro te, sceleratissime,
 Abire ad tuum locum!*" — still
 Like a visible nightmare he sits by
 me, —

The exorcism has lost its skill;
 And I hear again in my haunted room
 The husky wheeze and the dolorous
 hum!

Ah! commend me to Mary Magda-
 len

With her sevenfold plagues, to the
 wandering Jew, ¹¹⁰
 To the terrors which haunted Orestes
 when

The furies his midnight curtains
 drew,
 But charm him off, ye who charm him
 can,
 That reading demon, that fat old man!

THE FOUNTAIN

TRAVELLER! on thy journey toiling
 By the swift Powow,
 With the summer sunshine falling
 On thy heated brow,
 Listen, while all else is still,
 To the brooklet from the hill.

Wild and sweet the flowers are blow-
 ing
 By that streamlet's side,
 And a greener verdure showing
 Where its waters glide, ¹⁰
 Down the hill-slope murmuring on,
 Over root and mossy stone.

Where yon oak his broad arms flingeth
 O'er the sloping hill,
 Beautiful and freshly springeth
 That soft-flowing rill,
 Through its dark roots wreathed and
 bare,
 Gushing up to sun and air.

Brighter waters sparkled never
 In that magic well, ²⁰



"Autumn's earliest frost."

Of whose gift of life forever
 Ancient legends tell,
 In the lonely desert wasted,
 And by mortal lip untasted.

Waters which the proud Castilian
 Sought with longing eyes,
 Underneath the bright pavilion
 Of the Indian skies,
 Where his forest pathway lay
 Through the blooms of Florida. 30

Years ago a lonely stranger,
 With the dusky brow
 Of the outcast forest-ranger,
 Crossed the swift Powow,
 And betook him to the rill
 And the oak upon the hill.

O'er his face of moody sadness
 For an instant shone
 Something like a gleam of gladness,
 As he stooped him down 40
 To the fountain's grassy side,
 And his eager thirst supplied.

With the oak its shadow throwing
 O'er his mossy seat,
 And the cool, sweet waters flowing
 Softly at his feet,
 Closely by the fountain's rim
 That lone Indian seated him.

Autumn's earliest frost had given
 To the woods below 50
 Hues of beauty, such as heaven
 Lendeth to its bow ;
 And the soft breeze from the west
 Scarcely broke their dreamy rest.

Far behind was Ocean striving
 With his chains of sand ;
 Southward, sunny glimpses giving,
 'Twixt the swells of land,
 Of its calm and silvery track,
 Rolled the tranquil Merrimac. 60

Over village, wood, and meadow
 Gazed that stranger man,
 Sadly, till the twilight shadow
 Over all things ran,
 Save where spire and westward pane
 Flashed the sunset back again.

Gazing thus upon the dwelling
 Of his warrior sires,

Where no lingering trace was telling
 Of their wigwam fires, 70
 Who the gloomy thoughts might
 know
 Of that wandering child of woe ?

Naked lay, in sunshine glowing,
 Hills that once had stood
 Down their sides the shadows throw-
 ing
 Of a mighty wood,
 Where the deer his covert kept,
 And the eagle's pinion swept !

Where the birch canoe had glided
 Down the swift Powow, 80
 Dark and gloomy bridges strided
 Those clear waters now ;
 And where once the beaver swam,
 Jarred the wheel and frowned the dam.

For the wood-bird's merry singing,
 And the hunter's cheer,
 Iron clang and hammer's ringing
 Smote upon his ear ;
 And the thick and sullen smoke
 From the blackened forges broke. 90

Could it be his fathers ever
 Loved to linger here ?
 These bare hills, this conquered
 river, —
 Could they hold them dear,
 With their native loveliness
 Tamed and tortured into this ?

Sadly, as the shades of even
 Gathered o'er the hill,
 While the western half of heaven
 Blushed with sunset still, 100
 From the fountain's mossy seat
 Turned the Indian's weary feet.

Year on year hath flown forever,
 But he came no more
 To the hillside on the river
 Where he came before.
 But the villager can tell
 Of that strange man's visit well.

And the merry children, laden
 With their fruits or flowers, — 110
 Roving boy and laughing maiden,
 In their school-day hours,
 Love the simple tale to tell
 Of the Indian and his well.

PENTUCKET

1708

How sweetly on the wood-girt town
The mellow light of sunset shone!
Each small, bright lake, whose waters
still

Mirror the forest and the hill,
Reflected from its waveless breast
The beauty of a cloudless west,
Glorious as if a glimpse were given
Within the western gates of heaven,
Left, by the spirit of the star
Of sunset's holy hour, ajar! 10

Beside the river's tranquil flood
The dark and low-walled dwellings
stood,

Where many a rood of open land
Stretched up and down on either
hand,

With corn-leaves waving freshly green
The thick and blackened stumps be-
tween.

Behind, unbroken, deep and dread,
The wild, untravelled forest spread,
Back to those mountains, white and
cold,

Of which the Indian trapper told, 20
Upon whose summits never yet
Was mortal foot in safety set.

Quiet and calm, without a fear
Of danger darkly lurking near,
The weary laborer left his plough,
The milkmaid carolled by her cow;
From cottage door and household
hearth

Rose songs of praise, or tones of
mirth.

At length the murmur died away,
And silence on that village lay. 30
— So slept Pompeii, tower and hall,
Ere the quick earthquake swallowed
all,

Undreaming of the fiery fate
Which made its dwellings desolate!

Hours passed away. By moonlight
sped

The Merrimac along his bed.
Bathed in the pallid lustre, stood
Dark cottage-wall and rock and wood,
Silent, beneath that tranquil beam,
As the hushed grouping of a dream.

Yet on the still air crept a sound, 41
No bark of fox, nor rabbit's bound,
Nor stir of wings, nor waters flowing,
Nor leaves in midnight breezes blow-
ing.

Was that the tread of many feet,
Which downward from the hillside
beat?

What forms were those which darkly
stood

Just on the margin of the wood?
Charred tree-stumps in the moonlight
dim,

Or paling rude, or leafless limb? 50
No, — through the trees fierce eyeballs
glowed,

Dark human forms in moonshine
showed,

Wild from their native wilderness,
With painted limbs and battle-dress!

A yell the dead might wake to hear
Swelled on the night air, far and clear;
Then smote the Indian tomahawk
On crashing door and shattering lock;
Then rang the rifle-shot, and then
The shrill death-scream of stricken
men, — 60

Sank the red axe in woman's brain,
And childhood's cry arose in vain.
Bursting through roof and window
came,

Red, fast, and fierce, the kindled
flame,

And blended fire and moonlight glared
On still dead men and scalp-knives
bared.

The morning sun looked brightly
through

The river willows, wet with dew.
No sound of combat filled the air,
No shout was heard, nor gunshot
there; 70

Yet still the thick and sullen smoke
From smouldering ruins slowly broke;
And on the greensward many a stain,
And, here and there, the mangled
slain,

Told how that midnight bolt had sped,
Pentucket, on thy fated head!

Even now the villager can tell
Where Rolfe beside his hearthstone
fell,

Still show the door of wasting oak,
Through which the fatal death-shot
broke, 80

And point the curious stranger where
De Rouville's corse lay grim and bare;
Whose hideous head, in death still
feared,

Bore not a trace of hair or heard;
And still, within the churchyard
ground,

Heaves darkly up the ancient mound,
Whose grass-grown surface overlies
The victims of that sacrifice.

Who from its bed of primal rock
First wrenched thy dark, unshapely
block?

Whose hand, of curious skill un-
taught,
Thy rude and savage outline wrought?

The waters of my native stream 11
Are glancing in the sun's warm beam;
From sail-urged keel and flashing oar
The circles widen to its shore;
And cultured field and peopled town
Slope to its willowed margin down.



“ Like white-winged sea-birds on their way ! ”

THE NORSEMEN

GIFT from the cold and silent Past !
A relic to the present cast,
Left on the ever-changing strand
Of shifting and unstable sand,
Which wastes beneath the steady
chime
And beating of the waves of Time!

Yet, while this morning breeze is
bringing
The home-life sound of school-bells
ringing,
And rolling wheel, and rapid jar
Of the fire-winged and steedless car, 20
And voices from the wayside near
Come quick and blended on my ear, —
A spell is in this old gray stone,
My thoughts are with the Past alone!

A change! — The steeped town no
more
Stretches along the sail-thronged
shore;

Like palace-domes in sunset's cloud,
Fade sun-gilt spire and mansion proud:
Spectrally rising where they stood,
I see the old, primeval wood; 30

Dark, shadow-like, on either hand
I see its solemn waste expand;
It climbs the green and cultured hill,
It arches o'er the valley's rill,
And leans from cliff and crag to throw
Its wild arms o'er the stream below.
Unchanged, alone, the same bright
river

Flows on, as it will flow forever!
I listen, and I hear the low
Soft ripple where its waters go; 40
I hear behind the panther's cry,
The wild-bird's scream goes thrilling

by,
And shyly on the river's brink
The deer is stooping down to drink.

But hark! — from wood and rock flung
back,

What sound comes up the Merrimac?
What sea-worn barks are those which
threw

The light spray from each rushing
prow?

Have they not in the North Sea's blast
Bowed to the waves the straining
mast? 50

Their frozen sails the low, pale sun
Of Thule's night has shone upon;
Flapped by the sea-wind's gusty sweep
Round icy drift, and headland steep.

Wild Jutland's wives and Lochlin's
daughters

Have watched them fading o'er the
waters,

Lessening through driving mist and
spray,

Like white-winged sea-birds on their
way!

Onward they glide, — and now I view
Their iron-armed and stalwart crew; 60
Joy glistens in each wild blue eye,
Turned to green earth and summer
sky.

Each broad, seamed breast has cast
aside

Its cumbering vest of shaggy hide;

Bared to the sun and soft warm air,
Streams back the Northmen's yellow
hair.

I see the gleam of axe and spear,
A sound of smitten shields I hear,
Keeping a harsh and fitting time
To Saga's chant, and Runic rhyme; 70
Such lays as Zetland's Scald has
sung,

His gray and naked isles among;
Or muttered low at midnight hour
Round Odin's mossy stone of power.
The wolf beneath the Arctic moon
Has answered to that startling rune;
The Gael has heard its stormy swell,
The light Frank knows its summons
well;

Iona's sable-stoled Culdee
Has heard it sounding o'er the sea, 80
And swept, with hoary beard and hair,
His altar's foot in trembling prayer!

'T is past, — the 'wilderer vision dies
In darkness on my dreaming eyes!

The forest vanishes in air,
Hill-slope and vale lie starkly bare;
I hear the common tread of men,
And hum of work-day life again;
The mystic relic seems alone

A broken mass of common stone; 90
And if it be the chiselled limb
Of Berserker or idol grim,

A fragment of Valhalla's Thor,
The stormy Viking's god of War,
Or Praga of the Runic lay,
Or love-awakening Siona,

I know not, — for no graven line,
Nor Druid mark, nor Runic sign,
Is left me here, by which to trace
Its name, or origin, or place. 100

Yet, for this vision of the Past,
This glance upon its darkness cast,
My spirit bows in gratitude
Before the Giver of all good,
Who fashioned so the human mind,
That, from the waste of Time behind,
A simple stone, or mound of earth,
Can summon the departed forth;

Quicken the Past to life again,
The Present lose in what hath been, 110
And in their primal freshness show
The buried forms of long ago.

As if a portion of that Thought
By which the Eternal will is wrought,
Whose impulse fills anew with breath
The frozen solitude of Death,



"The solemn pines"

To mortal mind were sometimes lent,
 To mortal musings sometimes sent,
 To whisper — even when it seems
 But Memory's fantasy of dreams — 120
 Through the mind's waste of woe and
 sin,
 Of an immortal origin!

FUNERAL TREE OF THE
 SOKOKIS

1756

AROUND Sebago's lonely lake
 There lingers not a breeze to break
 The mirror which its waters make.

The solemn pines along its shore,
 The firs which hang its gray rocks
 o'er,
 Are painted on its glassy floor.

The sun looks o'er, with hazy eye,
 The snowy mountain-tops which
 lie
 Piled coldly up against the sky.

Dazzling and white! save where the
 bleak,
 Wild winds have bared some splinter-
 ing peak,
 Or snow-slide left its dusky streak.

Yet green are Saco's banks below,
And belts of spruce and cedar show,
Dark fringing round those cones of
snow.

The earth hath felt the breath of
spring,
Though yet on her deliverer's wing
The lingering frosts of winter cling.

Fresh grasses fringe the meadow-
brooks,
And mildly from its sunny nooks 20
The blue eye of the violet looks.

And odors from the springing grass,
The sweet birch and the sassafras,
Upon the scarce-felt breezes pass.

Her tokens of renewing care
Hath Nature scattered everywhere,
In bud and flower, and warmer air.

But in their hour of bitterness,
What reck the broken Sokokis,
Beside their slaughtered chief, of this ?

The turf's red stain is yet undried, 31
Scarce have the death-shot echoes
died
Along Sebago's wooded side ;

And silent now the hunters stand,
Grouped darkly, where a swell of
land
Slopes upward from the lake's white
sand.

Fire and the axe have swept it bare,
Save one lone beech, unclosing there
Its light leaves in the vernal air.

With grave, cold looks, all sternly
mute, 40
They break the damp turf at its
foot,
And bare its coiled and twisted root.

They heave the stubborn trunk aside,
The firm roots from the earth divide, —
The rent beneath yawns dark and
wide.

And there the fallen chief is laid,
In tasselled garb of skins arrayed,
And girded with his wampum-braid.

The silver cross he loved is pressed
Beneath the heavy arms, which rest 50
Upon his scarred and naked breast.

'Tis done : the roots are backward
sent,
The beechen-tree stands up unbent,
The Indian's fitting monument !

When of that sleeper's broken race
Their green and pleasant dwelling-
place,
Which knew them once, retains no
trace ;

Oh, long may sunset's light be shed
As now upon that beech's head,
A green memorial of the dead ! 60

There shall his fitting requiem be,
In northern winds, that, cold and free,
Howl nightly in that funeral tree.

To their wild wail the waves which
break
Forever round that lonely lake
A solemn undertone shall make !

And who shall deem the spot unblest,
Where Nature's younger children rest,
Lulled on their sorrowing mother's
breast?

Deem ye that mother loveth less 70
These bronzed forms of the wilder-
ness
She foldeth in her long caress ?

As sweet o'er them her wild-flowers
blow,
As if with fairer hair and brow
The blue-eyed Saxon slept below.

What though the places of their rest
No priestly knee hath ever pressed, —
No funeral rite nor prayer hath
blessed ?

What though the bigot's ban be there,
And thoughts of wailing and despair,
And cursing in the place of prayer ! 80

Yet Heaven hath angels watching
round
The Indian's lowliest forest-mound, —
And they have made it holy ground.

There ceases man's frail judgment ; all
His powerless bolts of cursing fall
Unheeded on that grassy pall.

O peeled and hunted and reviled,
Sleep on, dark tenant of the wild !
Great Nature owns her simple child ! 90

And Nature's God, to whom alone
The secret of the heart is known, —
The hidden language traced thereon ;

Who from its many cumberings
Of form and creed, and outward
things,
To light the naked spirit brings ;

Not with our partial eye shall scan,
Not with our pride and scorn shall
ban,
The spirit of our brother man !

ST. JOHN

1647

“To the winds give our banner !
Bear homeward again !”
Cried the Lord of Acadia,
Cried Charles of Estienne !
From the prow of his shallop
He gazed, as the sun,
From its bed in the ocean,
Streamed up the St. John.

O'er the blue western waters 10
That shallop had passed,
Where the mists of Penobscot
Clung damp on her mast.
St. Saviour had looked
On the heretic sail,
As the songs of the Huguenot
Rose on the gale.

The pale, ghostly fathers
Remembered her well,
And had cursed her while passing,
With taper and bell ; 20
But the men of Monhegan,
Of Papists abhorred,
Had welcomed and feasted
The heretic Lord.

They had loaded his shallop
With dun-fish and ball,

With stores for his larder,
And steel for his wall.
Pemaquid, from her bastions
And turrets of stone, 30
Had welcomed his coming
With banner and gun.

And the prayers of the elders
Had followed his way,
As homeward he glided,
Down Pentecost Bay.
Oh, well sped La Tour !
For, in peril and pain,
His lady kept watch 40
For his coming again.

O'er the Isle of the Pheasant
The morning sun shone,
On the plane-trees which shaded
The shores of St. John.
“Now, why from yon battlements
Speaks not my love !
Why waves there no banner
My fortress above ?”

Dark and wild, from his deck 50
St. Estienne gazed about,
On fire-wasted dwellings,
And silent redoubt ;
From the low, shattered walls
Which the flame had o'errun,
There floated no banner,
There thundered no gun !

But beneath the low arch
Of its doorway there stood
A pale priest of Rome, 60
In his cloak and his hood.
With the bound of a lion,
La Tour sprang to land,
On the throat of the Papist
He fastened his hand.

“Speak, son of the Woman
Of scarlet and sin !
What wolf has been prowling
My castle within ?”
From the grasp of the soldier 70
The Jesuit broke,
Half in scorn, half in sorrow,
He smiled as he spoke :

“No wolf, Lord of Estienne,
Has ravaged thy hall,
But thy red-handed rival,
With fire, steel, and ball !

On an errand of mercy
I hitherward came,
While the walls of thy castle
Yet spouted with flame. 80

“Pentagoet’s dark vessels
Were moored in the bay,
Grim sea-lions, roaring
Aloud for their prey.”
“But what of my lady?”
Cried Charles of Estienne.
“On the shot-crumbled turret
Thy lady was seen :

“Half-veiled in the smoke-cloud,
Her hand grasped thy pennon, 90
While her dark tresses swayed
In the hot breath of cannon !
But woe to the heretic,
Evermore woe !
When the son of the church
And the cross is his foe !

“In the track of the shell,
In the path of the ball,
Pentagoet swept over
The breach of the wall ! 100
Steel to steel, gun to gun,
One moment, — and then
Alone stood the victor,
Alone with his men !

“Of its sturdy defenders,
Thy lady alone
Saw the cross-blazoned banner
Float over St. John.”
“Let the dastard look to it !”
Cried fiery Estienne, 110
“Were D’Aulnay King Louis,
I’d free her again !”

“Alas for thy lady !
No service from thee
Is needed by her
Whom the Lord hath set free ;
Nine days, in stern silence,
Her thralldom she bore,
But the tenth morning came,
And Death opened her door !” 120

As if suddenly smitten
La Tour staggered back ;
His hand grasped his sword-hilt,
His forehead grew black.
He sprang on the deck
Of his shallop again.

“We cruise now for vengeance !
Give way !” cried Estienne.

“Massachusetts shall hear
Of the Huguenot’s wrong, 130
And from island and creekside
Her fishers shall throng !
Pentagoet shall rue
What his Papists have done,
When his palisades echo
The Puritan’s gun !”

Oh, the loveliest of heavens
Hung tenderly o’er him,
There were waves in the sunshine,
And green isles before him ; 140
But a pale hand was beckoning
The Huguenot on ;
And in blackness and ashes
Behind was St. John !

THE CYPRESS-TREE OF CEYLON

Ibn Batuta, the celebrated Mussulman traveller of the fourteenth century, speaks of a cypress-tree in Ceylon, universally held sacred by the natives, the leaves of which were said to fall only at certain intervals, and he who had the happiness to find and eat one of them was restored, at once, to youth and vigor. The traveller saw several venerable Jogees, or saints, sitting silent and motionless under the tree.

THEY sat in silent watchfulness
The sacred cypress-tree about,
And, from beneath old wrinkled brows,
Their failing eyes looked out.

Gray Age and Sickness waiting there
Through weary night and lingering
day, —
Grim as the idols at their side,
And motionless as they.

Unheeded in the boughs above
The song of Ceylon’s birds was
sweet ; 10
Unseen of them the island flowers
Bloomed brightly at their feet.

O’er them the tropic night-storm
swept,
The thunder crashed on rock and
hill ;

The cloud-fire on their eyeballs blazed,
Yet there they waited still !

What was the world without to them?
The Moslem's sunset-call, the dance
Of Ceylon's maids, the passing gleam
Of battle-flag and lance ? 20

They waited for that falling leaf
Of which the wandering Jogeess
sing :

Which lends once more to wintry age
The greenness of its spring.

Oh, if these poor and blinded ones
In trustful patience wait to feel
O'er torpid pulse and failing limb
A youthful freshness steal ;

Shall we, who sit beneath that Tree
Whose healing leaves of life are
shed, 30

In answer to the breath of prayer,
Upon the waiting head —

Not to restore our failing forms,
And build the spirit's broken shrine,
But on the fainting soul to shed
A light and life divine —

Shall we grow weary in our watch,
And murmur at the long delay ?
Impatient of our Father's time
And His appointed way ? 40

Or shall the stir of outward things
Allure and claim the Christian's eye,
When on the heathen watcher's ear
Their powerless murmurs die ?

Alas ! a deeper test of faith
Than prison cell or martyr's stake,
The self-abasing watchfulness
Of silent prayer may make.

We gird us bravely to rebuke
Our erring brother in the wrong, —
And in the ear of Pride and Power 51
Our warning voice is strong.

Easier to smite with Peter's sword
Than "watch one hour" in hum-
bling prayer.
Life's "great things," like the Syrian
lord,
Our hearts can do and dare.

But oh ! we shrink from Jordan's side,
From waters which alone can save ;
And murmur for Abana's banks
And Pharpar's brighter wave. 60

O Thou, who in the garden's shade
Didst wake Thy weary ones again,
Who slumbered at that fearful hour
Forgetful of Thy pain ;

Bend o'er us now, as over them,
And set our sleep-bound spirits free,
Nor leave us slumbering in the watch
Our souls should keep with Thee !

THE EXILES

1660

THE goodman sat beside his door,
One sultry afternoon,
With his young wife singing at his side
An old and goody tune.

A glimmer of heat was in the air, —
The dark green woods were still ;
And the skirts of a heavy thunder-
cloud
Hung over the western hill.

Black, thick, and vast arose that cloud
Above the wilderness, 10
As some dark world from upper air
Were stooping over this.

At times the solemn thunder pealed,
And all was still again,
Save a low murmur in the air
Of coming wind and rain.

Just as the first big rain-drop fell,
A weary stranger came,
And stood before the farmer's door,
With travel soiled and lame. 20

Sad seemed he, yet sustaining hope
Was in his quiet glance,
And peace, like autumn's moonlight,
clothed
His tranquil countenance, —

A look, like that his Master wore
In Pilate's council-hall :
It told of wrongs, but of a love
Meekly forgiving all.

"Friend! wilt thou give me shelter
here?"

The stranger meekly said ; 30
And, leaning on his oaken staff,
The goodman's features read.

"My life is hunted, — evil men
Are following in my track ;
The traces of the torturer's whip
Are on my aged back ;

"And much, I fear, 't will peril thee
Within thy doors to take
A hunted seeker of the Truth,
Oppressed for conscience' sake." 40

Oh, kindly spoke the goodman's wife,
"Come in, old man!" quoth she,
"We will not leave thee to the storm,
Whoever thou mayst be."

Then came the aged wanderer in,
And silent sat him down ;
While all within grew dark as night
Beneath the storm-cloud's frown.

But while the sudden lightning's blaze
Filled every cottage nook, 50
And with the jarring thunder-roll
The loosened casements shook,

A heavy tramp of horses' feet
Came sounding up the lane,
And half a score of horse, or more,
Came plunging through the rain.

"Now, Goodman Macy, ope thy
door, —
We would not be house-breakers ;
A rueful deed thou 'st done this day,
In harboring banished Quakers." 60

Out looked the cautious goodman then,
With much of fear and awe,
For there, with broad wig drenched
with rain,
The parish priest he saw.

"Open thy door, thou wicked man,
And let thy pastor in,
And give God thanks, if forty stripes
Repay thy deadly sin."

"What seek ye?" quoth the good-
man ;
"The stranger is my guest ; 70

He is worn with toil and grievous
wrong, —
Pray let the old man rest."

"Now, out upon thee, canting
knave!"
And strong hands shook the door.
"Believe me, Macy," quoth the priest,
"Thou 'lt rue thy conduct sore."

Then kindled Macy's eye of fire :
"No priest who walks the earth
Shall pluck away the stranger-guest
Made welcome to my hearth." 80

Down from his cottage wall he caught
The matchlock, hotly tried
At Preston-pans and Marston-moor,
By fiery Ireton's side ;

Where Puritan, and Cavalier,
With shout and psalm contended ;
And Rupert's oath, and Cromwell's
prayer,
With battle-thunder blended.

Up rose the ancient stranger then :
"My spirit is not free 90
To bring the wrath and violence
Of evil men on thee ;

"And for thyself, I pray forbear,
Bethink thee of thy Lord,
Who healed again the smitten ear,
And sheathed His follower's sword.

"I go, as to the slaughter led.
Friends of the poor, farewell!"
Beneath his hand the oaken door
Back on its hinges fell. 100

"Come forth, old graybeard, yea and
nay,"
The reckless scoffers cried,
As to a horseman's saddle-bow
The old man's arms were tied.

And of his bondage hard and long
In Boston's crowded jail,
Where suffering woman's prayer was
heard,
With sickening childhood's wail,

It suits not with our tale to tell ;
Those scenes have passed away ; 110
Let the dim shadows of the past
Brood o'er that evil day.

“Ho, sheriff!” quoth the ardent
 priest,
 “Take Goodman Macy too;
 The sin of this day’s heresy
 His back or purse shall rue.”

Ho! speed the Macys, neck or
 naught, —
 The river-course was near;
 The plashing on its pebbled shore
 Was music to their ear.



“I go, as to the slaughter led”

“Now, goodwife, haste thee!” Macy
 cried.
 She caught his manly arm;
 Behind, the parson urged pursuit,
 With outcry and alarm.

A gray rock, tasselled o’er with
 birch,
 Above the waters hung,
 And at its base, with every wave,
 A small light wherry swung.

A leap—they gain the boat—and
there

The goodman wields his oar; 130
“Ill luck betide them all,” he cried,
“The laggards on the shore.”

Down through the crashing under-
wood,

The burly sheriff came:—
“Stand, Goodman Macy, yield thy-
self;
Yield in the King’s own name.”

“Now out upon thy hangman’s
face!”

Bold Macy answered then, —
“Whip women, on the village green,
But meddle not with men.” 140

The priest came panting to the shore,
His grave cocked hat was gone;
Behind him, like some owl’s nest, hung
His wig upon a thorn.

“Come back! come back!” the parson
cried,

“The church’s curse beware.”
“Curse, an thou wilt,” said Macy,
“but
Thy blessing prithee spare.”

“Vile scoffer!” cried the baffled
priest,

“Thou’lt yet the gallows see.” 150
“Who’s born to be hanged will not
be drowned.”
Quoth Macy, merrily;

“And so, sir sheriff and priest, good-
by!”

He bent him to his oar,
And the small boat glided quietly
From the twain upon the shore.

Now in the west, the heavy clouds
Scattered and fell asunder,
While feeble came the rush of rain,
And fainter growled the thunder. 160

And through the broken clouds, the
sun

Looked out serene and warm,
Painting its holy symbol-light
Upon the passing storm.

Oh, beautiful! that rainbow span
O’er dim Crane-neck was bended;

One bright foot touched the eastern
hills,
And one with ocean blended.

By green Pentucket’s southern slope
The small boat glided fast; 170
The watchers of the Block-house saw
The strangers as they passed.

That night a stalwart garrison
Sat shaking in their shoes,
To hear the dip of Indian oars,
The glide of birch canoes.

The fisher-wives of Salisbury —
The men were all away —
Looked out to see the stranger oar
Upon their waters play. 180

Deer Island’s rocks and fir-trees threw
Their sunset-shadows o’er them,
And Newbury’s spire and weathercock
Peered o’er the pines before them.

Around the Black Rocks, on their
left,

The marsh lay broad and green;
And on their right, with dwarf shrubs
crowned,
Plum Island’s hills were seen.

With skilful hand and wary eye
The harbor-bar was crossed; 190
A plaything of the restless wave,
The boat on ocean tossed.

The glory of the sunset heaven
On land and water lay;
On the steep hills of Agawam,
On cape, and bluff, and bay.

They passed the gray rocks of Cape
Ann,

And Gloucester’s harbor-bar;
The watch-fire of the garrison
Shone like a setting star. 200

How brightly broke the morning
On Massachusetts Bay!
Blue wave, and bright green island,
Rejoicing in the day.

On passed the bark in safety
Round isle and headland steep;
No tempest broke above them,
No fog-cloud veiled the deep.

Far round the bleak and stormy Cape
The venturous Macy passed, 210
And on Nantucket's naked isle
Drew up his boat at last.

And how, in log-built cabin,
They braved the rough sea-weather;
And there, in peace and quietness,
Went down life's vale together;

How others drew around them,
And how their fishing sped,
Until to every wind of heaven
Nantucket's sails were spread; 220

How pale Want alternated
With Plenty's golden smile;
Behold, is it not written
In the annals of the isle?

And yet that isle remaineth
A refuge of the free,
As when true-hearted Macy
Beheld it from the sea.

Free as the winds that winnow
Her shrubless hills of sand, 230
Free as the waves that batter
Along her yielding land.

Than hers, at duty's summons,
No loftier spirit stirs,
Nor falls o'er human suffering
A readier tear than hers.

God bless the sea-beat island!
And grant forevermore,
That charity and freedom dwell
As now upon her shore! 240

THE KNIGHT OF ST. JOHN

ERE down yon blue Carpathian hills
The sun shall sink again,
Farewell to life and all its ills,
Farewell to cell and chain!

These prison shades are dark and
cold,
But, darker far than they,
The shadow of a sorrow old
Is on my heart away.

For since the day when Warkworth
wood
Closed o'er my steed, and I, 10

An alien from my name and blood,
A weed cast out to die, —

When, looking back in sunset light,
I saw her turret gleam,
And from its casement, far and white,
Her sign of farewell stream,

Like one who, from some desert shore,
Doth home's green isles descry,
And, vainly longing, gazes o'er
The waste of wave and sky; 20

So from the desert of my fate
I gaze across the past;
Forever on life's dial-plate
The shade is backward cast!

I've wandered wide from shore to
shore,
I've knelt at many a shrine;
And bowed me to the rocky floor
Where Bethlehem's tapers shine;

And by the Holy Sepulchre
I've pledged my knightly sword 30
To Christ, His blessed Church, and
her,
The Mother of our Lord.

Oh, vain the vow, and vain the
strife!
How vain do all things seem!
My soul is in the past, and life
To-day is but a dream!

In vain the penance strange and long,
And hard for flesh to bear;
The prayer, the fasting, and the
thong,
And sackcloth shirt of hair. 40

The eyes of memory will not sleep, —
Its ears are open still;
And vigils with the past they keep
Against my feeble will.

And still the loves and joys of old
Do evermore uprising;
I see the flow of locks of gold,
The shine of loving eyes!

Ah me! upon another's breast
Those golden locks recline; 50
I see upon another rest
The glance that once was mine.

"O faithless priest! O perjured knight!"

I hear the Master cry;

"Shut out the vision from thy sight,
Let Earth and Nature die.

"The Church of God is now thy spouse,

And thou the bridegroom art;
Then let the burden of thy vows
Crush down thy human heart!" 60

In vain! This heart its grief must know,

Till life itself hath ceased,
And falls beneath the self-same
blow

The lover and the priest!

O pitying Mother! souls of light,
And saints and martyrs old!
Pray for a weak and sinful knight,
A suffering man uphold.

Then let the Paynim work his will,
And death unbind my chain, 70
Ere down yon blue Carpathian hill
The sun shall fall again.

CASSANDRA SOUTHWICK

1658

To the God of all sure mercies let my blessing rise to-day,
From the scoffer and the cruel He hath plucked the spoil away;
Yea, He who cooled the furnace around the faithful three,
And tamed the Chaldean lions, hath set His handmaid free!

Last night I saw the sunset melt through my prison bars,
Last night across my damp earth-floor fell the pale gleam of stars;
In the coldness and the darkness all through the long night-time,
My grated casement whitened with autumn's early rime.

Alone, in that dark sorrow, hour after hour crept by;
Star after star looked palely in and sank adown the sky; 10
No sound amid night's stillness, save that which seemed to be
The dull and heavy beating of the pulses of the sea;

All night I sat unsleeping, for I knew that on the morrow
The ruler and the cruel priest would mock me in my sorrow,
Dragged to their place of market, and bargained for and sold.
Like a lamb before the shambles, like a heifer from the fold!

Oh, the weakness of the flesh was there, — the shrinking and the shame;
And the low voice of the Tempter like whispers to me came:

"Why sit'st thou thus forlornly," the wicked murmur said,
"Damp walls thy bower of beauty, cold earth thy maiden bed?" 20

"Where be the smiling faces, and voices soft and sweet,
Seen in thy father's dwelling, heard in the pleasant street?
Where be the youths whose glances, the summer Sabbath through,
Turned tenderly and timidly unto thy father's pew?"

"Why sit'st thou here, Cassandra? — Bethink thee with what mirth
Thy happy schoolmates gather around the warm, bright hearth;
How the crimson shadows tremble on foreheads white and fair,
On eyes of merry girlhood, half hid in golden hair.

"Not for thee the hearth-fire brightens, not for thee kind words are spoken,
Not for thee the nuts of Wenham woods by laughing boys are broken; 30

No first-fruits of the orchard within thy lap are laid,
For thee no flowers of autumn the youthful hunters braid.

“O weak, deluded maiden! — by crazy fancies led,
With wild and raving railers an evil path to tread;
To leave a wholesome worship, and teaching pure and sound,
And mate with maniac women, loose-haired and sackcloth bound, —

“Mad scoffers of the priesthood, who mock at things divine,
Who rail against the pulpit, and holy bread and wine;
Sore from their cart-tail scourgings, and from the pillory lame,
Rejoicing in their wretchedness, and glorying in their shame.”

40

“And what a fate awaits thee! — a sadly toiling slave,
Dragging the slowly lengthening chain of bondage to the grave!
Think of thy woman's nature, subdued in hopeless thrall,
The easy prey of any, the scoff and scorn of all!”

Oh, ever as the Tempter spoke, and feeble Nature's fears
Wrung drop by drop the scalding flow of unavailing tears,
I wrestled down the evil thoughts, and strove in silent prayer,
To feel, O Helper of the weak! that Thou indeed wert there!

I thought of Paul and Silas, within Philippi's cell,
And how from Peter's sleeping limbs the prison shackles fell,
Till I seemed to hear the trailing of an angel's robe of white,
And to feel a blessed presence invisible to sight.

50

Bless the Lord for all his mercies! — for the peace and love I felt,
Like dew of Hermon's holy hill, upon my spirit melt:
When “Get behind me, Satan!” was the language of my heart,
And I felt the Evil Tempter with all his doubts depart.

Slow broke the gray cold morning; again the sunshine fell,
Flecked with the shade of bar and grate within my lonely cell;
The hoar-frost melted on the wall, and upward from the street
Came careless laugh and idle word, and tread of passing feet.

60

At length the heavy bolts fell back, my door was open cast,
And slowly at the sheriff's side, up the long street I passed;
I heard the murmur round me, and felt, but dared not see,
How, from every door and window, the people gazed on me.

And doubt and fear fell on me, shame burned upon my cheek,
Swam earth and sky around me, my trembling limbs grew weak:
“O Lord! support thy handmaid; and from her soul cast out
The fear of man, which brings a snare, the weakness and the doubt.”

Then the dreary shadows scattered, like a cloud in morning's breeze,
And a low deep voice within me seemed whispering words like these:
“Though thy earth be as the iron, and thy heaven a brazen wall,
Trust still His loving-kindness whose power is over all.”

70

We paused at length, where at my feet the sunlit waters broke
On glaring reach of shining beach, and shingly wall of rock;
The merchant-ships lay idly there, in hard clear lines on high,
Tracing with rope and slender spar their network on the sky.

And there were ancient citizens, cloak-wrapped and grave and cold,
 And grim and stout sea-captains with faces bronzed and old,
 And on his horse, with Rawson, his cruel clerk at hand,
 Sat dark and haughty Endicott, the ruler of the land.

80

And poisoning with his evil words the ruler's ready ear,
 The priest leaned o'er his saddle, with laugh and scoff and jeer;
 It stirred my soul, and from my lips the seal of silence broke,
 As if through woman's weakness a warning spirit spoke.

I cried, "The Lord rebuke thee, thou smiter of the meek,
 Thou robber of the righteous, thou trampler of the weak!
 Go light the dark, cold hearth-stones, — go turn the prison lock
 Of the poor hearts thou hast hunted, thou wolf amid the flock!"

Dark lowered the brows of Endicott, and with a deeper red
 O'er Rawson's wine-empurpled cheek the flush of anger spread;
 "Good people," quoth the white-lipped priest, "heed not her words so wild,
 Her Master speaks within her, — the Devil owns his child!"

90

But gray heads shook, and young brows knit, the while the sheriff read
 That law the wicked rulers against the poor have made,
 Who to their house of Rimmon and idol priesthood bring
 No bended knee of worship, nor gainful offering.

Then to the stout sea-captains the sheriff, turning, said, —
 "Which of ye, worthy seamen, will take this Quaker maid?
 In the Isle of fair Barbadoes, or on Virginia's shore,
 You may hold her at a higher price than Indian girl or Moor."

100

Grim and silent stood the captains; and when again he cried,
 "Speak out, my worthy seamen!" — no voice, no sign replied;
 But I felt a hard hand press my own, and kind words met my ear, —
 "God bless thee, and preserve thee, my gentle girl and dear!"

A weight seemed lifted from my heart, a pitying friend was nigh, —
 I felt it in his hard, rough hand, and saw it in his eye;
 And when again the sheriff spoke, that voice, so kind to me,
 Growled back its stormy answer like the roaring of the sea, —

"Pile my ship with bars of silver, pack with coins of Spanish gold,
 From keel-piece up to deck-plank, the roomage of her hold,
 By the living God who made me! — I would sooner in your bay
 Sink ship and crew and cargo, than bear this child away!"

110

"Well answered, worthy captain, shame on their cruel laws!"
 Ran through the crowd in murmurs loud the people's just applause.
 "Like the herdsman of Tekoa, in Israel of old,
 Shall we see the poor and righteous again for silver sold?"

I looked on haughty Endicott; with weapon half-way drawn,
 Swept round the throng his lion glare of bitter hate and scorn;
 Fiercely he drew his bridle-rein, and turned in silence back,
 And sneering priest and baffled clerk rode murmuring in his track.

120

Hard after them the sheriff looked, in bitterness of soul;
 Thrice smote his staff upon the ground, and crushed his parchment roll.

"Good friends," he said, "since both have fled, the ruler and the priest,
Judge ye, if from their further work I be not well released."

Loud was the cheer which, full and clear, swept round the silent bay,
As, with kind words and kinder looks, he bade me go my way;
For He who turns the courses of the streamlet of the glen,
And the river of great waters, had turned the hearts of men.

Oh, at that hour the very earth seemed changed beneath my eye,
A holier wonder round me rose the blue walls of the sky, 130
A lovelier light on rock and hill and stream and woodland lay,
And softer lapsed on sunnier sands the waters of the bay.

Thanksgiving to the Lord of life! to Him all praises be,
Who from the hands of evil men hath set his handmaid free;
All praise to Him before whose power the mighty are afraid,
Who takes the crafty in the snare which for the poor is laid!

Sing, O my soul, rejoicingly, on evening's twilight calm
Uplift the loud thanksgiving, pour forth the grateful psalm;
Let all dear hearts with me rejoice, as did the saints of old,
When of the Lord's good angel the rescued Peter told. 140

And weep and howl, ye evil priests and mighty men of wrong,
The Lord shall smite the proud, and lay His hand upon the strong.
Woe to the wicked rulers in His avenging hour!
Woe to the wolves who seek the flocks to raven and devour!

But let the humble ones arise, the poor in heart be glad,
And let the mourning ones again with robes of praise be clad.
For He who cooled the furnace, and smoothed the stormy wave,
And tamed the Chaldean lions, is mighty still to save!

THE NEW WIFE AND THE OLD

DARK the halls, and cold the feast,
Gone the bridemaids, gone the priest.
All is over, all is done,
Twain of yesterday are one!
Blooming girl and manhood gray,
Autumn in the arms of May!

Hushed within and hushed without,
Dancing feet and wrestlers' shout;
Dies the bonfire on the hill;
All is dark and all is still, 10
Save the starlight, save the breeze
Moaning through the graveyard trees;
And the great sea-waves below,
Pulse of the midnight beating slow.

From the brief dream of a bride
She hath wakened, at his side.
With half-uttered shriek and start,—

Feels she not his beating heart?
And the pressure of his arm,
And his breathing near and warm? 20

Lightly from the bridal bed
Springs that fair dishevelled head,
And a feeling, new, intense,
Half of shame, half innocence,
Maiden fear and wonder speaks
Through her lips and changing
cheeks.

From the oaken mantel glowing,
Faintest light the lamp is throwing
On the mirror's antique mould,
High-backed chair, and wainscot old,
And, through faded curtains steal-
ing, 31
His dark sleeping face revealing.

Listless lies the strong man there,
Silver-streaked his careless hair;

Lips of love have left no trace
On that hard and haughty face ;
And that forehead's knitted thought
Love's soft hand hath not unwrought.

"Yet," she sighs, "he loves me well,
More than these calm lips will tell. 40
Stooping to my lowly state,
He hath made me rich and great,
And I bless him, though he be
Hard and stern to all save me!"

While she speaketh, falls the light
O'er her fingers small and white ;
Gold and gem, and costly ring
Back the timid lustre fling, —
Love's selectest gifts, and rare,
His proud hand had fastened there. 50

Gratefully she marks the glow
From those tapering lines of snow ;
Fondly o'er the sleeper bending,
His black hair with golden blending,
In her soft and light caress,
Cheek and lip together press.

Ha ! — that start of horror ! why
That wild stare and wilder cry,
Full of terror, full of pain?
Is there madness in her brain ? 60
Hark ! that gasping, hoarse and low,
"Spare me, — spare me, — let me
go!"

God have mercy ! — icy cold
Spectral hands her own enfold,
Drawing silently from them
Love's fair gifts of gold and gem.
"Waken ! save me !" still as death
At her side he slumbereth.

Ring and bracelet all are gone,
And that ice-cold hand withdrawn ; 70
But she hears a murmur low,
Full of sweetness, full of woe,
Half a sigh and half a moan :
"Fear not ! give the dead her own !"

Ah ! — the dead wife's voice she
knows !
That cold hand whose pressure froze,
Once in warmest life had borne
Gem and band her own hath worn.
"Wake thee ! wake thee !" Lo, his
eyes
Open with a dull surprise. 80

In his arms the strong man folds her,
Closer to his breast he holds her ;
Trembling limbs his own are meeting
And he feels her heart's quick beating
"Nay, my dearest, why this fear ?"
"Hush !" she saith, "the dead is
here !"

"Nay, a dream, — an idle dream."
But before the lamp's pale gleam
Tremblingly her hand she raises.
There no more the diamond blazes, 9
Clasp of pearl, or ring of gold, —
"Ah !" she sighs, "her hand was
cold !"

Broken words of cheer he saith,
But his dark lip quivereth,
And as o'er the past he thinketh,
From his young wife's arms he shrink
eth ;
Can those soft arms round him lie,
Underneath his dead wife's eye ?

She her fair young head can rest
Soothed and childlike on his breast, 10
And in trustful innocence
Draw new strength and courage
thence ;
He, the proud man, feels within
But the cowardice of sin !

She can murmur in her thought
Simple prayers her mother taught,
And His blessed angels call,
Whose great love is over all ;
He, alone, in prayerless pride,
Meets the dark Past at her side ! 110

One, who living shrank with dread
From his look, or word, or tread,
Unto whom her early grave
Was as freedom to the slave,
Moves him at this midnight hour,
With the dead's unconscious power !

Ah, the dead, the unforgot !
From their solemn homes of thought,
Where the cypress shadows blend
Darkly over foe and friend, 120
Or in love or sad rebuke,
Back upon the living look.

And the tenderest ones and weakest,
Who their wrongs have borne the
meekest,



“ Kearsarge lifting his granite forehead to the sun ”

Lifting from those dark, still places,
Sweet and sad-remembered faces,
O'er the guilty hearts behind
An unwitting triumph find.

THE BRIDAL OF PENNACOOK

WE had been wandering for many
days
Through the rough northern country.
We had seen
The sunset, with its bars of purple
cloud,
Like a new heaven, shine upward
from the lake
Of Winnepiseogee; and had felt
The sunrise breezes, midst the leafy
isles
Which stoop their summer beauty to
the lips
Of the bright waters. We had checked
our steeds,
Silent with wonder, where the moun-
tain wall

Is piled to heaven; and, through the
narrow rift
Of the vast rocks, against whose
rugged feet
Beats the mad torrent with perpetual
roar,
Where noonday is as twilight, and the
wind
Comes burdened with the everlasting
moan
Of forests and of far-off waterfalls,
We had looked upward where the sum-
mer sky,
Tasselled with clouds light-woven by
the sun,
Sprung its blue arch above the abut-
ting crags
O'er-roofing the vast portal of the
land
Beyond the wall of mountains. We
had passed
The high source of the Saco; and be-
wildered
In the dwarf spruce-belts of the Crys-
tal Hills,

Had heard above us, like a voice in
the cloud,
The horn of Fabyan sounding; and
atop
Of old Agiochook had seen the moun-
tains
Piled to the northward, shagged with
wood, and thick
As meadow mole-hills, — the far sea
of Casco,
A white gleam on the horizon of the
east;
Fair lakes, embosomed in the woods
and hills;
Moosehillock's mountain range, and
Kearsarge ³⁰
Lifting his granite forehead to the sun!
And we had rested underneath the
oaks
Shadowing the bank, whose grassy
spires are shaken
By the perpetual heating of the falls
Of the wild Ammonoosuc. We had
tracked
The winding Pemigewasset, overhung
By beechen shadows, whitening down
its rocks,
Or lazily gliding through its intervals,
From waving rye-fields sending up
the gleam
Of sunlit waters. We had seen the
moon ⁴⁰
Rising behind Umbagog's eastern
pines,
Like a great Indian camp-fire; and its
beams
At midnight spanning with a bridge
of silver
The Merrimac by Uncanoonuc's falls.
There were five souls of us whom
travel's chance
Had thrown together in these wild
north hills:
A city lawyer, for a month escaping
From his dull office, where the weary
eye
Saw only hot brick walls and close
thronged streets;
Briefless as yet, but with an eye to
see ⁵⁰
Life's sunniest side, and with a heart
to take
Its chances all as godsend; and his
brother,

Pale from long pulpit studies, yet re-
taining
The warmth and freshness of a genial
heart,
Whose mirror of the beautiful and
true,
In Man and Nature, was as yet un-
dimmed
By dust of theologic strife, or breath
Of sect, or cobwebs of scholastic lore;
Like a clear crystal calm of water,
taking
The hue and image of o'erleaning
flowers, ⁶⁰
Sweet human faces, white clouds of
the noon,
Slant starlight glimpses through the
dewy leaves,
And tenderest moonrise. 'T was, in
truth, a study,
To mark his spirit, alternating between
A decent and professional gravity
And an irreverent mirthfulness, which
often
Laughed in the face of his divinity,
Plucked off the sacred ephod, quite
unshrined
The oracle, and for the pattern priest
Left us the man. A shrewd, saga-
cious merchant, ⁷⁰
To whom the soiled sheet found in
Crawford's inn,
Giving the latest news of city stocks
And sales of cotton, had a deeper
meaning
Than the great presence of the awful
mountains
Glorified by the sunset; and his
daughter,
A delicate flower on whom had blown
too long
Those evil winds, which, sweeping
from the ice
And winnowing the fogs of Labra-
dor,
Shed their cold blight round Massa-
chusetts Bay,
With the same breath which stirs
Spring's opening leaves ⁸⁰
And lifts her half-formed flower-bell
on its stem,
Poisoning our seaside atmosphere.
It chanced
That as we turned upon our homeward
way,

A drear northeastern storm came howling up
 The valley of the Saco; and that girl
 Who had stood with us upon Mount
 Washington,
 Her brown locks ruffled by the wind
 which whirled
 In gusts around its sharp, cold pin-
 nacle,
 Who had joined our gay trout-fishing
 in the streams
 Which lave that giant's feet; whose
 laugh was heard ⁹⁰
 Like a bird's carol on the sunrise
 breeze
 Which swelled our sail amidst the
 lake's green islands,
 Shrank from its harsh, chill breath,
 and visibly drooped
 Like a flower in the frost. So, in that
 quiet inn
 Which looks from Conway on the
 mountains piled
 Heavily against the horizon of the
 north,
 Like summer thunder-clouds, we made
 our home:
 And while the mist hung over dripping
 hills,
 And the cold wind-driven rain-drops
 all day long
 Beat their sad music upon roof and
 pane, ¹⁰⁰
 We strove to cheer our gentle invalid.

The lawyer in the pauses of the storm
 Went angling down the Saco, and, re-
 turning,
 Recounted his adventures and mis-
 haps;
 Gave us the history of his scaly clients,
 Mingling with ludicrous yet apt cita-
 tions
 Of barbarous law Latin, passages
 From Izaak Walton's Angler, sweet
 and fresh
 As the flower-skirted streams of Staf-
 fordshire,
 Where, under aged trees, the south-
 west wind ¹¹⁰
 Of soft June mornings fanned the thin,
 white hair
 Of the sage fisher. And, if truth be
 told,
 Our youthful candidate forsook his
 sermons,

His commentaries, articles and creeds,
 For the fair page of human loveliness,
 The missal of young hearts, whose
 sacred text
 Is music, its illumining, sweet smiles.
 He sang the songs she loved; and in
 his low,
 Deep, earnest voice, recited many a
 page
 Of poetry, the holiest, tenderest lines
 Of the sad bard of Olney, the sweet
 songs, ¹²¹
 Simple and beautiful as Truth and
 Nature,
 Of him whose whitened locks on Ry-
 dal Mount
 Are lifted yet by morning breezes
 blowing
 From the green hills, immortal in his
 lays.
 And for myself, obedient to her wish,
 I searched our landlord's proffered
 library:
 A well-thumbed Bunyan, with its nice
 wood pictures
 Of scaly fiends and angels not unlike
 them;
 Watts' unmelodious psalms; Astro-
 logy's ¹³⁰
 Last home, a musty pile of almanacs,
 And an old chronicle of border wars
 And Indian history. And, as I read
 A story of the marriage of the Chief
 Of Saugus to the dusky Weetamoo,
 Daughter of Passaconaway, who dwelt
 In the old time upon the Merrimac,
 Our fair one, in the playful exercise
 Of her prerogative, — the right divine
 Of youth and beauty, — bade us
 versify ¹⁴⁰
 The legend, and with ready pencil
 sketched
 Its plan and outlines, laughingly as-
 signing
 To each his part, and barring our
 excuses
 With absolute will. So, like the cava-
 liers
 Whose voices still are heard in the
 Romance
 Of silver-tongued Boccaccio, on the
 banks
 Of Arno, with soft tales of love be-
 guiling
 The ear of languid beauty, plague-
 exiled

From stately Florence, we rehearsed
our rhymes
To their fair auditor, and shared by
turns ¹⁵⁰
Her kind approval and her playful
censure.

It may be that these fragments owe
alone

To the fair setting of their circum-
stances, —

The associations of time, scene, and
audience, —

Their place amid the pictures which
fill up

The chambers of my memory. Yet I
trust

That some, who sigh, while wander-
ing in thought,

Pilgrims of Romance o'er the olden
world,

That our broad land, — our sea-like
lakes and mountains

Piled to the clouds, our rivers over-
hung ¹⁶⁰

By forests which have known no other
change

For ages than the budding and the fall
Of leaves, our valleys lovelier than
those

Which the old poets sang of, — should
but figure

On the apocryphal chart of speculation
As pastures, wood-lots, mill-sites, with
the privileges,

Rights, and appurtenances, which
make up

A Yankee Paradise, unsung, unknown,
To beautiful tradition; even their
names, ¹⁶⁹

Whose melody yet lingers like the last
Vibration of the red man's requiem,

Exchanged for syllables significant,
Of cotton-mill and rail-car, will look

kindly
Upon this effort to call up the ghost
Of our dim Past, and listen with

pleased ear
To the responses of the questioned
Shade.

I. THE MERRIMAC

O child of that white-crested moun-
tain whose springs
Gush forth in the shade of the cliff-
eagle's wings.

Down whose slopes to the lowlands
thy wild waters shine,
Leaping gray walls of rock, flashing
through the dwarf pine; ¹⁸⁰

From that cloud-curtained cradle so
cold and so lone,

From the arms of that wintry-locked
mother of stone,

By hills hung with forests, through
vales wide and free,

Thy mountain-born brightness glanced
down to the sea!

No bridge arched thy waters save that
where the trees

Stretched their long arms above thee
and kissed in the breeze:

No sound save the lapse of the waves
on thy shores,

The plunging of otters, the light dip
of oars.

Green-tufted, oak-shaded, by Amos-
keag's fall

Thy twin Uncanoonucs rose stately
and tall, ¹⁹⁰

Thy Nashua meadows lay green and
unshorn,

And the hills of Pentucket were tas-
selled with corn.

But thy Pennacook valley was fairer
than these,

And greener its grasses and taller its
trees,

Ere the sound of an axe in the forest
had rung,

Or the mower his scythe in the
meadows had swung.

In their sheltered repose looking out
from the wood

The bark-built wigwams of Penna-
cook stood;

There glided the corn-dance, the coun-
cil-fire shone,

And against the red war-post the
hatchet was thrown. ²⁰⁰

There the old smoked in silence their
pipes, and the young

To the pike and the white-perch their
baited lines flung;

There the boy shaped his arrows, and
there the shy maid

Wove her many-hued baskets and
bright wampum braid.

O Stream of the Mountains! if answer
 of thine
 Could rise from thy waters to question
 of mine,
 Methinks through the din of thy
 thronged banks a moan
 Of sorrow would swell for the days
 which have gone.

A glance upon Tradition's shadowy
 ground,
 Led by the few pale lights which,
 glimmering round
 That dim, strange land of Eld, seem
 dying fast;
 And that which history gives not to
 the eye,



"The White Hills, far away"

Not for thee the dull jar of the loom
 and the wheel,
 The gliding of shuttles, the ringing
 of steel; ²¹⁰
 But that old voice of waters, of bird
 and of breeze,
 The dip of the wild-fowl, the rustling
 of trees!

II. THE BASHABA

Lift we the twilight curtains of the
 Past,
 And, turning from familiar sight
 and sound,
 Sadly and full of reverence let us
 cast

The faded coloring of Time's tapestry,
 Let Fancy, with her dream-dipped
 brush, supply. ²²¹

Roof of bark and walls of pine,
 Through whose chinks the sun-
 beams shine,
 Tracing many a golden line
 On the ample floor within;
 Where, upon that earth-floor stark,
 Lay the gaudy mats of bark,
 With the bear's hide, rough and
 dark,
 And the red-deer's skin.

Window-tracery, small and slight,
 Woven of the willow white, ²³¹

Lent a dimly checkered light ;
And the night-stars glimmered
down,

Where the lodge-fire's heavy smoke,
Slowly through an opening broke,
In the low loof, ribbed with oak,
Sheathed with hemlock brown.

Gloomed behind the changeless
shade

By the solemn pine-wood made ;
Through the rugged palisade, ²⁴⁰

In the open foreground planted,
Glimpses came of rowers rowing,
Stir of leaves and wild-flowers blow-
ing,

Steel-like gleams of water flowing,
In the sunlight slanted.

Here the mighty Bashaba
Held his long-unquestioned sway,
From the White Hills, far away,
To the great sea's sounding shore ;
Chief of chiefs, his regal word ²⁵⁰
All the river Sachems heard,
At his call the war-dance stirred,
Or was still once more.

There his spoils of chase and war,
Jaw of wolf and black bear's paw,
Panther's skin and eagle's claw,
Lay beside his axe and bow ;
And, adown the roof-pole hung,
Loosely on a snake-skin strung,
In the smoke his scalp-locks swung
Grimly to and fro. ²⁶¹

Nightly down the river going,
Swifter was the hunter's rowing,
When he saw that lodge-fire glowing
O'er the waters still and red ;
And the squaw's dark eye burned
brighter,
And she drew her blanket tighter,
As, with quicker step and lighter,
From that door she fled.

For that chief had magic skill, ²⁷⁰
And a Panisee's dark will,
Over powers of good and ill,
Powers which bless and powers
which ban ;
Wizard lord of Pennacook,
Chiefs upon their war-path shook,
When they met the steady look
Of that wise dark man.

Tales of him the gray squaw told,
When the winter night-wind cold ²⁷¹
Pierced her blanket's thickest fold,
And her fire burned low and
small,

Till the very child abed
Drew its bear-skin over head,
Shrinking from the pale lights shed
On the trembling wall.

All the subtle spirits hiding
Under earth or wave, abiding
In the caverned rock, or riding
Misty clouds or morning breeze ;
Every dark intelligence, ²⁹⁰
Secret soul, and influence
Of all things which outward sense
Feels, or hears, or sees, —

These the wizard's skill confessed,
At his bidding banned or blessed,
Stormful woke or lulled to rest
Wind and cloud, and fire and
flood ;
Burned for him the drifted snow,
Bade through ice fresh lilies blow,
And the leaves of summer grow ³⁰⁰
Over winter's wood !

Not untrue that tale of old !
Now, as then, the wise and bold
All the powers of Nature hold
Subject to their kingly will ;
From the wondering crowds ashore,
Treading life's wild waters o'er,
As upon a marble floor,
Moves the strong man still.

Still, to such, life's elements ³¹⁰
With their sterner laws dispense,
And the chain of consequence
Broken in their pathway lies ;
Time and change their vassals mak-
ing,
Flowers from icy pillows waking,
Tresses of the sunrise shaking
Over midnight skies.

Still, to th' earnest soul, the sun
Rests on towered Gibeon,
And the moon of Ajalon ³²⁰
Lights the battle-grounds of life ;
To his aid the strong reverses
Hidden powers and giant forces,
And the high stars, in their courses,
Mingle in his strife !

III. THE DAUGHTER

The soot-black brows of men, the yell
 Of women thronging round the bed,
 The tinkling charm of ring and shell,
 The Powah whispering o'er the dead!
 All these the Sachem's home had known,
 When, on her journey long and wild
 To the dim World of Souls, alone,
 In her young beauty passed the mother of his child.

Three bow-shots from the Sachem's dwelling
 They laid her in the walnut shade,
 Where a green hillock gently swelling
 Her fitting mound of burial made.
 There trailed the vine in summer hours,
 The tree-perched squirrel dropped his shell, —
 On velvet moss and pale-hued flowers,
 Woven with leaf and spray, the soft-ened sunshine fell!

The Indian's heart is hard and cold,
 It closes darkly o'er its care,
 And formed in Nature's sternest mould,
 Is slow to feel, and strong to bear.
 The war-paint on the Sachem's face,
 Unwet with tears, shone fierce and red,
 And still, in battle or in chase,
 Dry leaf and snow-rime crisped beneath his foremost tread.

Yet when her name was heard no more,
 And when the robe her mother gave,
 And small, light moccasin she wore,
 Had slowly wasted on her grave,
 Unmarked of him the dark maids sped
 Their sunset dance and moonlit play;

No other shared his lonely bed,
 No other fair young head upon his bosom lay.

A lone, stern man. Yet, as sometimes
 The tempest-smitten tree receives
 From one small root the sap which climbs
 Its topmost spray and crowning leaves,
 So from his child the Sachem drew
 A life of Love and Hope, and felt
 His cold and rugged nature through
 The softness and the warmth of her young being melt.

A laugh which in the woodland rang
 Bemocking April's gladdest bird, —
 A light and graceful form which sprang
 To meet him when his step was heard, —
 Eyes by his lodge-fire flashing dark,
 Small fingers stringing bead and shell
 Or weaving mats of bright-hued bark, —
 With these the household-god had graced his wigwam well.

Child of the forest! strong and free,
 Slight-robed, with loosely flowing hair,
 She swam the lake or climbed the tree,
 Or struck the flying bird in air.
 O'er the heaped drifts of winter's moon
 Her snow-shoes tracked the hunter's way;
 And dazzling in the summer noon
 The blade of her light oar threw off
 its shower of spray!

Unknown to her the rigid rule,
 The dull restraint, the chiding frown,
 The weary torture of the school,
 The taming of wild nature down.
 Her only lore, the legends told
 Around the hunter's fire at night;
 Stars rose and set, and seasons rolled,
 Flowers bloomed and snow-flakes fell,
 unquestioned in her sight.

Unknown to her the subtle skill ³⁹⁰
 With which the artist-eye can
 trace
 In rock and tree and lake and hill
 The outlines of divinest grace ;
 Unknown the fine soul's keen unrest,
 Which sees, admires, yet yearns
 always ;
 Too closely on her mother's breast
 To note her smiles of love the child of
 Nature lay !

It is enough for such to be
 Of common, natural things a part,
 To feel, with bird and stream and
 tree, ⁴⁰⁰
 The pulses of the same great heart ;

Thus o'er the heart of Weetamoo
 Their mingling shades of joy and ill
 The instincts of her nature threw ;
 The savage was a woman still.
 Midst outlines dim of maiden
 schemes,
 Heart-colored prophecies of life,
 Rose on the ground of her young
 dreams ⁴²⁰
 The light of a new home, the lover and
 the wife.

IV. THE WEDDING

Cool and dark fell the autumn night,
 But the Bashaba's wigwam glowed
 with light,



Umbagog Lake

But we, from Nature long exiled,
 In our cold homes of Art and
 Thought
 Grieve like the stranger-tended
 child,
 Which seeks its mother's arms, and
 sees but feels them not.

The garden rose may richly bloom
 In cultured soil and genial air,
 To cloud the light of Fashion's room
 Or droop in Beauty's midnight
 hair ;
 In lonelier grace, to sun and dew ⁴¹⁰
 The sweetbrier on the hillside
 shows
 Its single leaf and fainter hue,
 Untrained and wildly free, yet still a
 sister rose !

For down from its roof, by green
 withes hung,
 Flaring and smoking the pine-knots
 swung.

And along the river great wood-fires
 Shot into the night their long, red spires,
 Showing behind the tall, dark wood,
 Flashing before on the sweeping flood.

In the changeful wind, with shimmer
 and shade, ⁴³⁰
 Now high, now low, that firelight
 played,
 On tree-leaves wet with evening dews,
 On gliding water and still canoes.

The trapper that night on Turee's
 brook,

And the weary fisher on Contoocook,
Saw over the marshes, and through
the pine,
And down on the river, the dance-
lights shine.

For the Saugus Sachem had come to
woo
The Bashaba's daughter Weetamoo,
And laid at her father's feet that
night
His softest furs and wampum white. ⁴⁴⁰

From the Crystal Hills to the far
southeast
The river Sagamores came to the feast;
And chiefs whose homes the sea-winds
shook
Sat down on the mats of Pennacook.

They came from Sunapee's shore of
rock,
From the snowy sources of Snooga-
nock,
And from rough Coö's whose thick
woods shake
Their pine-cones in Umbagog Lake. ⁴⁴⁰

From Ammonoosuc's mountain pass,
Wild as his home, came Chepewass;
And the Keenomps of the hills which
throw
Their shade on the Smile of Manito.

With pipes of peace and hows un-
strung,
Glowing with paint came old and
young,
In wampum and furs and feathers
arrayed,
To the dance and feast the Bashaba
made.

Bird of the air and beast of the field,
All which the woods and the waters
yield, ⁴⁵⁰
On dishes of birch and hemlock piled,
Garnished and graced that banquet
wild.

Steaks of the brown bear fat and large
From the rocky slopes of the Kear-
sarge;
Delicate trout from Babboosuck brook,
And salmon speared in the Contoo-
cook;

Squirrels which fed where nuts fell
thick
In the gravelly bed of the Otternic;
And small wild-hens in reed-snares
caught
From the banks of Sondagardee
brought;

Pike and perch from the Suncook
taken, ⁴⁷⁰
Nuts from the trees of the Black Hills
shaken,
Cranberries picked in the Squamscot
bog,
And grapes from the vines of Piscata-
quog:

And, drawn from that great stone vase
which stands
In the river scooped by a spirit's hands,
Garnished with spoons of shell and
horn,
Stood the birchen dishes of smoking
corn.

Thus bird of the air and beast of the
field,
All which the woods and the waters
yield,
Furnished in that olden day ⁴⁸⁰
The bridal feast of the Bashaba.

And merrily when that feast was done
On the fire-lit green the dance be-
gun,
With squaws' shrill stave, and deeper
hum
Of old men beating the Indian drum.

Painted and plumed, with scalp-locks
flowing,
And red arms tossing and black eyes
glowing,
Now in the light and now in the shade
Around the fires the dancers played.

The step was quicker, the song more
shrill, ⁴⁹⁰
And the beat of the small drums
louder still
Whenever within the circle drew
The Saugus Sachem and Weetamoo.

The moons of forty winters had shed
Their snow upon that chieftain's
head,

And toil and care and battle's chance
Had seamed his hard, dark counte-
nance.

A fawn beside the bison grim, —
Why turns the bride's fond eye on
him,
In whose cold look is naught beside
The triumph of a sullen pride? 501

Ask why the graceful grape entwines
The rough oak with her arm of vines;
And why the gray rock's rugged cheek
The soft lips of the mosses seek:

Why, with wise instinct, Nature
seems

To harmonize her wide extremes,
Linking the stronger with the weak,
The haughty with the soft and meek!

V. THE NEW HOME

A wild and broken landscape, spiked
with firs, 510

Roughening the bleak horizon's
northern edge;

Steep, cavernous hillsides, where
black hemlock spurs

And sharp, gray splinters of the
wind-swept ledge

Pierced the thin-glazed ice, or bris-
tling rose,

Where the cold rim of the sky sunk
down upon the snows.

And eastward cold, wide marshes
stretched away,

Dull, dreary flats without a bush or
tree,

O'er-crossed by icy creeks, where
twice a day

Gurgled the waters of the moon-
struck sea;

And faint with distance came the
stifed roar, 520

The melancholy lapse of waves on that
low shore.

No cheerful village with its mingling
smokes,

No laugh of children wrestling in
the snow,

No camp-fire blazing through the hill-
side oaks,

No fishers kneeling on the ice below;

Yet midst all desolate things of sound
and view,
Through the long winter moons
smiled dark-eyed Weetamoo.

Her heart had found a home; and
freshly all

Its beautiful affections overgrew
Their rugged prop. As o'er some
granite wall 530

Soft vine-leaves open to the moisten-
ing dew

And warm bright sun, the love of that
young wife

Found on a hard cold breast the dew
and warmth of life.

The steep, bleak hills, the melancholy
shore,

The long, dead level of the marsh
between,

A coloring of unreal beauty wore
Through the soft golden mist of
young love seen.

For o'er those hills and from that
dreary plain,

Nightly she welcomed home her
hunter chief again.

No warmth of heart, no passionate
burst of feeling 540

Repaid her welcoming smile and
parting kiss,

No fond and playful dalliance half
concealing,

Under the guise of mirth, its ten-
derness;

But, in their stead, the warrior's set-
tled pride,

And vanity's pleased smile with hom-
age satisfied.

Enough for Weetamoo, that she alone
Sat on his mat and slumbered at his

side;

That he whose fame to her young ear
had flown

Now looked upon her proudly as his
bride;

That he whose name the Mohawk
trembling heard 550

Vouchsafed to her at times a kindly
look or word.

For she had learned the maxims of her
race,

Which teach the woman to become
a slave,
And feel herself the pardonless dis-
grace
Of love's fond weakness in the wise
and brave, —
The scandal and the shame which they
incur,
Who give to woman all which man
requires of her.

So passed the winter moons. The sun
at last
Broke link by link the frost chain of
the rills,
And the warm breathings of the south-
west passed ⁵⁶⁰
Over the hoar rime of the Saugus
hills;
The gray and desolate marsh grew
green once more,
And the birch-tree's tremulous shade
fell round the Sachem's door.

Then from far Pennacook swift run-
ners came,
With gift and greeting for the
Saugus chief;
Beseeching him in the great Sachem's
name,
That, with the coming of the flower
and leaf,
The song of birds, the warm breeze
and the rain,
Young Weetamoo might greet her
lonely sire again.

And Winnepurkit called his chiefs
together, ⁵⁷⁰
And a grave council in his wigwam
met,
Solemn and brief in words, considering
whether
The rigid rules of forest etiquette
Permitted Weetamoo once more to
look
Upon her father's face and green-
banked Pennacook.

With interludes of pipe-smoke and
strong water,
The forest sages pondered, and at
length
Concluded in a body to escort her
Up to her father's home of pride
and strength,

Impressing thus on Pennacook a sense
Of Winnepurkit's power and regal
consequence. ⁵⁸⁰

So through old woods which Aukee-
tamit's hand
A soft and many-shaded greenness
lent,
Over high breezy hills, and meadow
land
Yellow with flowers, the wild pro-
cession went,
Till, rolling down its wooded banks
between,
A broad, clear, mountain stream, the
Merrimac was seen.

The hunter leaning on his bow un-
drawn,
The fisher lounging on the pebbled
shores,
Squaws in the clearing dropping the
seed-corn, ⁵⁹⁰
Young children peering through the
wigwam doors,
Saw with delight, surrounded by her
train
Of painted Saugus braves, their Wee-
tamoo again.

VI. AT PENNACOOK

The hills are dearest which our child-
ish feet
Have climbed the earliest; and the
streams most sweet
Are ever those at which our young
lips drank
Stooped to their waters o'er the grassy
bank.

Midst the cold dreary sea-watch,
Home's hearth-light
Shines round the helmsman plunging
through the night;
And still, with inward eye, the travel-
ler sees ⁶⁰⁰
In close, dark, stranger streets his na-
tive trees.

The home-sick dreamer's brow is
nightly fanned
By breezes whispering of his native
land,
And on the stranger's dim and dying
eye
The soft, sweet pictures of his child-
hood lie.

Joy then for Weetamoo, to sit once
 more
 A child upon her father's wigwam
 floor!
 Once more with her old fondness to
 beguile
 From his cold eye the strange light of
 a smile.

The long, bright days of summer
 swiftly passed, ⁶¹⁰
 The dry leaves whirled in autumn's
 rising blast,
 And evening cloud and whitening
 sunrise rime
 Told of the coming of the winter-time.

But vainly looked, the while, young
 Weetamoo
 Down the dark river for her chief's
 canoe;
 No dusky messenger from Saugus
 brought
 The grateful tidings which the young
 wife sought.

At length a runner from her father sent,
 To Winnepurkit's sea-cooled wigwam
 went;
 "Eagle of Saugus, — in the woods the
 dove ⁶²⁰
 Mourns for the shelter of thy wings of
 love."

But the dark chief of Saugus turned
 aside
 In the grim anger of hard-hearted
 pride;
 "I bore her as became a chieftain's
 daughter,
 Up to her home beside the gliding
 water.

"If now no more a mat for her is
 found
 Of all which line her father's wigwam
 round,
 Let Pennacook call out his warrior
 train,
 And send her back with wampum gifts
 again."

The baffled runner turned upon his
 track, ⁶³⁰
 Bearing the words of Winnepurkit
 back.

"Dog of the Marsh," cried Pennacook,
 "no more
 Shall child of mine sit on his wigwam
 floor.

"Go, let him seek some meaner squaw
 to spread
 The stolen bear-skin of his beggar's
 bed;
 Son of a fish-hawk! let him dig his
 clams
 For some vile daughter of the Aga-
 wams,

"Or coward Nipmucks! may his scalp
 dry black
 In Mohawk smoke, before I send her
 back."
 He shook his clenched hand towards
 the ocean wave, ⁶⁴⁰
 While hoarse assent his listening coun-
 cil gave.

Alas, poor bride! can thy grim sire
 impart
 His iron hardness to thy woman's
 heart?
 Or cold self-torturing pride like his
 atone
 For love denied and life's warm beauty
 flown?

On Autumn's gray and mournful grave
 the snow
 Hung its white wreaths; with stifled
 voice and low
 The river crept, by one vast bridge
 o'ercrossed,
 Built by the hoar-locked artisan of
 Frost.

And many a moon in beauty newly born
 Pierced the red sunset with her silver
 horn, ⁶⁵¹
 Or, from the east, across her azure field
 Rolled the wide brightness of her full-
 orbed shield.

Yet Winnepurkit came not, — on the
 mat
 Of the scorned wife her dusky rival
 sat;
 And he, the while, in Western woods
 afar,
 Urged the long chase, or trod the path
 of war.

Dry up thy tears, young daughter of a chief!
 Waste not on him the sacredness of grief;
 Be the fierce spirit of thy sire thine own,⁶⁶⁰
 His lips of scorning, and his heart of stone.

What heeds the warrior of a hundred fights,
 The storm-worn watcher through long hunting nights,
 Cold, crafty, proud of woman's weak distress,
 Her home-bound grief and pining loneliness?

VII. THE DEPARTURE

The wild March rains had fallen fast and long
 The snowy mountains of the North among,
 Making each vale a watercourse, each hill
 Bright with the cascade of some new-made rill.

Gnawed by the sunbeams, softened by the rain,⁶⁷⁰
 Heaved underneath by the swollen current's strain,
 The ice-bridge yielded, and the Merrimac
 Bore the huge ruin crashing down its track.

On that strong turbid water, a small boat
 Guided by one weak hand was seen to float;
 Evil the fate which loosed it from the shore,
 Too early voyager with too frail an oar!

Down the vexed centre of that rushing tide,
 The thick, huge ice-blocks threatening either side,
 The foam-white rocks of Amoskeag in view,⁶⁸⁰
 With arrowy swiftness sped that light canoe.

The trapper, moistening his moose's meat
 On the wet bank by Uncanoonuc's feet,
 Saw the swift boat flash down the troubled stream;
 Slept he, or waked he? was it truth or dream?

The straining eye bent fearfully before,
 The small hand clenching on the useless oar,
 The bead-wrought blanket trailing o'er the water —
 He knew them all — woe for the Sachem's daughter!⁶⁸⁹

Sick and aweary of her lonely life,
 Heedless of peril, the still faithful wife
 Had left her mother's grave, her father's door,
 To seek the wigwam of her chief once more.

Down the white rapids like a sear leaf whirled,
 On the sharp rocks and piled-up ices hurled,
 Empty and broken, circled the canoe
 In the vexed pool below — but where was Weetamoo?

VIII. SONG OF INDIAN WOMEN

The Dark eye has left us,
 The Spring-bird has flown; ⁷⁰⁰
 On the pathway of spirits
 She wanders alone.
 The song of the wood-dove has died on our shore:
Mat wonck kunna-monee! We hear it no more!

O dark water Spirit!
 We cast on thy wave
 These furs which may never
 Hang over her grave;
 Bear down to the lost one the robes that she wore:
Mat wonck kunna-monee! We see her no more!

Of the strange land she walks in
 No Powah has told: ⁷¹¹
 It may burn with the sunshine,
 Or freeze with the cold.

Let us give to our lost one the robes
that she wore:

Mat wonck kunna-monee! We see
her no more!

The path she is treading
Shall soon be our own;
Each gliding in shadow
Unseen and alone!

In vain shall we call on the souls gone
before: 720

Mat wonck kunna-monee! They hear
us no more!

O mighty Sowanna!
Thy gateways unfold,
From thy wigwam of sunset
Lift curtains of gold!

Take home the poor Spirit whose jour-
ney is o'er:

Mat wonck kunna-monee! We see
her no more!

So sang the Children of the Leaves
beside

The broad, dark river's coldly flowing
tide;

Now low, now harsh, with sob-like
pause and swell, 730

On the high wind their voices rose and
fell.

Nature's wild music,— sounds of
wind-swept trees,

The scream of birds, the wailing of the
breeze,

The roar of waters, steady, deep, and
strong,—

Mingled and murmured in that fare-
well song.

BARCLAY OF URY

UP the streets of Aberdeen,
By the kirk and college green,
Rode the Laird of Ury;
Close behind him, close beside,
Foul of mouth and evil-eyed,
Pressed the mob in fury.

Flouted him the drunken churl,
Jeered at him the serving-girl,
Prompt to please her master;
And the begging carlin, late 10
Fed and clothed at Ury's gate,
Cursed him as he passed her.

Yet, with calm and stately mien,
Up the streets of Aberdeen
Came he slowly riding;
And, to all he saw and heard,
Answering not with bitter word,
Turning not for chiding.

Came a troop with broadswords swing-
ing,

Bits and bridles sharply ringing, 20
Loose and free and froward;

Quoth the foremost, "Ride him down!
Push him! prick him! through the
town

Drive the Quaker coward!"

But from out the thickening crowd
Cried a sudden voice and loud:

"Barclay! Ho! a Barclay!"

And the old man at his side
Saw a comrade, battle tried,
Scarred and sunburned darkly;

Who with ready weapon bare, 32
Fronting to the troopers there,

Cried aloud: "God save us,
Call ye coward him who stood
Ankle deep in Lützen's blood,
With the brave Gustavus?"

"Nay, I do not need thy sword,
Comrade mine," said Ury's lord;

"Put it up, I pray thee:
Passive to His holy will, 40
Trust I in my Master still,
Even though He slay me.

"Pledges of thy love and faith,
Proved on many a field of death,
Not by me are needed."

Marvelled much that henchman bold,
That his laird, so stout of old,
Now so meekly pleaded.

"Woe 's the day!" he sadly said, 50
With a slowly shaking head,

And a look of pity;
"Ury's honest lord reviled,
Mock of knave and sport of child,
In his own good city!

"Speak the word, and, master mine,
As we charged on Tilly's line,
And his Walloon lancers,
Smiting through their midst we'll
teach

Civil look and decent speech
To these boyish prancers!" 60

"Marvel not, mine ancient friend,
Like beginning, like the end,"
Quoth the Laird of Ury;
"Is the sinful servant more
Than his gracious Lord who bore
Bonds and stripes in Jewry ?

"Give me joy that in His name
I can hear, with patient frame,
All these vain ones offer;
While for them He suffereth long, 70
Shall I answer wrong with wrong,
Scoffing with the scoffer ?

"Happier I, with loss of all,
Hunted, outlawed, held in thrall,
With few friends to greet me,
Than when reeve and squire were seen,
Riding out from Aberdeen,
With bared heads to meet me.

"When each goodwife, o'er and o'er,
Blessed me as I passed her door; 80
And the snooded daughter,
Through her casement glancing down,
Smiled on him who bore renown
From red fields of slaughter.

"Hard to feel the stranger's scoff,
Hard the old friend's falling off,
Hard to learn forgiving;
But the Lord His own rewards,
And His love with theirs accords, 90
Warm and fresh and living.

"Through this dark and stormy night
Faith beholds a feeble light
Up the blackness streaking;
Knowing God's own time is best,
In a patient hope I rest
For the full day-breaking !"

So the Laird of Ury said,
Turning slow his horse's head
Towards the Tolbooth prison,
Where, through iron gates, he heard
Poor disciples of the Word 101
Preach of Christ arisen !

Not in vain, Confessor old,
Unto us the tale is told
Of thy day of trial;
Every age on him who strays

From its broad and beaten ways
Pours its seven-fold vial.

Happy he whose inward ear
Angel comfortings can hear, 110
O'er the rabble's laughter;
And while Hatred's fagots burn,
Glimpses through the smoke discern
Of the good hereafter.

Knowing this, that never yet,
Share of Truth was vainly set
In the world's wide fallow;
After hands shall sow the seed,
After hands from hill and mead 120
Reap the harvests yellow.

Thus, with somewhat of the Seer,
Must the moral pioneer
From the Future borrow;
Clothe the waste with dreams of
grain,
And, on midnight's sky of rain,
Paint the golden morrow !

THE ANGELS OF BUENA VISTA

SPEAK and tell us, our Ximena, look-
ing northward far away,
O'er the camp of the invaders, o'er
the Mexican array,
Who is losing ? who is winning ? are
they far or come they near ?
Look abroad, and tell us, sister, whither
rolls the storm we hear.

"Down the hills of Angostura still the
storm of battle rolls;
Blood is flowing, men are dying; God
have mercy on their souls !"
Who is losing ? who is winning ?
"Over hill and over plain,
I see but smoke of cannon clouding
through the mountain rain."

Holy Mother ! keep our brothers !
Look, Ximena, look once more.
"Still I see the fearful whirlwind roll-
ing darkly as before, 10
Bearing on, in strange confusion,
friend and foeman, foot and
horse,
Like some wild and troubled torrent
sweeping down its mountain
course."

Look forth once more, Ximena ! " Ah !
 the smoke has rolled away ;
 And I see the Northern rifles gleaming
 down the ranks of gray.
 Hark ! that sudden blast of bugles !
 there the troop of Minon
 wheels ;
 There the Northern horses thunder,
 with the cannon at their heels.

" Jesu, pity ! how it thickens ! now
 retreat and now advance !
 Right against the blazing cannon
 shivers Peubla's charging lance !
 Down they go, the brave young rid-
 ers ; horse and foot together fall ;
 Like a ploughshare in the fallow,
 through them ploughs the
 Northern ball." 20

Nearer came the storm and nearer,
 rolling fast and frightful on !
 Speak, Ximena, speak and tell us, who
 has lost, and who has won ?
 " Alas ! alas ! I know not ; friend and
 foe together fall,
 O'er the dying rush the living : pray,
 my sisters, for them all !

" Lo ! the wind the smoke is lifting.
 Blessed Mother, save my brain !
 I can see the wounded crawling slowly
 out from heaps of slain.
 Now they stagger, blind and bleeding ;
 now they fall, and strive to rise ;
 Hasten, sisters, haste and save them,
 lest they die before our eyes !

" O my heart's love ! O my dear one !
 lay thy poor head on my knee ;
 Dost thou know the lips that kiss
 thee ? Canst thou hear me ?
 canst thou see ? 30
 O my husband, brave and gentle ! O
 my Bernal, look once more
 On the blessed cross before thee !
 Mercy ! mercy ! all is o'er !"

Dry thy tears, my poor Ximena ; lay
 thy dear one down to rest ;
 Let his hands be meekly folded, lay
 the cross upon his breast ;
 Let his dirge be sung hereafter, and
 his funeral masses said ;
 To-day, thou poor bereaved one, the
 living ask thy aid.

Close beside her, faintly moaning, fai
 and young, a soldier lay,
 Torn with shot and pierced with
 lances, bleeding slow his life
 away ;
 But, as tenderly before him the lorn
 Ximena knelt,
 She saw the Northern eagle shining on
 his pistol-belt. 40

With a stifled cry of horror straight
 she turned away her head ;
 With a sad and bitter feeling looked
 she back upon her dead ;
 But she heard the youth's low moan-
 ing, and his struggling breath
 of pain,
 And she raised the cooling water to his
 parching lips again.

Whispered low the dying soldier,
 pressed her hand and faintly
 smiled ;
 Was that pitying face his mother's ?
 did she watch beside her
 child ?
 All his stranger words with meaning
 her woman's heart supplied ;
 With her kiss upon his forehead,
 " Mother !" murmured he, and
 died !

" A bitter curse upon them, poor boy,
 who led thee forth,
 From some gentle, sad-eyed mother,
 weeping, lonely, in the North !"
 Spake the mournful Mexic woman, as
 she laid him with her dead, 51
 And turned to soothe the living, and
 bind the wounds which bled.

Look forth once more, Ximena !
 " Like a cloud before the wind
 Rolls the battle down the mountains,
 leaving blood and death be-
 hind ;
 Ah ! they plead in vain for mercy ; in
 the dust the wounded strive ;
 Hide your faces, holy angels ! O thou
 Christ of God, forgive !"

Sink, O Night, among thy mountains !
 let the cool, gray shadows
 fall ;
 Dying brothers, fighting demons, drop
 thy curtain over all !



"He . . . knew the face of good St. Mark."

Through the thickening winter twilight,
wide apart the battle rolled,
In its sheath the sabre rested, and the
cannon's lips grew cold. 60

But the noble Mexic women still their
holy task pursued,
Through that long, dark night of sorrow,
worn and faint and lacking food.
Over weak and suffering brothers,
with a tender care they hung,
And the dying foeman blessed them
in a strange and Northern tongue.

Not wholly lost, O Father! is this evil
world of ours;
Upward, through its blood and ashes,
spring afresh the Eden flowers;
From its smoking hell of battle, Love
and Pity send their prayer,
And still thy white-winged angels hover
dimly in our air!

THE LEGEND OF ST. MARK

THE day is closing dark and cold,
With roaring blast and sleety
showers;
And through the dusk the lilacs wear
The bloom of snow, instead of
flowers.

I turn me from the gloom without,
To ponder o'er a tale of old;
A legend of the age of Faith,
By dreaming monk or abbeſs told

On Tintoretto's canvas lives
That fancy of a loving heart, 10
In graceful lines and ſhapes of power,
And hues immortal as his art.

In Provence (ſo the ſtory runs)
There lived a lord, to whom, as
ſlave,
A peasant-boy of tender years
The chance of trade or conqueſt
gave.

Forth-looking from the castle tower,
Beyond the hills with almonds dark,
The straining eye could scarce discern
The chapel of the good St. Mark. 20

And there, when bitter word or fare
The service of the youth repaid,
By stealth, before that holy shrine,
For grace to bear his wrong, he
prayed.

The steed stamped at the castle gate,
The boar-hunt sounded on the hill;
Why stayed the Baron from the chase,
With looks so stern, and words so
ill ?

“Go, find yon slave! and let him
learn,
By scath of fire and strain of cord, 30
How ill they speed who give dead
saints
The homage due their living lord !”

They bound him on the fearful rack,
When, through the dungeon's
vaulted dark,
He saw the light of shining robes,
And knew the face of good St.
Mark.

Then sank the iron rack apart,
The cords released their cruel clasp,
The pincers, with their teeth of fire,
Fell broken from the torturer's
grasp. 40

And lo! before the Youth and Saint,
Barred door and wall of stone gave
way;
And up from bondage and the night
They passed to freedom and the
day !

O dreaming monk ! thy tale is true;
O painter ! true thy pencil's art;
In tones of hope and prophecy,
Ye whisper to my listening heart !

Unheard no burdened heart's appeal
Moans up to God's inclining ear; 50
Unheeded by His tender eye,
Falls to the earth no sufferer's tear.

For still the Lord alone is God !
The pomp and power of tyrant man

Are scattered at His lightest breath,
Like chaff before the winnower's
fan.

Not always shall the slave uplift
His heavy hands to Heaven in vain.
God's angel, like the good St. Mark,
Comes shining down to break his
chain ! 60

O weary ones! ye may not see
Your helpers in their downward
flight;
Nor hear the sound of silver wings
Slow beating through the hush of
night !

But not the less gray Dothan shone,
With sunbright watchers bending
low,
That Fear's dim eye beheld alone
The spear-heads of the Syrian foe.

There are, who, like the Seer of old,
Can see the helpers God has sent, 70
And how life's rugged mountain-side
Is white with many an angel tent !

They hear the heralds whom our Lord
Sends down His pathway to prepare;
And light, from others hidden, shines
On their high place of faith and
prayer.

Let such, for earth's despairing ones,
Hopeless, yet longing to be free,
Breathe once again the Prophet's
prayer:
“Lord, ope their eyes, that they
may see !” 80

KATHLEEN

O NORAH, lay your basket down,
And rest your weary hand,
And come and hear me sing a song
Of our old Ireland.

There was a lord of Galaway,
A mighty lord was he;
And he did wed a second wife,
A maid of low degree.

But he was old, and she was young,
And so, in evil spite, 10

She baked the black bread for his kin,
And fed her own with white.

She whipped the maids and starved
the kern,
And drove away the poor;
"Ah, woe is me!" the old lord said,
"I rue my bargain sore!"

This lord he had a daughter fair,
Beloved of old and young,
And nightly round the sealing-fires
Of her the gleeman sung. 20

"As sweet and good is young Kath-
leen
As Eve before her fall,"
So sang the harper at the fair,
So harped he in the hall.

"Oh, come to me, my daughter dear!
Come sit upon my knee,
For looking in your face, Kathleen,
Your mother's own I see!"

He smoothed and smoothed her hair
away,
He kissed her forehead fair; 30
"It is my darling Mary's brow,
It is my darling's hair!"

Oh, then spake up the angry dame,
"Get up, get up," quoth she,
"I'll sell ye over Ireland,
I'll sell ye o'er the sea!"

She clipped her glossy hair away,
That none her rank might know,
She took away her gown of silk,
And gave her one of tow, 40

And sent her down to Limerick town
And to a seaman sold
This daughter of an Irish lord
For ten good pounds in gold.

The lord he smote upon his breast,
And tore his beard so gray;
But he was old, and she was young,
And so she had her way.

Sure that same night the Banshee
howled
To fright the evil dame, 50
And fairy folks, who loved Kathleen,
With funeral torches came.

She watched them glancing through
the trees,
And glimmering down the hill;
They crept before the dead-vault door,
And there they all stood still!

"Get up, old man! the wake-lights
shine!"

"Ye murdering witch," quoth he,
"So I'm rid of your tongue, I little
care

If they shine for you or me. 60

"Oh, whoso brings my daughter back,
My gold and land shall have!"
Oh, then spake up his handsome page,
"No gold nor land I crave!

"But give to me your daughter dear,
Give sweet Kathleen to me,
Be she on sea or be she on land,
I'll bring her back to thee."

"My daughter is a lady born,
And you of low degree, 70
But she shall be your bride the day
You bring her back to me."

He sailèd east, he sailèd west,
And far and long sailed he,
Until he came to Boston town,
Across the great salt sea.

"Oh, have ye seen the young Kathleen,
The flower of Ireland?
Ye'll know her by her eyes so blue,
And by her snow-white hand!" 80

Out spake an ancient man, "I know
The maiden whom ye mean;
I bought her of a Limerick man,
And she is called Kathleen.

"No skill hath she in household work,
Her hands are soft and white,
Yet well by loving looks and ways
She doth her cost requite."

So up they walked through Boston
town,
And met a maiden fair, 90
A little basket on her arm
So snowy-white and bare.

"Come hither, child, and say hast thou
This young man ever seen?"

They wept within each other's arms,
The page and young Kathleen.

"Oh give to me this darling child,
And take my purse of gold."

"Nay, not by me," her master said,
"Shall sweet Kathleen be sold. 100

"We loved her in the place of one
The Lord hath early ta'en;
But, since her heart's in Ireland,
We give her back again!"

Oh, for that same the saints in heaven
For his poor soul shall pray,
And Mary Mother wash with tears
His heresies away.

Sure now they dwell in Ireland;
As you go up Claremore 110
Ye'll see their castle looking down
The pleasant Galway shore.

And the old lord's wife is dead and
gone,
And a happy man is he,
For he sits beside his own Kathleen,
With her darling on his knee.

THE WELL OF LOCH MAREE

CALM on the breast of Loch Maree
A little isle reposes;
A shadow woven of the oak
And willow o'er it closes.

Within, a Druid's mound is seen,
Set round with stony warders;
A fountain, gushing through the turf,
Flows o'er its grassy borders.

And whoso bathes therein his brow,
With care or madness burning,
Feels once again his healthful thought
And sense of peace returning.

O restless heart and fevered brain,
Unquiet and unstable,
That holy well of Loch Maree
Is more than idle fable!

Life's changes vex, its discords stun,
Its glaring sunshine blindeth,
And blest is he who on his way
That fount of healing findeth!

The shadows of a humbled will
And contrite heart are o'er it;
Go read its legend, "TRUST IN GOD,"
On Faith's white stones before it.

THE CHAPEL OF THE HERMITS

"I do believe, and yet, in grief,
I pray for help to unbelief;
For needful strength aside to lay
The daily cumberings of my way.

"I'm sick at heart of craft and cant,
Sick of the crazed enthusiast's rant,
Profession's smooth hypocrisies,
And creeds of iron, and lives of ease.

"I ponder o'er the sacred word,
I read the record of our Lord; 120
And, weak and troubled, envy them
Who touched His seamless garment's
hem;

"Who saw the tears of love He wept
Above the grave where Lazarus slept;
And heard, amidst the shadows dim
Of Olivet, His evening hymn.

"How blessed the swineherd's low
estate,
The beggar crouching at the gate,
The leper loathly and abhorred,
Whose eyes of flesh beheld the Lord! 20

"O sacred soil His sandals pressed!
Sweet fountains of His noonday rest!
O light and air of Palestine,
Impregnate with His life divine!

"Oh, bear me thither! Let me look
On Siloa's pool, and Kedron's brook;
Kneel at Gethsemane, and by
Gennesaret walk, before I die!

"Methinks this cold and northern
night 20
Would melt before that Orient light;
And, wet by Hermon's dew and rain,
My childhood's faith revive again!"

So spake my friend, one autumn day,
Where the still river slid away
Beneath us, and above the brown
Red curtains of the woods shut
down.

Then said I, — for I could not brook
The mute appealing of his look, —
“I too am weak, and faith is small,
And blindness happeneth unto all. 40

“Yet sometimes glimpses on my sight,
Through present wrong, the eternal
right;
And, step by step, since time began,
I see the steady gain of man ;

“That all of good the past hath had
Remains to make our own time glad,
Our common daily life divine,
And every land a Palestine.

“Thou weariest of thy present state;
What gain to thee time’s holiest date?
The doubter now perchance had been
As High Priest or as Pilate then ! 52

“What thought Chorazin’s scribes ?
What faith
In Him had Nain and Nazareth ?
Of the few followers whom He led
One sold Him, — all forsook and fled.

“O friend ! we need nor rock nor sand,
Nor storied stream of Morning-Land;
The heavens are glassed in Merrimac, —
What more could Jordan render back?

“We lack but open eye and ear 61
To find the Orient’s marvels here;
The still small voice in autumn’s hush,
Yon maple wood the burning bush.

“For still the new transcends the old,
In signs and tokens manifold;
Slaves rise up men; the olive waves,
With roots deep set in battle graves !

“Through the harsh noises of our day
A low, sweet prelude finds its way; 70
Through clouds of doubt, and creeds
of fear,
A light is breaking, calm and clear.

“That song of Love, now low and far,
Erelong shall swell from star to star !
That light, the breaking day, which tips
The golden-spined Apocalypse !”

Then, when my good friend shook his
head,
And, sighing, sadly smiled, I said:

“Thou mind’st me of a story told
In rare Bernardin’s leaves of gold.” 80

And while the slanted sunbeams wove
The shadows of the frost-stained
grove,
And, picturing all, the river ran
O’er cloud and wood, I thus began: —

In Mount Valerien’s chestnut wood
The Chapel of the Hermits stood;
And thither, at the close of day,
Came two old pilgrims, worn and gray.

One, whose impetuous youth defied
The storms of Baikal’s wintry side, 90
And mused and dreamed where tropic
day
Flamed o’er his lost Virginia’s bay.

His simple tale of love and woe
All hearts had melted, high or low, —
A blissful pain, a sweet distress,
Immortal in its tenderness.

Yet, while above his charmed page
Beat quick the young heart of his age,
He walked amidst the crowd unknown,
A sorrowing old man, strange and
lone. 100

A homeless, troubled age, — the gray
Pale setting of a weary day;
Too dull his ear for voice of praise,
Too sadly worn his brow for bays.

Pride, lust of power and glory, slept;
Yet still his heart its young dream kept,
And, wandering like the deluge-dove,
Still sought the resting-place of love.

And, mateless, childless, envied more
The peasant’s welcome from his door
By smiling eyes at eventide, 111
Than kingly gifts or lettered pride.

Until, in place of wife and child,
All-pitying Nature on him smiled,
And gave to him the golden keys
To all her inmost sanctities.

Mild Druid of her wood-paths dim !
She laid her great heart bare to him,
Its loves and sweet accords; — he saw
The beauty of her perfect law. 120



Rousseau

The language of her signs he knew,
 What notes her cloudy clarion blew;
 The rhythm of autumn's forest dyes,
 The hymn of sunset's painted skies.

And thus he seemed to hear the song
 Which swept, of old, the stars along;
 And to his eyes the earth once
 more
 Its fresh and primal beauty wore.

Who sought with him, from summer
 air, 129
 And field and wood, a balm for care,
 And bathed in light of sunset skies
 His tortured nerves and weary
 eyes?

His fame on all the winds had flown;
 His words had shaken crypt and
 throne;

Like fire on camp and court and cell
 They dropped, and kindled as they
 fell.

Beneath the pomps of state, below
 The mitred juggler's masque and
 show,
 A prophecy, a vague hope, ran
 His burning thought from man to
 man. 140

For peace or rest too well he saw
 The fraud of priests, the wrong of
 law,
 And felt how hard, between the two,
 Their breath of pain the millions drew.

A prophet-utterance, strong and wild,
 The weakness of an unweaned child,
 A sun-bright hope for human-kind,
 And self-despair, in him combined.

He loathed the false, yet lived not true
 To half the glorious truths he knew; 150
 The doubt, the discord, and the sin,
 He mourned without, he felt within.

Untrod by him the path he showed,
 Sweet pictures on his easel glowed
 Of simple faith, and loves of home,
 And virtue's golden days to come.

But weakness, shame, and folly made
 The foil to all his pen portrayed;
 Still, where his dreamy splendors
 shone,
 The shadow of himself was thrown. 160

Lord, what is man, whose thought, at
 times,
 Up to Thy sevenfold brightness
 climbs,
 While still his grosser instinct clings
 To earth, like other creeping things!

So rich in words, in acts so mean;
 So high, so low; chance-swung be-
 tween
 The foulness of the penal pit
 And Truth's clear sky, millennium-lit!

Vain, pride of star-lent genius! —
 vain,
 Quick fancy and creative brain, 170
 Unblest by prayerful sacrifice,
 Absurdly great, or weakly wise!

Midst yearnings for a truer life,
 Without were fears, within was strife;
 And still his wayward act denied
 The perfect good for which he sighed.

The love he sent forth void returned;
 The fame that crowned him scorched
 and burned,
 Burning, yet cold and drear and
 lone, —
 A fire-mount in a frozen zone! 180

Like that the gray-haired sea-king
 passed,
 Seen southward from his sleety mast,
 About whose brows of changeless frost
 A wreath of flame the wild winds
 tossed.

Far round the mournful beauty played
 Of lambent light and purple shade,

Lost on the fixed and dumb despair
 Of frozen earth and sea and air!

A man apart, unknown, unloved
 By those whose wrongs his soul had
 moved, 190
 He bore the ban of Church and State,
 The good man's fear, the bigot's
 hate!

Forth from the city's noise and
 throng,
 Its pomp and shame, its sin and
 wrong,
 The twain that summer day had
 strayed
 To Mount Valerien's chestnut shade.

To them the green fields and the
 wood
 Lent something of their quietude,
 And golden-tinted sunset seemed
 Prophetical of all they dreamed. 200

The hermits from their simple cares
 The bell was calling home to prayers,
 And, listening to its sound, the twain
 Seemed lapped in childhood's trust
 again.

Wide open stood the chapel door;
 A sweet old music, swelling o'er
 Low prayerful murmurs, issued
 thence, —
 The Litanies of Providence!

Then Rousseau spake: "Where two
 or three
 In His name meet, He there will be!"
 And then, in silence, on their knees 211
 They sank beneath the chestnut-trees.

As to the blind returning light,
 As daybreak to the Arctic night,
 Old faith revived; the doubts of years
 Dissolved in reverential tears.

That gush of feeling overpast,
 "Ah me!" Bernardin sighed at last,
 "I would thy bitterest foes could see
 Thy heart as it is seen of me! 220

"No church of God hast thou denied;
 Thou hast but spurned in scorn aside
 A bare and hollow counterfeit,
 Profaning the pure name of it!

"With dry dead moss and marish weeds
His fire the western herdsman feeds,
And greener from the ashen plain
The sweet spring grasses rise again.

"Nor thunder-peal nor mighty wind
Disturb the solid sky behind; ²³⁰
And through the cloud the red bolt
rends
The calm, still smile of Heaven de-
scends!

"Thus through the world, like bolt
and blast,
And scourging fire, thy words have
passed.
Clouds break, — the steadfast heavens
remain;
Weeds burn, — the ashes feed the
grain!

"But whoso strives with wrong may
find
Its touch pollute, its darkness blind;
And learn, as latent fraud is shown
In others' faith, to doubt his own. ²⁴⁰

"With dream and falsehood, simple
trust
And pious hope we tread in dust;
Lost the calm faith in goodness, —lost
The baptism of the Pentecost!

"Alas! — the blows for error meant
Too oft on truth itself are spent,
As through the false and vile and base
Looks forth her sad, rebuking face.

"Not ours the Theban's charm'd life;
We come not scathless from the strife!
The Python's coil about us clings, ²⁵¹
The trampled Hydra bites and stings!

"Meanwhile, the sport of seeming
chance,
The plastic shapes of circumstance,
What might have been we fondly
guess,
If earlier born, or tempted less.

"And thou, in these wild, troubled
days,
Misjudged alike in blame and praise,
Unsought and undeserved the same
The skeptic's praise, the bigot's
blame; — ²⁶⁰

"I cannot doubt, if thou hadst been
Among the highly favored men
Who walked on earth with Fénelon,
He would have owned thee as his son;

"And, bright with wings of cherubim
Visibly waving over him,
Seen through his life, the Church had
seemed
All that its old confessors dreamed."

"I would have been," Jean Jacques
replied,
"The humblest servant at his side, ²⁷⁰
Obscure, unknown, content to see
How beautiful man's life may be !

"Oh, more than thrice-blest relic,
more
Than solemn rite or sacred lore,
The holy life of one who trod
The foot-marks of the Christ of God !

"Amidst a blinded world he saw
The oneness of the Dual law;
That Heaven's sweet peace on Earth
began,
And God was love through love of
man. ²⁸⁰

"He lived the Truth which reconciled
The strong man Reason, Faith, the
child;
In him belief and act were one,
The homilies of duty done!"

So speaking, through the twilight
gray
The two old pilgrims went their way.
What seeds of life that day were
sown,
The heavenly watchers knew alone.

Time passed, and Autumn came to
fold
Green Summer in her brown and gold;
Time passed, and Winter's tears of
snow ²⁹¹
Dropped on the grave-mound of
Rousseau.

"The tree remaineth where it fell,
The pained on earth is pained in hell !"
So priestcraft from its altars cursed
The mournful doubts its falsehood
nursed.

Ah! well of old the Psalmist prayed,
 "Thy hand, not man's, on me be
 laid!"

Earth frowns below, Heaven weeps
 above,
 And man is hate, but God is love! 300

No Hermits now the wanderer sees,
 Nor chapel with its chestnut-trees;
 A morning dream, a tale that's told,
 The wave of change o'er all has rolled.

Yet lives the lesson of that day;
 And from its twilight cool and gray
 Comes up a low, sad whisper, "Make
 The truth thine own, for truth's own
 sake.

"Why wait to see in thy brief span
 Its perfect flower and fruit in man?
 No saintly touch can save; no balm 311
 Of healing hath the martyr's palm.

"Midst soulless forms, and false pre-
 tence
 Of spiritual pride and pampered sense,
 A voice saith, 'What is that to thee?
 Be true thyself, and follow Me!'

"In days when throne and altar heard
 The wanton's wish, the bigot's word,
 And pomp of state and ritual show
 Scarce hid the loathsome death be-
 low, — 320

"Midst fawning priests and courtiers
 foul,
 The losel swarm of crown and cowl,
 White-robed walked François Fénelon,
 Stainless as Uriel in the sun!

"Yet in his time the stake blazed
 red,
 The poor were eaten up like bread:
 Men knew him not; his garment's
 hem
 No healing virtue had for them.

"Alas! no present saint we find; 320
 The white cymar gleams far behind,
 Revealed in outline vague, sublime,
 Through telescopic mists of time!

"Trust not in man with passing
 breath,
 But in the Lord, old Scripture saith;

The truth which saves thou mayest
 not blend
 With false professor, faithless friend.

"Search thine own heart. What
 paineth thee
 In others in thyself may be;
 All dust is frail, all flesh is weak;
 Be thou the true man thou dost seek!

"Where now with pain thou treadest,
 trod 341
 The whitest of the saints of God!
 To show thee where their feet were set,
 The light which led them shineth yet.

"The footprints of the life divine,
 Which marked their path, remain in
 thine;
 And that great Life, transfused in
 theirs,
 Awaits thy faith, thy love, thy
 prayers!"

A lesson which I well may heed,
 A word of fitness to my need; 350
 So from that twilight cool and gray
 Still saith a voice, or seems to say.

We rose, and slowly homeward turned,
 While down the west the sunset
 burned;
 And, in its light, hill, wood, and tide,
 And human forms seemed glorified.

The village homes transfigured stood,
 And purple bluffs, whose belting
 wood
 Across the waters leaned to hold
 The yellow leaves like lamps of gold.

Then spake my friend: "Thy words
 are true; 361
 Forever old, forever new,
 These home-seen splendors are the
 same
 Which over Eden's sunsets came.

"To these bowed heavens let wood
 and hill
 Lift voiceless praise and anthem still;
 Fall, warm with blessing, over them,
 Light of the New Jerusalem!

"Flow on, sweet river, like the stream
 Of John's Apocalyptic dream! 370



Strasburg

This mapled ridge shall Horeb be,
Yon green-banked lake our Galilee!

"Henceforth my heart shall sigh no
more
For olden time and holier shore;
God's love and blessing, then and there,
Are now and here and everywhere."

TAULER

TAULER, the preacher, walked, one
autumn day,
Without the walls of Strasburg, by the
Rhine,
Pondering the solemn Miracle of Life;
As one who, wandering in a starless
night,
Feels momentarily the jar of unseen
waves,

And hears the thunder of an unknown
sea,
Breaking along an unimagined shore.

And as he walked he prayed. Even
the same
Old prayer with which, for half a score
of years,
Morning, and noon, and evening, lip
and heart
Had groaned: "Have pity upon me,
Lord!
Thou seest, while teaching others, I
am blind.
Send me a man who can direct my
steps!"

Then, as he mused, he heard along
his path
A sound as of an old man's staff
among

The dry, dead linden-leaves; and,
looking up,
He saw a stranger, weak, and poor,
and old.

"Peace be unto thee, father!"
Tauler said,
"God give thee a good day!" The
old man raised
Slowly his calm blue eyes. "I thank
thee, son; ²⁰
But all my days are good, and none
are ill."

Wondering thereat, the preacher
spake again,
"God give thee happy life." The old
man smiled,
"I never am unhappy."

Tauler laid
His hand upon the stranger's coarse
gray sleeve:

"Tell me, O father, what thy strange
words mean.

Surely man's days are evil, and his life
Sad as the grave it leads to." "Nay,
my son,

Our times are in God's hands, and all
our days

Are as our needs; for shadow as for
sun, ³⁰

For cold as heat, for want as wealth,
alike

Our thanks are due, since that is best
which is;

And that which is not, sharing not His
life,

Is evil only as devoid of good.

And for the happiness of which I spake,
I find it in submission to His will,

And calm trust in the holy Trinity
Of Knowledge, Goodness, and Al-
mighty Power."

Silently wondering, for a little space,
Stood the great preacher; then he
spake as one ⁴⁰

Who, suddenly grappling with a
haunting thought

Which long has followed, whispering
through the dark

Strange terrors, drags it, shrieking,
into light.

"What if God's will consign thee
hence to Hell?"

"Then," said the stranger, cheerily,
"be it so.

What Hell may be I know not; this I
know, —

I cannot lose the presence of the Lord.
One arm, Humility, takes hold upon
His dear Humanity; the other, Love,
Clasps his Divinity. So where I go ⁵⁰
He goes; and better fire-walled Hell
with Him
Than golden-gated Paradise without."

Tears sprang in Tauler's eyes. A
sudden light,
Like the first ray which fell on chaos,
clove

Apart the shadow wherein he had
walked

Darkly at noon. And, as the strange
old man

Went his slow way, until his silver
hair

Set like the white moon where the hills
of vine

Slope to the Rhine, he bowed his head
and said:

"My prayer is answered. God hath
sent the man ⁶⁰

Long sought, to teach me, by his sim-
ple trust,

Wisdom the weary schoolmen never
knew."

So, entering with a changed and
cheerful step

The city gates, he saw, far down the
street,

A mighty shadow break the light of
noon,

Which tracing backward till its airy
lines

Hardened to stony plinths, he raised
his eyes

O'er broad façade and lofty pediment,
O'er architrave and frieze and sainted

niche,
Up the stone lace-work chiselled by
the wise ⁷⁰

Erwin of Steinbach, dizzily up to
where

In the noon-brightness the great Min-
ster's tower,

Jewelled with sunbeams on its mural
crown,

Rose like a visible prayer. "Be-
hold!" he said,

"The stranger's faith made plain before mine eyes.
As yonder tower outstretches to the earth
The dark triangle of its shade alone
When the clear day is shining on its top,
So, darkness in the pathway of Man's life
Is but the shadow of God's providence,
By the great Sun of Wisdom cast thereon;
And what is dark below is light in Heaven."

THE HERMIT OF THE THEBAID

O STRONG, upwelling prayers of faith,
From inmost founts of life ye start, —
The spirit's pulse, the vital breath
Of soul and heart!

From pastoral toil, from traffic's din,
Alone, in crowds, at home, abroad,
Unheard of man, ye enter in
The ear of God.

Ye brook no forced and measured tasks,
Nor weary rote, nor formal chains;
The simple heart, that freely asks
In love, obtains.

For man the living temple is:
The mercy-seat and cherubim,
And all the holy mysteries,
He bears with him.

And most avails the prayer of love,
Which, wordless, shapes itself in deeds,
And wearies Heaven for naught above
Our common needs.

Which brings to God's all-perfect will
That trust of His undoubting child
Whereby all seeming good and ill
Are reconciled.

And, seeking not for special signs
Of favor, is content to fall
Within the providence which shines
And rains on all.

Alone, the Thebaid hermit leaned
At noontime o'er the sacred word.
Was it an angel or a fiend
Whose voice he heard?

It broke the desert's hush of awe,
A human utterance, sweet and mild;
And, looking up, the hermit saw
A little child.

A child, with wonder-widened eyes,
O'erawed and troubled by the sight
Of hot, red sands, and brazen skies,
And anchorite.

"What dost thou here, poor man?
No shade
Of cool, green palms, nor grass, nor well,
Nor corn, nor vines." The hermit
said:
"With God I dwell.

"Alone with Him in this great calm,
I live not by the outward sense;
My Nile his love, my sheltering palm
His providence."

The child gazed round him. "Does
God live
Here only? — where the desert's
rim
Is green with corn, at morn and eve,
We pray to Him.

"My brother tills beside the Nile
His little field; beneath the leaves
My sisters sit and spin, the while
My mother weaves.

"And when the millet's ripe heads fall,
And all the bean-field hangs in pod,
My mother smiles, and says that all
Are gifts from God.

"And when to share our evening
meal,
She calls the stranger at the door,
She says God fills the hands that deal
Food to the poor."

Adown the hermit's wasted cheeks
Glistened the flow of human tears;
"Dear Lord!" he said, "Thy angel
speaks,
Thy servant hears."

Within his arms the child he took,
And thought of home and life with
men; 70

And all his pilgrim feet forsook
Returned again.

The palmy shadows cool and long,
The eyes that smiled through lavish
locks,

Home's cradle-hymn and harvest-
song,
And bleat of flocks.

"O child!" he said, "thou teachest
me

There is no place where God is not;
That love will make, where'er it be,
A holy spot." 80

He rose from off the desert sand,
And, leaning on his staff of thorn,
Went with the young child hand in
hand,
Like night with morn.

They crossed the desert's burning line,
And heard the palm-tree's rustling
fan,

The Nile-bird's cry, the low of kine,
And voice of man.

Unquestioning, his childish guide
He followed, as the small hand led
To where a woman, gentle-eyed, 90
Her distaff fed.

She rose, she clasped her truant boy,
She thanked the stranger with her
eyes;

The hermit gazed in doubt and joy
And dumb surprise.

And lo! — with sudden warmth and
light

A tender memory thrilled his frame;
New-born, the world-lost anchorite
A man became. 100

"O sister of El Zara's race,
Behold me! — had we not one mo-
ther?"

She gazed into the stranger's face:
"Thou art my brother!"

"O kin of blood! Thy life of use
And patient trust is more than mine;

And wiser than the gray recluse
This child of thine.

"For, taught of him whom God hath
sent,

That toil is praise and love is
prayer, 110

I come, life's cares and pains content
With thee to share."

Even as his foot the threshold crossed
The hermit's better life began;
Its holiest saint the Thebaid lost,
And found a man!

MAUD MULLER

MAUD MULLER on a summer's day
Raked the meadow sweet with hay.

Beneath her torn hat glowed the
wealth
Of simple beauty and rustic health.

Singing, she wrought, and her merry
glee
The mock-bird echoed from his tree.

But when she glanced to the far-off
town,
White from its hill-slope looking
down,

The sweet song died, and a vague un-
rest
And a nameless longing filled her
breast, — 120

A wish that she hardly dared to own,
For something better than she had
known.

The Judge rode slowly down the lane,
Smoothing his horse's chestnut mane.

He drew his bridle in the shade
Of the apple-trees, to greet the maid,

And asked a draught from the spring
that flowed
Through the meadow across the road.

She stooped where the cool spring
bubbled up,
And filled for him her small tin cup, 20



“The young girl mused beside the well”

And blushed as she gave it, looking
down
On her feet so bare, and her tattered
gown.

“Thanks!” said the Judge; “a
sweeter draught
From a fairer hand was never
quaffed.”

He spoke of the grass and flowers and
trees,
Of the singing birds and the humming
bees;

Then talked of the haying, and won-
dered whether
The cloud in the west would bring
foul weather.

And Maud forgot her brier-torn
gown,
And her graceful ankles bare and
brown; 30

And listened, while a pleased sur-
prise
Looked from her long-lashed hazel
eyes.

At last, like one who for delay
Seeks a vain excuse, he rode away.

Maud Muller looked and sighed: "Ah
me!

That I the Judge's bride might be!

"He would dress me up in silks so fine,
And praise and toast me at his wine.

"My father should wear a broadcloth
coat;
My brother should sail a painted boat.

"I'd dress my mother so grand and
gay,⁴¹
And the baby should have a new toy
each day.

"And I'd feed the hungry and clothe
the poor,
And all should bless me who left our
door."

The Judge looked back as he climbed
the hill,
And saw Maud Muller standing still.

"A form more fair, a face more sweet,
Ne'er hath it been my lot to meet.

"And her modest answer and graceful
air
Show her wise and good as she is
fair.⁵⁰

"Would she were mine, and I to-day,
Like her, a harvester of hay;

"No doubtful balance of rights and
wrongs,
Nor weary lawyers with endless
tongues,

"But low of cattle and song of birds,
And health and quiet and loving
words."

But he thought of his sisters, proud
and cold,
And his mother, vain of her rank and
gold.

So, closing his heart, the Judge rode
on,
And Maud was left in the field alone. 60

But the lawyers smiled that after-
noon,
When he hummed in court an old
love-tune;

And the young girl mused beside the
well
Till the rain on the unraked clover
fell.

He wedded a wife of richest dower,
Who lived for fashion, as he for
power.

Yet oft, in his marble hearth's bright
glow,
He watched a picture come and go;

And sweet Maud Muller's hazel eyes
Looked out in their innocent surprise.

Oft, when the wine in his glass was
red,⁷¹
He longed for the wayside well in-
stead;

And closed his eyes on his garnished
rooms
To dream of meadows and clover-
blooms.

And the proud man sighed, with a
secret pain,
"Ah, that I were free again!

"Free as when I rode that day,
Where the barefoot maiden raked her
hay."

She wedded a man unlearned and
poor,
And many children played round her
door.⁸

But care and sorrow, and childbirth
pain,
Left their traces on heart and brain.

And oft, when the summer sun shone
hot
On the new-mown hay in the meadow
lot,

And she heard the little spring brook
fall
Over the roadside, through the wall,

In the shade of the apple-tree again
She saw a rider draw his rein;

And, gazing down with timid grace, ⁸⁰
She felt his pleased eyes read her face.

Sometimes her narrow kitchen walls
Stretched away into stately halls;

The weary wheel to a spinnet turned,
The tallow candle an astral burned,

And for him who sat by the chimney
lug,
Dozing and grumbling o'er pipe and
mug,

A manly form at her side she saw,
And joy was duty and love was law.

Then she took up her burden of life
again,
Saying only, "It might have been." ¹⁰⁰

Alas for maiden, alas for Judge,
For rich repiner and household
drudge!

God pity them both! and pity us
all,
Who vainly the dreams of youth re-
call.

For of all sad words of tongue or
pen,
The saddest are these: "It might
have been!"

Ah, well! for us all some sweet hope
lies
Deeply buried from human eyes;

And, in the hereafter, angels may
Roll the stone from its grave away! ¹¹⁰

MARY GARVIN

From the heart of Waumbek Methma,
from the lake that never fails,
Falls the Saco in the green lap of Con-
way's intervalles;
There, in wild and virgin freshness, its
waters foam and flow,
As when Darby Field first saw them,
two hundred years ago.

But, vexed in all its seaward course
with bridges, dams, and mills,
How changed is Saco's stream, how
lost its freedom of the hills,
Since travelled Jocelyn, factor Vines,
and stately Champernoon
Heard on its banks the gray wolf's
howl, the trumpet of the loon!

With smoking axle hot with speed,
with steeds of fire and steam,
Wide-waked To-day leaves Yesterday
behind him like a dream. ¹⁰
Still, from the hurrying train of Life,
fly backward far and fast
The milestones of the fathers, the
landmarks of the past.

But human hearts remain unchanged:
the sorrow and the sin,
The loves and hopes and fears of old,
are to our own akin;
And if, in tales our fathers told, the
songs our mothers sung,
Tradition wears a snowy beard, Ro-
mance is always young.

O sharp-lined man of traffic, on Saco's
banks to-day!
O mill-girl watching late and long the
shuttle's restless play!
Let, for the once, a listening ear the
working hand beguile,
And lend my old Provincial tale, as
suits, a tear or smile! ²⁰

The evening gun had sounded from
gray Fort Mary's walls;
Through the forest, like a wild beast,
roared and plunged the Saco's
falls.

And westward on the sea-wind, that
damp and gusty grew,
Over cedars darkening inland the
smokes of Spurwink blew.

On the hearth of Farmer Garvin,
blazed the crackling walnut log;
Right and left sat dame and goodman,
and between them lay the dog,

Head on paws, and tail slow wagging,
and beside him on her mat,
Sitting drowsy in the firelight, winked
and purred the mottled cat.

"Twenty years!" said Goodman Garvin, speaking sadly, under breath,
And his gray head slowly shaking, as one who speaks of death. 30

The goodwife dropped her needles:
"It is twenty years to-day,
Since the Indians fell on Saco, and stole our child away."

Then they sank into the silence, for each knew the other's thought,
Of a great and common sorrow, and words were needed not.

"Who knocks?" cried Goodman Garvin. The door was open thrown;
On two strangers, man and maiden, cloaked and furred, the firelight shone.

One with courteous gesture lifted the bearskin from his head;
"Lives here Elkanah Garvin?" "I am he," the goodman said.

"Sit ye down, and dry and warm ye, for the night is chill with rain."

And the goodwife drew the settle, and stirred the fire amain. 40

The maid unclasped her cloak-hood, the firelight glistened fair
In her large, moist eyes, and over soft folds of dark brown hair.

Dame Garvin looked upon her: "It is Mary's self I see!
Dear heart!" she cried, "now tell me, has my child come back to me?"

"My name indeed is Mary," said the stranger sobbing wild;
"Will you be to me a mother? I am Mary Garvin's child!"

"She sleeps by wooded Simcoe, but on her dying day
She bade my father take me to her kinsfolk far away.

"And when the priest besought her to do me no such wrong,
She said, 'May God forgive me! I have closed my heart too long. 50

"When I hid me from my father, and shut out my mother's call,
I sinned against those dear ones, and the Father of us all.

"Christ's love rebukes no home-love, breaks no tie of kin apart;
Better heresy in doctrine, than heresy of heart.



"Each knew the other's thought"

"Tell me not the Church must censure: she who wept the Cross beside
Never made her own flesh strangers, nor the claims of blood denied;

"And if she who wronged her parents, with her child atones to them,
Earthly daughter, Heavenly Mother! thou at least wilt not condemn!"

"So, upon her death-bed lying, my blessed mother spake;
As we come to do her bidding, so receive us for her sake." 60

"God be praised!" said Goodwife Garvin, "He taketh, and He gives;
He woundeth, but He healeth; in her child our daughter lives!"

"Amen!" the old man answered, as
he brushed a tear away,
And, kneeling by his hearthstone,
said, with reverence, "Let us
pray."

All its Oriental symbols, and its He-
brew paraphrase,
Warm with earnest life and feeling, rose
his prayer of love and praise.

The old man stroked the fair head
that rested on his knee;
"Your words, dear child," he an-
swered, "are God's rebuke to
me.

"Creed and rite perchance may differ,
yet our faith and hope be one.
Let me be your father's father, let
him be to me a son."



"As the preacher prayed, uprising, the aged couple stood,
And the fair Canadian also, in her modest maidenhood"

But he started at beholding, as he rose
from off his knee,
The stranger cross his forehead with
the sign of Papistrie.

"What is this?" cried Farmer Garvin.
"Is an English Christian's home
A chapel or a mass-house, that you
make the sign of Rome?" 70

Then the young girl knelt beside him,
kissed his trembling hand, and
cried:

"Oh, forbear to chide my father; in
that faith my mother died!

"On her wooden cross at Simcoe the
dews and sunshine fall,
As they fall on Spurwink's graveyard;
and the dear God watches all!"

When the horn, on Sabbath morning,
through the still and frosty air,
From Spurwink, Pool, and Black
Point, called to sermon and to
prayer, 80

To the goodly house of worship,
where, in order due and fit,
As by public vote directed, classed
and ranked the people sit;

Mistress first and goodwife after,
clerkly squire before the clown,
From the brave coat, lace-embroid-
ered, to the gray frock, shad-
ing down;

From the pulpit read the preacher,
"Goodman Garvin and his
wife

Fain would thank the Lord, whose
kindness has followed them
through life,

“For the great and crowning mercy,
that their daughter, from the
wild,

Where she rests (they hope in God’s
peace), has sent to them her
child;

“And the prayers of all God’s people
they ask, that they may prove
Not unworthy, through their weak-
ness, of such special proof of
love.” 90

As the preacher prayed, uprising, the
aged couple stood,
And the fair Canadian also, in her
modest maidenhood.

Thought the elders, grave and doubt-
ing, “She is Papist born and
bred;”

Thought the young men, “’T is an
angel in Mary Garvin’s stead!”

THE RANGER

ROBERT RAWLIN! — Frosts were fall-
ing

When the ranger’s horn was calling
Through the woods to Canada.

Gone the winter’s sleet and snowing,
Gone the spring-time’s bud and blow-
ing,

Gone the summer’s harvest mow-
ing,

And again the fields are gray.

Yet away, he’s away!

Faint and fainter hope is growing
In the hearts that mourn his stay. 10

Where the lion, crouching high on
Abraham’s rock with teeth of iron,

Glares o’er wood and wave away,
Faintly thence, as pines far sighing,

Or as thunder spent and dying,
Come the challenge and replying,

Come the sounds of flight and
fray.

Well-a-day! Hope and pray!
Some are living, some are lying

In their red graves far away. 20

Straggling rangers, worn with dan-
gers,

Homeward faring, weary strangers
Pass the farm-gate on their way;

Tidings of the dead and living,
Forest march and ambush, giving,

Till the maidens leave their weaving,
And the lads forget their play.

“Still away, still away!”
Sighs a sad one, sick with grieving,

“Why does Robert still delay!” 30

Nowhere fairer, sweeter, rarer,
Does the golden-locked fruit bearer

Through his painted woodlands
stray,

Than where hillside oaks and beeches
Overlook the long, blue reaches,

Silver coves and pebbled beaches,
And green isles of Casco Bay;

Nowhere day, for delay,
With a tenderer look beseeches,

“Let me with my charmed earth
stay.” 40

On the grain-lands of the mainlands
Stands the serried corn like train-
bands,

Plume and pennon rustling gay;
Out at sea, the islands wooded,

Silver birches, golden-hooded,
Set with maples, crimson-blooded,

White sea-foam and sand-hills gray,
Stretch away, far away,

Dim and dreamy, over-brooded
By the hazy autumn day. 50

Gayly chattering to the clattering
Of the brown nuts downward patter-
ing,

Leap the squirrels, red and gray.
On the grass-land, on the fallow,

Drop the apples, red and yellow;
Drop the russet pears and mellow,

Drop the red leaves all the day.
And away, swift away,

Sun and cloud, o’er hill and hollow
Chasing, weave their web of play. 60

“Martha Mason, Martha Mason,
Prithee tell us of the reason

Why you mope at home to-day:
Surely smiling is not sinning;

Leave your quilling, leave your spin-
ning;

What is all your store of linen,

If your heart is never gay?
Come away, come away!
Never yet did sad beginning
Make the task of life a play." 70

Overbending till she's blending
With the flaxen skein she's tending
Pale brown tresses smoothed away
From her face of patient sorrow,
Sits she, seeking but to borrow,
From the trembling hope of morrow,
Solace for the weary day.
"Go your way, laugh and play;
Unto Him who heeds the sparrow
And the lily, let me pray." 80

"With our rally rings the valley, —
Join us!" cried the blue-eyed Nelly;
"Join us!" cried the laughing
May,

"To the beach we all are going,
And, to save the task of rowing,
West by north the wind is blowing,
Blowing briskly down the bay!
Come away, come away!
Time and tide are swiftly flowing,
Let us take them while we may!" 90

"Never tell us that you'll fail us,
Where the purple beach-plum mel-
lows

On the bluffs so wild and gray.
Hasten, for the oars are falling;
Hark, our merry mates are calling;
Time it is that we were all in,
Singing tideward down the bay!"
"Nay, nay, let me stay;
Sore and sad for Robert Rawlin
Is my heart," she said, "to-day." 100

"Vain your calling for Rob Rawlin!
Some red squaw his moose-meat's
broiling,

Or some French lass, singing gay;
Just forget as he's forgetting;
What avails a life of fretting?
If some stars must needs be setting,
Others rise as good as they."

"Cease, I pray; go your way!"
Martha cries, her eyelids wetting;
"Foul and false the words you
say!" 110

"Martha Mason, hear to reason!
Prithee, put a kinder face on!"
"Cease to vex me," did she say;

"Better at his side be lying,
With the mournful pine-trees sigh-
ing,
And the wild birds o'er us crying,
Than to doubt like mine a prey;
While away, far away,
Turns my heart, forever trying
Some new hope for each new day." 120

"When the shadows veil the mea-
dows,
And the sunset's golden ladders
Sink from twilight's walls of gray,—
From the window of my dreaming,
I can see his sickle gleaming,
Cheery-voiced, can hear him teaming
Down the locust-shaded way;
But away, swift away,
Fades the fond, delusive seeming,
And I kneel again to pray." 130

"When the growing dawn is show-
ing,
And the barn-yard cock is crowing,
And the horned moon pales away:
From a dream of him awaking,
Every sound my heart is making
Seems a footstep of his taking;
Then I hush the thought, and say,
'Nay, nay, he's away!'
Ah! my heart, my heart is breaking
For the dear one far away." 140

Look up, Martha! worn and swarthy,
Glow's a face of manhood worthy:
"Robert!" "Martha!" all they
say.

O'er went wheel and reel together,
Little cared the owner whither;
Heart of lead is heart of feather,
Noon of night is noon of day!
Come away, come away!
When such lovers meet each other,
Why should prying idlers stay? 150

Quench the timber's fallen embers,
Quench the red leaves in Decem-
ber's

Hoary rime and chilly spray.
But the hearth shall kindle clearer,
Household welcomes sound sincerer,
Heart to loving heart draw nearer,
When the bridal bells shall say:
"Hope and pray, trust all away;
Life is sweeter, love is dearer,
For the trial and delay!" 160



“ The white gleam of the headland of Cape Ann ”

THE GARRISON OF CAPE ANN

FROM the hills of home forth looking,
far beneath the tent-like span
Of the sky, I see the white gleam of the
headland of Cape Ann.

Well I know its coves and beaches to
the ebb-tide glimmering down,
And the white-walled hamlet children
of its ancient fishing-town.

Long has passed the summer morning,
and its memory waxes old,
When along yon breezy headlands
with a pleasant friend I strolled.
Ah! the autumn sun is shining, and
the ocean wind blows cool,
And the golden-rod and aster bloom
around thy grave, Rantoul!

With the memory of that morning by
the summer sea I blend
A wild and wondrous story, by the
younger Mather penned, ¹⁰
In that quaint *Magnalia Christi*, with
all strange and marvellous
things,
Heaped up huge and undigested, like
the chaos Ovid sings.

Dear to me these far, faint glimpses of
the dual life of old,
Inward, grand with awe and rever-
ence; outward, mean and
coarse and cold;
Gleams of mystic beauty playing over
dull and vulgar clay,
Golden-threaded fancies weaving in a
web of hodden gray.

The great eventful Present hides the
Past; but through the din
Of its loud life hints and echoes from
the life behind steal in;
And the lore of home and fireside, and
the legendary rhyme,
Make the task of duty lighter which
the true man owes his time. ²⁰

So, with something of the feeling
which the Covenanter knew,
When with pious chisel wandering
Scotland's moorland grave-
yards through,
From the graves of old traditions I
part the blackberry-vines,
Wipe the moss from off the head-
stones, and retouch the faded
lines.

Where the sea-waves back and forward,
hoarse with rolling pebbles ran,
The garrison-house stood watching on
the gray rocks of Cape Ann;
On its windy site uplifting gabled roof
and palisade,
And rough walls of unhewn timber
with the moonlight overlaid.

On his slow round walked the sentry,
south and eastward looking
forth

O'er a rude and broken coast-line,
white with breakers stretching
north, —³⁰

Wood and rock and gleaming sand-
drift, jagged capes, with bush
and tree,
Leaning inland from the smiting of
the wild and gusty sea.

Before the deep-mouthed chimney,
dimly lit by dying brands,
Twenty soldiers sat and waited, with
their muskets in their hands;
On the rough-hewn oaken table the
venison haunch was shared,
And the pewter tankard circled slowly
round from beard to beard.

Long they sat and talked together, —
talked of wizards Satan-sold;
Of all ghostly sights and noises, —
signs and wonders manifold;
Of the spectre-ship of Salem, with the
dead men in her shrouds,
Sailing sheer above the water, in the
loom of morning clouds; ⁴⁰

Of the marvellous valley hidden in the
depths of Gloucester woods,
Full of plants that love the summer,
— blooms of warmer latitudes;
Where the Arctic birch is braided by
the tropic's flowery vines,
And the white magnolia-blossoms star
the twilight of the pines!

But their voices sank yet lower, sank
to husky tones of fear,
As they spake of present tokens of the
powers of evil near; —
Of a spectral host, defying stroke of
steel and aim of gun;
Never yet was ball to slay them in the
mould of mortals run!

Thrice, with plumes and flowing scalp-
locks, from the midnight wood
they came, —
Thrice around the block-house march-
ing, met, unharmed, its volley
flame; ⁵⁰
Then, with mocking laugh and ges-
ture, sunk in earth or lost in
air,
All the ghostly wonder vanished, and
the moonlit sands lay bare.

Midnight came; from out the forest
moved a dusky mass that soon
Grew to warriors, plumed and painted,
grimly marching in the moon.
"Ghosts or witches," said the captain,
"thus I foil the Evil One!"
And he rammed a silver button, from
his doublet, down his gun.

Once again the spectral horror moved
the guarded wall about;
Once again the levelled muskets
through the palisades flashed
out,
With that deadly aim the squirrel on
his tree-top might not shun,
Nor the beach-bird seaward flying
with his slant wing to the
sun. ⁶⁰

Like the idle rain of summer sped the
harmless shower of lead.
With a laugh of fierce derision, once
again the phantoms fled;
Once again, without a shadow on the
sands the moonlight lay,
And the white smoke curling through
it drifted slowly down the
bay!

"God preserve us!" said the captain;
"never mortal foes were there;
They have vanished with their leader,
Prince and Power of the air!
Lay aside your useless weapons; skill
and prowess naught avail;
They who do the Devil's service wear
their master's coat of mail!"

So the night grew near to cock-crow,
when again a warning call
Roused the score of weary soldiers
watching round the dusky
hall: ⁷⁰

And they looked to flint and priming,
and they longed for break of
day;

But the captain closed his Bible:
"Let us cease from man, and
pray!"

To the men who went before us, all the
unseen powers seemed near,
And their steadfast strength of cour-
age struck its roots in holy fear.
Every hand forsook the musket, every
head was bowed and bare,
Every stout knee pressed the flag-
stones, as the captain led in
prayer.

Ceased thereat the mystic marching of
the spectres round the wall,
But a sound abhorred, unearthly,
smote the ears and hearts of
all, —
Howls of rage and shrieks of anguish!
Never after mortal man
Saw the ghostly leaguers marching
round the block-house of Cape
Ann. 80

So to us who walk in summer through
the cool and sea-blown town,
From the childhood of its people
comes the solemn legend down.
Not in vain the ancient fiction, in
whose moral lives the youth
And the fitness and the freshness of an
undecaying truth.

Soon or late to all our dwellings come
the spectres of the mind,
Doubts and fears and dread forebod-
ings, in the darkness undefined;
Round us through the grim projections
of the heart and of the brain,
And our pride of strength is weakness,
and the cunning hand is vain.

In the dark we cry like children; and
no answer from on high
Breaks the crystal spheres of silence,
and no white wings downward
fly; 90
But the heavenly help we pray for
comes to faith, and not to sight,
And our prayers themselves drive
backward all the spirits of the
night!

THE GIFT OF TRITEMIUS

TRITEMIUS of Herbigopolis, one day,
While kneeling at the altar's foot to
pray
Alone with God, as was his pious
choice,
Heard from without a miserable voice,
A sound which seemed of all sad things
to tell,
As of a lost soul crying out of hell.

Thereat the Abbot paused; the chain
whereby
His thoughts went upward broken by
that cry;
And, looking from the casement, saw
below
A wretched woman, with gray hair
a-flow,
And withered hands held up to him,
who cried
For alms as one who might not be
denied.

She cried, "For the dear love of Him
who gave
His life for ours, my child from bond-
age save, —
My beautiful, brave first-born, chained
with slaves
In the Moor's galley, where the sun-
smit waves
Lap the white walls of Tunis!" —
"What I can
I give," Tritemius said, "my pray-
ers," — "O man
Of God!" she cried, for grief had
made her bold,
"Mock me not thus; I ask not pray-
ers, but gold.
Words will not serve me, alms alone
suffice;
Even while I speak perchance my
first-born dies."

"Woman!" — Tritemius answered, —
"from our door
None go unfed, hence are we always
poor;
A single soldo is our only store.
Thou hast our prayers; — what can
we give thee more?"

"Give me," she said, "the silver
candlesticks
On either side of the great crucifix.

God well may spare them on His er-
rands sped,
Or He can give you golden ones in-
stead."

Then spake Tritemius, "Even as thy
word,
Woman, so be it! (Our most gracious
Lord,
Who loveth mercy more than sacri-
fice,
Pardon me if a human soul I prize
Above the gifts upon his altar piled!)
Take what thou askest, and redeem
thy child."
But his hand trembled as the holy
alms
He placed within the beggar's eager
palms;
And as she vanished down the linden
shade,
He bowed his head and for forgive-
ness prayed.

So the day passed, and when the twi-
light came
He woke to find the chapel all aflame,
And, dumb with grateful wonder, to
behold
Upon the altar candlesticks of gold!

SKIPPER IRESON'S RIDE

Of all the rides since the birth of time,
Told in story or sung in rhyme, —
On Apuleius's Golden Ass,
Or one-eyed Calender's horse of brass,
Witch astride of a human back,
Islam's prophet on Al-Borák; —
The strangest ride that ever was sped
Was Ireson's, out from Marblehead!
Old Floyd Ireson, for his hard heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart¹⁰
By the women of Marblehead!

Body of turkey, head of owl,
Wings a-droop like a rained-on fowl,
Feathered and ruffled in every part,
Skipper Ireson stood in the cart.
Scores of women, old and young,
Strong of muscle, and glib of tongue,
Pushed and pulled up the rocky lane,
Shouting and singing the shrill refrain:

"Here's Flud Oirson, fur his horrd
horrt,
Torr'd an' futherr'd an' corr'd in a
cart²⁰
By the women o' Morble'ead!"

Wrinkled scolds with hands on hips,
Girls in bloom of cheek and lips,
Wild-eyed, free-limbed, such as chase
Bacchus round some antique vase,
Brief of skirt, with ankles bare,
Loose of kerchief and loose of hair,
With conch-shells blowing and fish-
horns' twang,
Over and over the Mænads sang: ³⁰
"Here's Flud Oirson, fur his horrd
horrt,
Torr'd an' futherr'd an' corr'd in a
cart
By the women o' Morble'ead!"

Small pity for him! — He sailed away
From a leaking ship in Chaleur Bay, —
Sailed away from a sinking wreck,
With his own town's-people on her
deck!
"Lay by! lay by!" they called to
him.

Back he answered, "Sink or swim!
Brag of your catch of fish again!" ⁴⁰
And off he sailed through the fog and
rain!

Old Floyd Ireson, for his hard heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart
By the women of Marblehead!

Fathoms deep in dark Chaleur
That wreck shall lie forevermore.
Mother and sister, wife and maid,
Looked from the rocks of Marblehead
Over the moaning and rainy sea, —
Looked for the coming that might not
be!
What did the winds and the sea-birds⁵⁰
say

Of the cruel captain who sailed
away? —

Old Floyd Ireson, for his hard
heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart
By the women of Marblehead!

Through the street, on either side,
Up flew windows, doors swung wide;



“ Old Floyd Ireson, for his hard heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in a cart
By the women of Marblehead ! ”

Sharp-tongued spinsters, old wives
gray,
Treble lent the fish-horn's bray.
Sea-worn grandsires, cripple-bound, 60
Hulks of old sailors run aground,
Shook head, and fist, and hat, and cane,
And cracked with curses the hoarse
refrain:

“ Here's Flud Oirson, fur his horrd
horrt,
Torr'd an' futherr'd an' corr'd in a
corrt
By the women o' Morble'ead ! ”

Sweetly along the Salem road
Bloom of orchard and lilac showed.
Little the wicked skipper knew
Of the fields so green and the sky so
blue. 70
Riding there in his sorry trim,
Like an Indian idol glum and grim,

Scarcely he seemed the sound to hear
Of voices shouting, far and near:

“ Here's Flud Oirson, fur his horrd
horrt,
Torr'd an' futherr'd an' corr'd in a
corrt
By the women o' Morble'ead ! ”

“ Hear me, neighbors ! ” at last he
cried, —

“ What to me is this noisy ride ?
What is the shame that clothes the
skin 80
To the nameless horror that lives
within ?
Waking or sleeping, I see a wreck,
And hear a cry from a reeling deck !
Hate me and curse me, — I only
dread
The hand of God and the face of the
dead ! ”

Said old Floyd Ireson, for his hard
heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart
By the women of Marblehead!

Then the wife of the skipper lost at sea
Said, "God has touched him! why
should we!"

Said an old wife mourning her only
son,
"Cut the rogue's tether and let him
run!"

So with soft relentings and rude
excuse,
Half scorn, half pity, they cut him
loose,

And gave him a cloak to hide him in,
And left him alone with his shame and
sin.

Poor Floyd Ireson, for his hard
heart,
Tarred and feathered and carried in
a cart
By the women of Marblehead!

THE SYCAMORES

In the outskirts of the village,
On the river's winding shores,
Stand the Occidental plane-trees,
Stand the ancient sycamores.

One long century hath been numbered,
And another half-way told,
Since the rustic Irish gleeman
Broke for them the virgin mould.

Deftly set to Celtic music,
At his violin's sound they grew, 10
Through the moonlit eves of summer,
Making Amphion's fable true.

Rise again, thou poor Hugh Tallant!
Pass in jerkin green along,
With thy eyes brim full of laughter,
And thy mouth as full of song.

Pioneer of Erin's outcasts,
With his fiddle and his pack;
Little dreamed the village Saxons
Of the myriads at his back. 20

How he wrought with spade and fiddle,
Delved by day and sang by night,

With a hand that never wearied,
And a heart forever light, —

Still the gay tradition mingles
With a record grave and drear,
Like the rollic air of Cluny
With the solemn march of Mear.

When the box-tree, white with blos-
soms,
Made the sweet May woodlands
glad, 30

And the Aronia by the river
Lighted up the swarming shad,

And the bulging nets swept shore-
ward,
With their silver-sided haul,
Midst the shouts of dripping fishers,
He was merriest of them all.

When, among the jovial huskers
Love stole in at Labor's side,
With the lusty airs of England
Soft his Celtic measures vied. 40

Songs of love and wailing lyke-wake,
And the merry fair's carouse;
Of the wild Red Fox of Erin
And the Woman of Three Cows,

By the blazing hearths of winter,
Pleasant seemed his simple tales,
Midst the grimmer Yorkshire legends
And the mountain myths of Wales.

How the souls in Purgatory
Scrambled up from fate forlorn, 50
On St. Keven's sackcloth ladder,
Slyly hitched to Satan's horn.

Of the fiddler who at Tara
Played all night to ghosts of kings;
Of the brown dwarfs, and the fairies
Dancing in their moorland rings!

Jolliest of our birds of singing,
Best he loved the Bob-o-link.
"Hush!" he'd say, "the tipsy
fairies!
Hear the little folks in drink!" 60

Merry-faced, with spade and fiddle,
Singing through the ancient town,
Only this, of poor Hugh Tallant,
Hath Tradition handed down.

Not a stone his grave discloses;
 But if yet his spirit walks,
 'T is beneath the trees he planted,
 And when Bob-o-Lincoln talks.

Green memorials of the gleeman!
 Linking still the river-shores, 70
 With their shadows cast by sunset,
 Stand Hugh Tallant's sycamores!

When the Father of his Country
 Through the north-land riding
 came,
 And the roofs were starred with banners,
 And the steeples rang acclaim, —

When each war-scarred Continental,
 Leaving smithy, mill, and farm,
 Waved his rusted sword in welcome, 79
 And shot off his old king's-arm, —

Slowly passed that august Presence
 Down the thronged and shouting
 street;
 Village girls as white as angels
 Scattering flowers around his feet.

Midway, where the plane-tree's shadow
 Deepest fell, his rein he drew:
 On his stately head, uncovered,
 Cool and soft the west-wind blew.

And he stood up in his stirrups,
 Looking up and looking down 90
 On the hills of Gold and Silver
 Rimming round the little town, —

On the river, full of sunshine,
 To the lap of greenest vales
 Winding down from wooded head-
 lands,
 Willow-skirted, white with sails.

And he said, the landscape sweeping
 Slowly with his ungloved hand,
 "I have seen no prospect fairer
 In this goodly Eastern land." 100

Then the bugles of his escort
 Stirred to life the cavalcade:
 And that head, so bare and stately,
 Vanished down the depths of shade.

Ever since, in town and farm-house,
 Life has had its ebb and flow;

Thrice hath passed the human har-
 vest
 To its garner green and low.

But the trees the gleeman planted,
 Through the changes, changeless
 stand; 110
 As the marble calm of Tadmor
 Mocks the desert's shifting sand.

Still the level moon at rising
 Silvers o'er each stately shaft;
 Still beneath them, half in shadow,
 Singing, glides the pleasure craft;

Still beneath them, arm-enfolded,
 Love and Youth together stray;
 While, as heart to heart beats faster,
 More and more their feet delay. 120

Where the ancient cobbler, Keezar,
 On the open hillside wrought,
 Singing, as he drew his stitches,
 Songs his German masters taught,

Singing, with his gray hair floating
 Round his rosy ample face, —
 Now a thousand Saxon craftsmen
 Stitch and hammer in his place.

All the pastoral lanes so grassy
 Now are Traffic's dusty streets; 130
 From the village, grown a city,
 Fast the rural grace retreats.

But, still green, and tall, and stately,
 On the river's winding shores,
 Stand the Occidental plane-trees,
 Stand Hugh Tallant's sycamores.

THE PIPES AT LUCKNOW

PIPES of the misty moorlands,
 Voice of the glens and hills;
 The droning of the torrents,
 The treble of the rills!
 Not the braes of bloöm and heather,
 Nor the mountains dark with rain,
 Nor maiden bower, nor border tower,
 Have heard your sweetest strain!

Dear to the Lowland reaper,
 And plaided mountaineer, 10
 To the cottage and the castle
 The Scottish pipes are dear: —

Sweet sounds the ancient pibroch
O'er mountain, loch, and glade;
But the sweetest of all music
The pipes at Lucknow played.

Day by day the Indian tiger
Louder yelled, and nearer crept;
Round and round the jungle-serpent
Near and nearer circles swept. 20
"Pray for rescue, wives and mothers,—
Pray to-day!" the soldier said;
"To-morrow, death's between us
And the wrong and shame we
dread."

Oh, they listened, looked, and waited,
Till their hope became despair;
And the sobs of low bewailing
Filled the pauses of their prayer.
Then up spake a Scottish maiden,
With her ear unto the ground: 30
"Dinna ye hear it? — dinna ye hear
it?
The pipes o' Havelock sound!"

Hushed the wounded man his groan-
ing;
Hushed the wife her little ones;
Alone they heard the drum-roll
And the roar of Sepoy guns.
But to sounds of home and child-
hood
The Highland ear was true; —
As her mother's cradle-crooning
The mountain pipes she knew. 40

Like the march of soundless music
Through the vision of the seer,
More of feeling than of hearing,
Of the heart than of the ear,
She knew the droning pibroch,
She knew the Campbell's call:
"Hark! hear ye no MacGregor's,
The grandest o' them all!"

Oh, they listened, dumb and breath-
less,
And they caught the sound at
last; 50
Faint and far beyond the Goomtee
Rose and fell the piper's blast!
Then a burst of wild thanksgiving
Mingled woman's voice and man's;
"God be praised! — the march of
Havelock!
The piping of the clans!"

Louder, nearer, fierce as vengeance,
Sharp and shrill as swords at strife,
Came the wild MacGregor's clan-call,
Stinging all the air to life. 60
But when the far-off dust-cloud
To plaided legions grew,
Full tenderly and blithesomely
The pipes of rescue blew!

Round the silver domes of Luck-
now,
Moslem mosque and Pagan shrine,
Breathed the air to Britons dearest,
The air of Auld Lang Syne.
O'er the cruel roll of war-drums
Rose that sweet and homelike
strain; 70
And the tartan clove the turban,
As the Goomtee cleaves the plain,

Dear to the corn-land reaper
And plaided mountaineer, —
To the cottage and the castle
The piper's song is dear.
Sweet sounds the Gaelic pibroch
O'er mountain, glen, and glade;
But the sweetest of all music
The Pipes at Lucknow played! 80

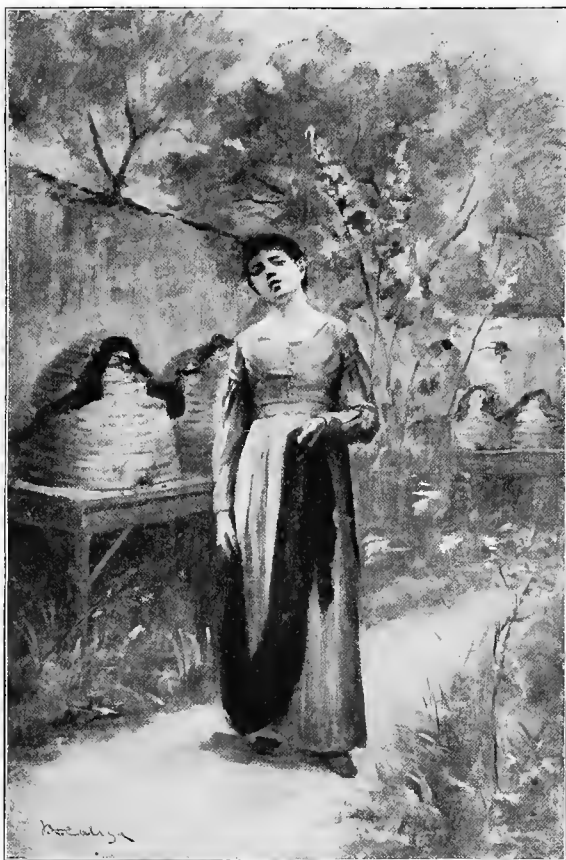
TELLING THE BEES

HERE is the place; right over the hill
Runs the path I took;
You can see the gap in the old wall
still,
And the stepping-stones in the shal-
low brook.

There is the house, with the gate red-
barred,
And the poplars tall;
And the barn's brown length, and the
cattle-yard,
And the white horns tossing above
the wall.

There are the beehives ranged in the
sun;
And down by the brink 10
Of the brook are her poor flowers,
weed-o'errun,
Pansy and daffodil, rose and pink.

A year has gone, as the tortoise goes
Heavy and slow;



"Stay at home, pretty bees, fly not hence!
Mistress Mary is dead and gone!"

And the same rose blows, and the
same sun glows,
And the same brook sings of a year
ago.

There's the same sweet clover-smell
in the breeze;
And the June sun warm
Tangles his wings of fire in the trees,
Setting, as then, over Fernside
farm.

20

I mind me how with a lover's
care
From my Sunday coat
I brushed off the burrs, and smoothed
my hair,
And cooled at the brookside my
brow and throat.

Since we parted, a month had
passed, —
To love, a year;

Down through the beeches I looked at
last

On the little red gate and the well-
sweep near.

I can see it all now, — the slantwise
rain

Of light through the leaves, 30
The sundown's blaze on her window-
pane,

The bloom of her roses under the
eaves.

Just the same as a month before, —

The house and the trees,
The barn's brown gable, the vine by
the door, —

Nothing changed but the hives of
bees.

Before them, under the garden wall,
Forward and back,

Went drearly singing the chore-girl
small,

Draping each hive with a shred of
black. 40

Trembling, I listened: the summer
sun

Had the chill of snow;
For I knew she was telling the bees of
one

Gone on the journey we all must
go!

Then I said to myself, "My Mary
weeps

For the dead to-day:
Haply her blind old grandsire sleeps
The fret and the pain of his age
away."

But her dog whined low; on the door-
way sill,

With his cane to his chin, 50
The old man sat; and the chore-girl
still

Sung to the bees stealing out and
in.

And the song she was singing ever
since

In my ear sounds on: —
"Stay at home, pretty bees, fly not
hence!

Mistress Mary is dead and gone!"

THE SWAN SONG OF PARSON AVERY

WHEN the reaper's task was ended,
and the summer wearing late,
Parson Avery sailed from Newbury,
with his wife and children
eight,

Dropping down the river-harbor in
the shallop "Watch and
Wait."

Pleasantly lay the clearings in the
mellow summer-morn,

With the newly planted orchards
dropping their fruits first-
born,

And the home-roofs like brown is-
lands amid a sea of corn.

Broad meadows reached out seaward
the tidied creeks between,

And hills rolled wave-like inland, with
oaks and walnuts green; —

A fairer home, a goodlier land, his
eyes had never seen.

Yet away sailed Parson Avery, away
where duty led, 10

And the voice of God seemed calling,
to break the living bread

To the souls of fishers starving on the
rocks of Marblehead.

All day they sailed: at nightfall the
pleasant land-breeze died,

The blackening sky, at midnight, its
starry lights denied,

And far and low the thunder of tem-
pest prophesied!

Blotted out were all the coast-lines,
gone were rock, and wood, and
sand;

Grimly anxious stood the skipper
with the rudder in his hand,

And questioned of the darkness what
was sea and what was land.

And the preacher heard his dear ones,
nestled round him, weeping
sore:

"Never heed, my little children!
Christ is walking on before 20

To the pleasant land of heaven, where
the sea shall be no more."

All at once the great cloud parted, like
a curtain drawn aside,
To let down the torch of lightning on
the terror far and wide;
And the thunder and the whirlwind
together smote the tide.

There was wailing in the shallop, wo-
man's wail and man's de-
spair,
A crash of breaking timbers on the
rocks so sharp and bare,
And, through it all, the murmur of
Father Avery's prayer.

From his struggle in the darkness
with the wild waves and the
blast,
On a rock, where every billow broke
above him as it passed,
Alone, of all his household, the man of
God was cast. 30

There a comrade heard him praying,
in the pause of wave and
wind:

"All my own have gone before me,
and I linger just behind;
Not for life I ask, but only for the rest
Thy ransomed find!

"In this night of death I challenge the
promise of Thy word! —
Let me see the great salvation of
which mine ears have heard! —
Let me pass from hence forgiven,
through the grace of Christ,
our Lord!

"In the baptism of these waters wash
white my every sin,
And let me follow up to Thee my
household and my kin!
Open the sea-gate of Thy heaven, and
let me enter in!"

When the Christian sings his death-
song, all the listening heavens
draw near, 40
And the angels, leaning over the walls
of crystal, hear
How the notes so faint and broken
swell to music in God's ear.

The ear of God was open to His ser-
vant's last request;

As the strong wave swept him down-
ward the sweet hymn upward
pressed,
And the soul of Father Avery went,
singing, to its rest.

There was wailing on the mainland,
from the rocks of Marblehead;
In the stricken church of Newbury the
notes of prayer were read;
And long, by board and hearthstone,
the living mourned the dead.

And still the fishers outbound, or
scudding from the squall,
With grave and reverent faces, the an-
cient tale recall, 50
When they see the white waves break-
ing on the Rock of Avery's
Fall!

THE DOUBLE-HEADED SNAKE OF NEWBURY

"Concerning y^e Amphibæna, as soon as
I received your commands, I made dili-
gent inquiry: . . . he assures me y^t it
had really two heads, one at each end;
two mouths, two stings or tongues." —
REV. CHRISTOPHER TOPPAN to COTTON
MATHER.

FAR away in the twilight time
Of every people, in every clime,
Dragons and griffins and monsters
dire,
Born of water, and air, and fire,
Or nursed, like the Python, in the
mud

And ooze of the old Deucalion flood,
Crawl and wriggle and foam with rage,
Through dusk tradition and ballad
age.

So from the childhood of Newbury
town

And its time of fable the tale comes
down 10

Of a terror which haunted bush and
brake,

The Amphibæna, the Double Snake!

Thou who makest the tale thy mirth,
Consider that strip of Christian earth
On the desolate shore of a sailless sea,
Full of terror and mystery,

Half redeemed from the evil hold
 Of the wood so dreary, and dark, and
 old,
 Which drank with its lips of leaves the
 dew
 When Time was young, and the world
 was new, ²⁰
 And wove its shadows with sun and
 moon,
 Ere the stones of Cheops were squared
 and hewn.
 Think of the sea's dread monotone,
 Of the mournful wail from the pine-
 wood blown,
 Of the strange, vast splendors that lit
 the North,
 Of the troubled throes of the quaking
 earth,
 And the dismal tales the Indian told,
 Till the settler's heart at his hearth
 grew cold,
 And he shrank from the tawny wizard
 boasts,
 And the hovering shadows seemed full
 of ghosts, ³⁰
 And above, below, and on every side,
 The fear of his creed seemed verified; —
 And think, if his lot were now thine
 own,
 To grope with terrors nor named nor
 known,
 How laxer muscle and weaker nerve
 And a feebler faith thy need might
 serve;
 And own to thyself the wonder more
 That the snake had two heads, and not
 a score !

Whether he lurked in the Oldtown fen
 Or the gray earth-flax of the Devil's
 Den, ⁴⁰
 Or swam in the wooded Artichoke,
 Or coiled by the Northman's Written
 Rock,
 Nothing on record is left to show;
 Only the fact that he lived, we know,
 And left the cast of a double head
 In the scaly mask which he yearly
 shed.
 For he carried a head where his tail
 should be,
 And the two, of course, could never
 agree,
 But wriggled about with main and
 might, ⁴⁹
 Now to the left and now to the right;

Pulling and twisting this way and that,
 Neither knew what the other was at.

A snake with two heads, lurking so
 near !
 Judge of the wonder, guess at the fear!
 Think what ancient gossips might say,
 Shaking their heads in their dreary
 way,
 Between the meetings on Sabbath-day!
 How urchins, searching at day's de-
 cline
 The Common Pasture for sheep or
 kine,
 The terrible double-ganger heard ⁶⁰
 In leafy rustle or whirl of bird !
 Think what a zest it gave to the sport,
 In berry-time, of the younger sort,
 As over pastures blackberry-twined,
 Reuben and Dorothy lagged behind,
 And closer and closer, for fear of harm,
 The maiden clung to her lover's arm;
 And how the spark, who was forced to
 stay,
 By his sweetheart's fears, till the break
 of day,
 Thanked the snake for the fond de-
 lay ! ⁷⁰

Far and wide the tale was told,
 Like a snowball growing while it rolled.
 The nurse hushed with it the baby's
 cry;
 And it served, in the worthy minister's
 eye,
 To paint the primitive serpent by.
 Cotton Mather came galloping down
 All the way to Newbury town,
 With his eyes agog and his ears set
 wide,
 And his marvellous inkhorn at his side;
 Stirring the while in the shallow pool
 Of his brains for the lore he learned at
 school, ⁸¹
 To garnish the story, with here a
 streak
 Of Latin and there another of Greek:
 And the tales he heard and the notes
 he took,
 Behold ! are they not in his Wonder-
 Book?

Stories, like dragons, are hard to kill.
 If the snake does not, the tale runs
 still
 In Byfield Meadows, on Pipestave Hill.

And still, whenever husband and wife
 Publish the shame of their daily
 strife,
 And, with mad cross-purpose, tug and
 strain
 At either end of the marriage-chain,
 The gossips say with a knowing shake
 Of their gray heads, "Look at the
 Double Snake!
 One in body and two in will,
 The Amphibæna is living still!"

MABEL MARTIN

A HARVEST IDYL

PROEM

I CALL the old time back: I bring my
 lay
 In tender memory of the summer day
 When, where our native river lapsed
 away,
 We dreamed it over, while the thrushes
 made
 Songs of their own, and the great pine-
 trees laid
 On warm moonlights the masses of
 their shade.
 And *she* was with us, living o'er
 again
 Her life in ours, despite of years and
 pain,—
 The Autumn's brightness after latter
 rain.
 Beautiful in her holy peace as one 10
 Who stands, at evening, when the
 work is done,
 Glorified in the setting of the sun!
 Her memory makes our common land-
 scape seem
 Fairer than any of which painters
 dream;
 Lights the brown hills and sings in
 every stream;
 For she whose speech was always
 truth's pure gold
 Heard, not displeas'd, its simple le-
 gends told,
 And loved with us the beautiful and
 old.

I. THE RIVER VALLEY

Across the level tableland,
 A grassy, rarely trodden way, 20
 With thinnest skirt of birchen spray
 And stunted growth of cedar, leads
 To where you see the dull plain fall
 Sheer off, steep-slanted, ploughed
 by all
 The seasons' rainfalls. On its brink
 The over-leaning harebells swing,
 With roots half bare the pine-trees
 cling;
 And through the shadow looking
 west,
 You see the wavering river flow
 Along a vale, that far below 30
 Holds to the sun, the sheltering hills
 And glimmering water-line between,
 Broad fields of corn and meadows
 green,
 And fruit-bent orchards grouped
 around
 The low brown roofs and painted
 eaves,
 And chimney-tops half hid in leaves.
 No warmer valley hides behind
 Yon wind-scoured sand-dunes, cold
 and bleak;
 No fairer river comes to seek
 The wave-sung welcome of the sea, 40
 Or mark the northmost border line
 Of sun-loved growths of nut and
 vine.
 Here, ground-fast in their native
 fields,
 Untempted by the city's gain,
 The quiet farmer folk remain
 Who bear the pleasant name of
 Friends,
 And keep their fathers' gentle ways
 And simple speech of Bible days;
 In whose neat homesteads woman
 holds
 With modest ease her equal place, 50
 And wears upon her tranquil face

The look of one who, merging not
Her self-hood in another's will,
Is love's and duty's handmaid still.

Pass with me down the path that winds
Through birches to the open land,
Where, close upon the river strand

You mark a cellar, vine o'errun,
Above whose wall of loosened stones
The sumach lifts its reddening
cones, 60

And the black nightshade's berries
shine,
And broad, unsightly burdocks fold
The household ruin, century-old.

Here, in the dim colonial time
Of sterner lives and gloomier faith,
A woman lived, tradition saith,

Who wrought her neighbors foul an-
noy,
And witched and plagued the coun-
try-side,
Till at the hangman's hand she died.

Sit with me while the westering day 70
Falls slantwise down the quiet vale,
And, haply ere yon loitering sail,

That rounds the upper headland, falls
Below Deer Island's pines, or sees
Behind it Hawkswood's belt of trees

Rise black against the sinking sun,
My idyl of its days of old,
The valley's legend, shall be told.

II. THE HUSKING

It was the pleasant harvest-time, 70
When cellar-bins are closely stowed,
And garrets bend beneath their load,

And the old swallow-haunted barns, —
Brown-gabled, long, and full of
seams
Through which the moted sunlight
streams,

And winds blow freshly in, to shake
The red plumes of the roosted cocks,
And the loose hay-mow's scented
locks, —

Are filled with summer's ripened
stores,
Its odorous grass and barley sheaves,
From their low scaffolds to their
eaves. 90

On Esek Harden's oaken floor,
With many an autumn threshing
worn,
Lay the heaped ears of unhusked
corn.

And thither came young men and
maids,
Beneath a moon that, large and
low,
Lit that sweet eve of long ago.

They took their places; some by
chance,
And others by a merry voice
Or sweet smile guided to their
choice.

How pleasantly the rising moon, 100
Between the shadow of the mows,
Looked on them through the great
elm-boughs!

On sturdy boyhood, sun-embrowned,
On girlhood with its solid curves
Of healthful strength and painless
nerves!

And jests went round, and laughs that
made
The house-dog answer with his
howl,
And kept astir the barn-yard fowl;

And quaint old songs their fathers
sung
In Derby dales and Yorkshire
moors, 110
Ere Norman William trod their
shores;

And tales, whose merry license shook
The fat sides of the Saxon thane,
Forgetful of the hovering Dane, —

Rude plays to Celt and Cimbri known,
The charms and riddles that be-
guiled
On Oxus' banks the young world's
child, —

That primal picture-speech wherein
Have youth and maid the story told,
So new in each, so dateless old, 120

Recalling pastoral Ruth in her
Who waited, blushing and demure,
The red-ear's kiss of forfeiture.

III. THE WITCH'S DAUGHTER

But still the sweetest voice was mute
That river-valley ever heard
From lips of maid or throat of bird;

For Mabel Martin sat apart,
And let the hay-mow's shadow fall
Upon the loveliest face of all.

She sat apart, as one forbid, 130
Who knew that none would conde-
scend
To own the Witch-wife's child a
friend.

The seasons scarce had gone their
round,
Since curious thousands thronged
to see
Her mother at the gallows-tree;

And mocked the prison-palsied limbs
That faltered on the fatal stairs,
And wan lip trembling with its
prayers!

Few questioned of the sorrowing child,
Or, when they saw the mother
die, 140
Dreamed of the daughter's agony.

They went up to their homes that day,
As men and Christians justified:
God willed it, and the wretch had
died!

Dear God and Father of us all,
Forgive our faith in cruel lies, —
Forgive the blindness that denies!

Forgive thy creature when he takes,
For the all-perfect love Thou art,
Some grim creation of his heart. 150

Cast down our idols, overturn
Our bloody altars; let us see
Thyself in Thy humanity!

Young Mabel from her mother's grave
Crept to her desolate hearth-stone,
And wrestled with her fate alone;

With love, and anger, and despair,
The phantoms of disordered sense,
The awful doubts of Providence!

Oh, dreary broke the winter days, 160
And dreary fell the winter nights
When, one by one, the neighboring
lights

Went out, and human sounds grew
still,
And all the phantom-peopled dark
Closed round her hearth-fire's dying
spark.

And summer days were sad and
long,
And sad the unaccompanied eves,
And sadder sunset-tinted leaves,

And Indian Summer's airs of balm;
She scarcely felt the soft caress, 170
The beauty died of loneliness!

The school-boys jeered her as they
passed,
And, when she sought the house of
prayer,
Her mother's curse pursued her
there.

And still o'er many a neighboring door
She saw the horseshoe's curved
charm,
To guard against her mother's harm:

That mother, poor and sick and lame,
Who daily, by the old arm-chair,
Folded her withered hands in
prayer; — 180

Who turned, in Salem's dreary jail,
Her worn old Bible o'er and o'er,
When her dim eyes could read no
more!

Sore tried and pained, the poor girl
kept
Her faith, and trusted that her
way,
So dark, would somewhere meet the
day.

And still her weary wheel went round
Day after day, with no relief:
Small leisure have the poor for
grief.

IV. THE CHAMPION

So in the shadow Mabel sits; ¹⁹⁰
Untouched by mirth she sees and
hears,
Her smile is sadder than her tears.

But cruel eyes have found her out,
And cruel lips repeat her name,
And taunt her with her mother's
shame.

She answered not with railing words,
But drew her apron o'er her face,
And, sobbing, glided from the place.

And only pausing at the door,
Her sad eyes met the troubled gaze
Of one who, in her better days, ²⁰¹

Had been her warm and steady friend,
Ere yet her mother's doom had made
Even Esek Harden half afraid.

He felt that mute appeal of tears,
And, starting, with an angry frown,
Hushed all the wicked murmurs
down.

"Good neighbors mine," he sternly
said,
"This passes harmless mirth or jest;
I brook no insult to my guest. ²¹⁰

"She is indeed her mother's child,
But God's sweet pity ministers
Unto no whiter soul than hers.

"Let Goody Martin rest in peace;
I never knew her harm a fly,
And witch or not, God knows — not
I.

"I know who swore her life away;
And as God lives, I'd not condemn
An Indian dog on word of them."

The broadest lands in all the town, ²²⁰
The skill to guide, the power to awe,
Were Harden's; and his word was
law.

None dared withstand him to his face,
But one sly maiden spake aside:
"The little witch is evil-eyed!

"Her mother only killed a cow,
Or witched a churn or dairy-pan;
But she, forsooth, must charm a
man!"

V. IN THE SHADOW

Poor Mabel, homeward turning, passed
The nameless terrors of the wood, ²³⁰
And saw, as if a ghost pursued,

Her shadow gliding in the moon;
The soft breath of the west-wind
gave
A chill as from her mother's grave.

How dreary seemed the silent house!
Wide in the moonbeams' ghostly
glare
Its windows had a dead man's stare!

And, like a gaunt and spectral hand,
The tremulous shadow of a birch
Reached out and touched the door's
low porch, ²⁴⁰

As if to lift its latch; hard by,
A sudden warning call she heard,
The night-cry of a boding bird.

She leaned against the door; her face,
So fair, so young, so full of pain,
White in the moonlight's silver rain.

The river, on its pebbled rim,
Made music such as childhood
knew;
The door-yard tree was whispered
through

By voices such as childhood's ear ²⁵⁰
Had heard in moonlights long ago;
And through the willow-boughs be-
low

She saw the rippled waters shine;
Beyond, in waves of shade and light,
The hills rolled off into the night.

She saw and heard, but over all
A sense of some transforming spell,
The shadow of her sick heart fell.



" her face,
So fair, so young, so full of pain "

And still across the wooded space
The harvest lights of Harden shone,²⁶⁰
And song and jest and laugh went
on.

And he, so gentle, true, and strong,
Of men the bravest and the best,
Had he, too, scorned her with the
rest ?

She strove to drown her sense of
wrong,
And, in her old and simple way,
To teach her bitter heart to pray.

Poor child! the prayer, begun in
faith,
Grew to a low, despairing cry
Of utter misery: " Let me die! "²⁷⁰

"Oh! take me from the scornful eyes,
And hide me where the cruel speech
And mocking finger may not reach!

"I dare not breathe my mother's
name:
A daughter's right I dare not crave
To weep above her unblest grave!

"Let me not live until my heart,
With few to pity, and with none
To love me, hardens into stone

"O God! have mercy on Thy child,²⁸⁰
Whose faith in Thee grows weak
and small,
And take me ere I lose it all!"

A shadow on the moonlight fell,
And murmuring wind and wave be-
came
A voice whose burden was her name.

VI. THE BETROTHAL

Had then God heard her? Had He
sent
His angel down? In flesh and blood,
Before her Esek Harden stood!

He laid his hand upon her arm:
"Dear Mabel, this no more shall
be;
Who scoffs at you must scoff at me.²⁹⁰

"You know rough Esek Harden well;
And if he seems no suitor gay,
And if his hair is touched with gray,

"The maiden grown shall never find
His heart less warm than when she
smiled,
Upon his knees a little child!"

Her tears of grief were tears of joy,
As, folded in his strong embrace,
She looked in Esek Harden's face.

"O truest friend of all!" she said,³⁰¹
"God bless you for your kindly
thought,
And make me worthy of my lot!"

He led her forth, and, blent in one,
Beside their happy pathway ran
The shadows of the maid and man.

He led her through his dewy fields,
To where the swinging lanterns
glowed,
And through the doors the huskers
showed.

"Good friends and neighbors!" Esek
said,³¹⁰
"I'm weary of this lonely life;
In Mabel see my chosen wife!

"She greets you kindly, one and all;
The past is past, and all offence
Falls harmless from her innocence.

"Henceforth she stands no more
alone;
You know what Esek Harden is;—
He brooks no wrong to him or his.

"Now let the merriest tales be told,³¹⁹
And let the sweetest songs be sung
That ever made the old heart young!

"For now the lost has found a home;
And a lone hearth shall brighter
burn,
As all the household joys return!"

Oh, pleasantly the harvest-moon,
Between the shadow of the mows,
Looked on them through the great
elm-boughs!

On Mabel's curls of golden hair,
On Esek's shaggy strength it fell;
And the wind whispered, "It is
well!"³³⁰

THE PROPHECY OF SAMUEL SEWALL

1697

Up and down the village streets
Strange are the forms my fancy meets,
For the thoughts and things of to-day
are hid,

And through the veil of a closed lid
The ancient worthies I see again:
I hear the tap of the elder's cane,
And his awful periwig I see,
And the silver buckles of shoe and knee.
Stately and slow, with thoughtful air,
His black cap hiding his whitened
hair,¹⁰



Samuel Sewall

Walks the Judge of the great Assize,
 Samuel Sewall the good and wise.
 His face with lines of firmness wrought,
 He wears the look of a man unbought,
 Who swears to his hurt and changes
 not;
 Yet, touched and softened nevertheless
 With the grace of Christian gentleness,
 The face that a child would climb to
 kiss!

True and tender and brave and just,
 That man might honor and woman
 trust. 20

Touching and sad, a tale is told,
 Like a penitent hymn of the Psalmist
 old,
 Of the fast which the good man life-
 long kept
 With a haunting sorrow that never slept,

As the circling year brought round the
time
Of an error that left the sting of crime,
When he sat on the bench of the witch-
craft courts,
With the laws of Moses and Hale's
Reports,
And spake, in the name of both, the
word
That gave the witch's neck to the
cord,³⁰
And piled the oaken planks that
pressed
The feeble life from the warlock's
breast!
All the day long, from dawn to dawn,
His door was bolted, his curtain drawn;
No foot on his silent threshold trod,
No eye looked on him save that of
God,
As he baffled the ghosts of the dead
with charms
Of penitent tears, and prayers, and
psalms,
And, with precious proofs from the sa-
cred word
Of the boundless pity and love of the
Lord,⁴⁰
His faith confirmed and his trust re-
newed
That the sin of his ignorance, sorely
rued,
Might be washed away in the mingled
flood
Of his human sorrow and Christ's dear
blood!

Green forever the memory be
Of the Judge of the old Theocracy,
Whom even his errors glorified,
Like a far-seen, sunlit mountain-side
By the cloudy shadows which o'er it
glide!
Honor and praise to the Puritan⁵⁰
Who the halting step of his age outran,
And, seeing the infinite worth of man
In the priceless gift the Father gave,
In the infinite love that stooped to
save,
Dared not brand his brother a slave!
"Who doth such wrong," he was wont
to say,
In his own quaint, picture-loving way,
"Flings up to Heaven a hand-grenade
Which God shall cast down upon his
head!"

Widely as heaven and hell, con-
trast⁶⁰
That brave old jurist of the past
And the cunning trickster and knave
of courts
Who the holy features of Truth dis-
torts, —
Ruling as right the will of the strong,
Poverty, crime, and weakness wrong;
Wide-eared to power, to the wronged
and weak
Deaf as Egypt's gods of leek;
Scoffing aside at party's nod
Order of nature and law of God;
For whose dabbled ermine respect
were waste,⁷⁰
Reverence folly, and awe misplaced;
Justice of whom 't were vain to seek
As from Koordish robber or Syrian
Sheik!
Oh, leave the wretch to his bribes and
sins;
Let him rot in the web of lies he spins!
To the saintly soul of the early day,
To the Christian judge, let us turn and
say:
"Praise and thanks for an honest
man! —
Glory to God for the Puritan!"

I see, far southward, this quiet day,
The hills of Newbury rolling away,⁸¹
With the many tints of the season gay,
Dreamily blending in autumn mist
Crimson, and gold, and amethyst.
Long and low, with dwarf trees
crowned,
Plum Island lies, like a whale aground,
A stone's toss over the narrow
sound.
Inland, as far as the eye can go,
The hills curve round like a bended
bow;
A silver arrow from out them sprung,
I see the shine of the Quasycung;⁹¹
And, round and round, over valley
and hill,
Old roads winding, as old roads will,
Here to a ferry, and there to a mill;
And glimpses of chimneys and gabled
eaves,
Through green elm arches and maple
leaves, —
Old homesteads sacred to all that
can
Gladden or sadden the heart of man,

Over whose thresholds of oak and
stone
Life and Death have come and gone!
There pictured tiles in the fireplace
show, ¹⁰¹
Great beams sag from the ceiling low,
The dresser glitters with polished
wares,
The long clock ticks on the foot-worn
stairs,
And the low, broad chimney shows the
crack
By the earthquake made a century
back.
Up from their midst springs the vil-
lage spire
With the crest of its cock in the sun
afire;
Beyond are orchards and planting
lands,
And great salt marshes and glimmer-
ing sands, ¹¹⁰
And, where north and south the coast-
lines run,
The blink of the sea in breeze and sun!

I see it all like a chart unrolled,
But my thoughts are full of the past
and old,
I hear the tales of my boyhood told;
And the shadows and shapes of early
days
Flit dimly by in the veiling haze,
With measured movement and rhyth-
mic chime
Weaving like shuttles my web of
rhyme. ¹¹⁰
I think of the old man wise and good
Who once on yon misty hillsides stood,
(A poet who never measured rhyme,
A seer unknown to his dull-eared time,)
And, propped on his staff of age,
looked down,
With his boyhood's love, on his native
town,
Where, written as if on its hills and
plains,
His burden of prophecy yet remains,
For the voices of wood, and wave, and
wind
To read in the ear of the musing
mind:—

“As long as Plum Island, to guard
the coast ¹³⁰
As God appointed, shall keep its post;

As long as a salmon shall haunt the deep
Of Merrimac River, or sturgeon leap;
As long as pickerel swift and slim,
Or red-backed perch, in Crane Pond
swim;
As long as the annual sea-fowl know
Their time to come and their time to
go;
As long as cattle shall roam at will
The green grass meadows by Turkey
Hill;
As long as sheep shall look from the
side ¹⁴⁰
Of Oldtown Hill on marishes wide,
And Parker River, and salt-sea tide;
As long as a wandering pigeon shall
search
The fields below from his white-oak
perch,
When the barley-harvest is ripe and
shorn,
And the dry husks fall from the stand-
ing corn;
As long as Nature shall not grow old,
Nor drop her work from her doting
hold,
And her care for the Indian corn for-
get, ¹⁴⁹
And the yellow rows in pairs to set;—
So long shall Christians here be born,
Grow up and ripen as God's sweet
corn!—
By the beak of bird, by the breath of
frost,
Shall never a holy ear be lost,
But, husked by Death in the Planter's
sight,
Be sown again in the fields of light!”
The Island still is purple with plums,
Up the river the salmon comes,
The sturgeon leaps, and the wild-fowl
feeds
On hillside berries and marsh seeds,—
All the beautiful signs remain, ¹⁶¹
From spring-time sowing to autumn
rain
The good man's vision returns again!
And let us hope, as well we can,
That the Silent Angel who garners man
May find some grain as of old he found
In the human cornfield ripe and sound,
And the Lord of the Harvest deign to
own
The precious seed by the fathers
sown!

THE RED RIVER VOYAGEUR

OUT and in the river is winding
 The links of its long, red chain,
 Through belts of dusky pine-land
 And gusty leagues of plain.
 Only, at times, a smoke-wreath
 With the drifting cloud-rack joins,—
 The smoke of the hunting-lodges
 Of the wild Assiniboins!

Drearly blows the north-wind
 From the land of ice and snow;
 The eyes that look are weary,
 And heavy the hands that row.

And with one foot on the water,
 And one upon the shore,
 The Angel of Shadow gives warning
 That day shall be no more.

Is it the clang of wild-geese?
 Is it the Indian's yell,
 That lends to the voice of the north-
 wind
 The tones of a far-off bell?

The voyageur smiles as he listens
 To the sound that grows apace;
 Well he knows the vesper ringing
 Of the bells of St. Boniface.

The bells of the Roman Mission,
 That call from their turrets twain,
 To the boatman on the river,
 To the hunter on the plain!

Even so in our mortal journey
 The bitter north-winds blow,
 And thus upon life's Red River
 Our hearts, as oarsmen, row.

And when the Angel of Shadow
 Rests his feet on wave and shore,
 And our eyes grow dim with watching
 And our hearts faint at the oar,

Happy is he who heareth
 The signal of his release
 In the bells of the Holy City,
 The chimes of eternal peace!

THE PREACHER

ITS windows flashing to the sky,
 Beneath a thousand roofs of brown,

Far down the vale, my friend and I
 Beheld the old and quiet town;
 The ghostly sails that out at sea
 Flapped their white wings of mys-
 tery;

The beaches glimmering in the sun,
 And the low wooded capes that run
 Into the sea-mist north and south; ⁹
 The sand-bluffs at the river's mouth;
 The swinging chain-bridge, and, afar,
 The foam-line of the harbor-bar.

Over the woods and meadow-lands
 A crimson-tinted shadow lay,
 Of clouds through which the setting
 day

Flung a slant glory far away.
 It glittered on the wet sea-sands,
 It flamed upon the city's panes,
 Smote the white sails of ships that
 wore

Outward or in, and glided o'er ²⁰
 The steeples with their veering
 vanes!

Awhile my friend with rapid search
 O'erran the landscape. "Yonder spire
 Over gray roofs, a shaft of fire;
 What is it, pray?" — "The White-
 field Church!

Walled about by its basement stones,
 There rest the marvellous prophet's
 bones."

Then as our homeward way we
 walked,
 Of the great preacher's life we talked;
 And through the mystery of our
 theme ³⁰

The outward glory seemed to stream,
 And Nature's self interpreted
 The doubtful record of the dead;
 And every level beam that smote
 The sails upon the dark afloat
 A symbol of the light became,
 Which touched the shadows of our
 blame

With tongues of Pentecostal flame.

Over the roofs of the pioneers
 Gathers the moss of a hundred years;
 On man and his works has passed the
 change ⁴¹
 Which needs must be in a century's
 range.

The land lies open and warm in the
 sun,
 Anvils clamor and mill-wheels run, —

Flocks on the hillsides, herds on the plain,
 The wilderness gladdened with fruit and grain!
 But the living faith of the settlers old
 A dead profession their children hold;
 To the lust of office and greed of trade
 A stepping-stone is the altar made. 50
 The Church, to place and power the door,
 Rebukes the sin of the world no more,
 Nor sees its Lord in the homeless poor.
 Everywhere is the grasping hand,
 And eager adding of land to land;
 And earth, which seemed to the fathers meant
 But as a pilgrim's wayside tent, —
 A nightly shelter to fold away
 When the Lord should call at the break of day, —
 Solid and steadfast seems to be, 60
 And Time has forgotten Eternity!

But fresh and green from the rotting roots
 Of primal forests the young growth shoots;
 From the death of the old the new proceeds,
 And the life of truth from the rot of creeds:
 On the ladder of God, which upward leads,
 The steps of progress are human needs.
 For His judgments still are a mighty deep,
 And the eyes of His providence never sleep:
 When the night is darkest He gives the morn;
 When the famine is sorest, the wine and corn!

In the church of the wilderness Edwards wrought,
 Shaping his creed at the forge of thought;
 And with Thor's own hammer welded and bent
 The iron links of his argument,
 Which strove to grasp in its mighty span
 The purpose of God and the fate of man!

Yet faithful still, in his daily round
 To the weak, and the poor, and sick found,
 The schoolman's lore and the casuist's art
 Drew warmth and life from his fervent heart.
 Had he not seen in the solitudes
 Of his deep and dark Northampton woods
 A vision of love about him fall?
 Not the blinding splendor which fell on Saul,
 But the tenderer glory that rests on them
 Who walk in the New Jerusalem,
 Where never the sun nor moon are known,
 But the Lord and His love are the light alone!
 And watching the sweet, still countenance
 Of the wife of his bosom rapt in trance,
 Had he not treasured each broken word
 Of the mystical wonder seen and heard;
 And loved the beautiful dreamer more
 That thus to the desert of earth she bore
 Clusters of Eshcol from Canaan's shore?

As the barley-winnower, holding with pain
 Aloft in waiting his chaff and grain,
 Joyfully welcomes the far-off breeze
 Sounding the pine-tree's slender keys,
 So he who had waited long to hear
 The sound of the Spirit drawing near,
 Like that which the son of Iddo heard
 When the feet of angels the myrtles stirred,
 Felt the answer of prayer, at last,
 As over his church the afflatus passed,
 Breaking its sleep as breezes break
 To sun-bright ripples a stagnant lake.

At first a tremor of silent fear,
 The creep of the flesh at danger near,
 A vague foreboding and discontent
 Over the hearts of the people went.

All nature warned in sounds and signs:

The wind in the tops of the forest
 pines
 In the name of the Highest called to
 prayer,
 As the muezzin calls from the minaret
 stair.
 Through ceiled chambers of secret sin
 Sudden and strong the light shone in;
 A guilty sense of his neighbor's needs
 Startled the man of title-deeds; ¹²⁰
 The trembling hand of the worldling
 shook
 The dust of years from the Holy Book;
 And the psalms of David, forgotten
 long,
 Took the place of the scoffer's song.
 The impulse spread like the outward
 course
 Of waters moved by a central force;
 The tide of spiritual life rolled down
 From inland mountains to seaboard
 town.
 Prepared and ready the altar stands
 Waiting the prophet's outstretched
 hands ¹³⁰
 And prayer availing, to downward call
 The fiery answer in view of all.
 Hearts are like wax in the furnace;
 who
 Shall mould, and shape, and cast them
 anew?
 Lo! by the Merrimac Whitefield
 stands
 In the temple that never was made by
 hands, —
 Curtains of azure, and crystal wall,
 And dome of the sunshine over all —
 A homeless pilgrim, with dubious
 name
 Blown about on the winds of fame; ¹⁴⁰
 Now as an angel of blessing classed,
 And now as a mad enthusiast.
 Called in his youth to sound and gauge
 The moral lapse of his race and age,
 And, sharp as truth, the contrast draw
 Of human frailty and perfect law;
 Possessed by the one dread thought
 that lent
 Its goad to his fiery temperament,
 Up and down the world he went, ¹⁴⁰
 A John the Baptist crying, Repent!
 No perfect whole can our nature make;
 Here or there the circle will break;
 The orb of life as it takes the light

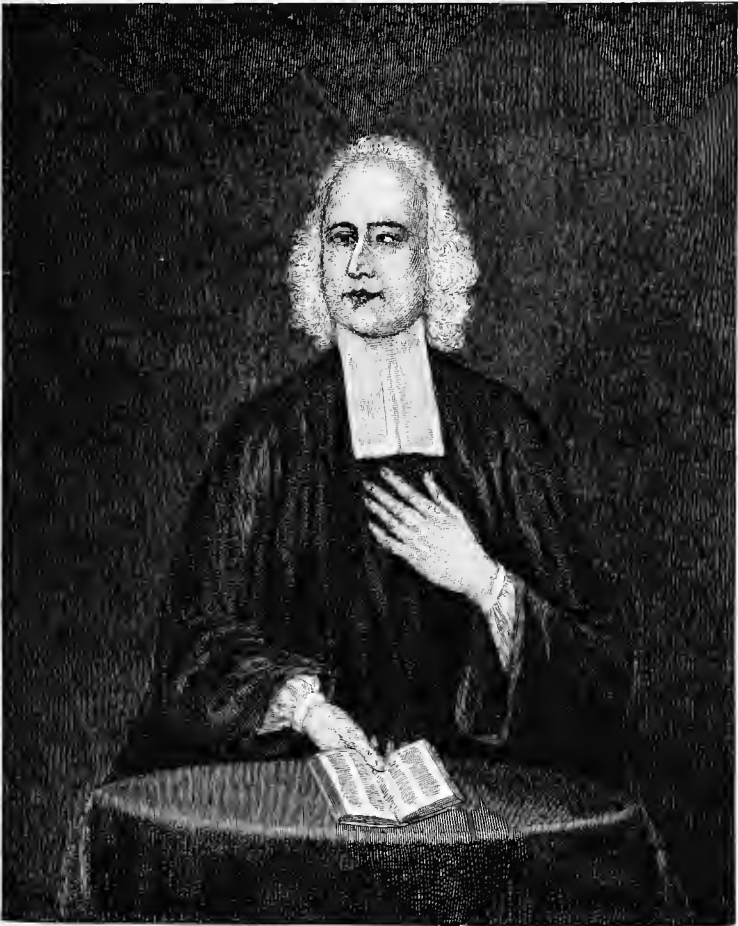
On one side leaves the other in night.
 Never was saint so good and great
 As to give no chance at St. Peter's gate
 For the plea of the Devil's advocate.
 So, incomplete by his being's law,
 The marvellous preacher had his flaw;
 With step unequal, and lame with
 faults, ¹⁶⁰
 His shade on the path of History halts.

Wisely and well said the Eastern bard:
 Fear is easy, but love is hard, —
 Easy to glow with the Santon's rage,
 And walk on the Meccan pilgrimage;
 But he is greatest and best who can
 Worship Allah by loving man.
 Thus he, — to whom, in the painful
 stress
 Of zeal on fire from its own excess,
 Heaven seemed so vast and earth so
 small ¹⁷⁰
 That man was nothing, since God was
 all, —
 Forgot, as the best at times have done,
 That the love of the Lord and of man
 are one.

Little to him whose feet unshod
 The thorny path of the desert trod,
 Careless of pain, so it led to God,
 Seemed the hunger-pang and the poor
 man's wrong,
 The weak ones trodden beneath the
 strong.
 Should the worm be chooser? — the
 clay withstand ¹⁷⁰
 The shaping will of the potter's hand?

In the Indian fable Arjoon hears
 The scorn of a god rebuke his fears:
 "Spare thy pity!" Krishna saith;
 "Not in thy sword is the power of
 death!
 All is illusion, — loss but seems;
 Pleasure and pain are only dreams;
 Who deems he slayeth doth not kill;
 Who counts as slain is living still.
 Strike, nor fear thy blow is crime;
 Nothing dies but the cheats of
 time; ¹⁹⁰
 Slain or slayer, small the odds
 To each, immortal as Indra's gods!"

So by Savannah's banks of shade,
 The stones of his mission the preacher
 laid



George Whitefield

On the heart of the negro crushed and
 rent,
 And made of his blood the wall's ce-
 ment;
 Bade the slave-ship speed from coast
 to coast,
 Fanned by the wings of the Holy
 Ghost;

And begged, for the love of Christ, the
 gold
 Coined from the hearts in its groaning
 hold.
 What could it matter, more or less ²⁰⁰
 Of stripes, and hunger, and weariness?
 Living or dying, bond or free,
 What was time to eternity?

Alas for the preacher's cherished schemes!
 Mission and church are now but dreams;
 Nor prayer nor fasting availed the plan
 To honor God through the wrong of man.
 Of all his labors no trace remains
 Save the bondman lifting his hands
 in chains. ²¹⁰
 The woof he wove in the righteous warp
 Of freedom-loving Oglethorpe
 Clothes with curses the goodly land,
 Changes its greenness and bloom to sand;
 And a century's lapse reveals once more
 The slave-ship stealing to Georgia's shore.
 Father of Light! how blind is he
 Who sprinkles the altar he rears to Thee
 With the blood and tears of humanity!
 He erred: shall we count His gifts as naught? ²²⁰
 Was the work of God in him unwrought?
 The servant may through his deafness err,
 And blind may be God's messenger;
 But the errand is sure they go upon, —
 The word is spoken, the deed is done.
 Was the Hebrew temple less fair and good
 That Solomon bowed to gods of wood?
 For his tempted heart and wandering feet,
 Were the songs of David less pure and sweet?
 So in light and shadow the preacher went, ²³⁰
 God's erring and human instrument;
 And the hearts of the people where he passed
 Swayed as the reeds sway in the blast,
 Under the spell of a voice which took
 In its compass the flow of Siloa's brook,
 And the mystical chime of the bells of gold
 On the ephod's hem of the priest of old, —

Now the roll of thunder, and now the awe
 Of the trumpet heard in the Mount of Law.

A solemn fear on the listening crowd
 Fell like the shadow of a cloud. ²⁴¹
 The sailor reeling from out the ships
 Whose masts stood thick in the river-slips
 Felt the jest and the curse die on his lips.
 Listened the fisherman rude and hard,
 The calker rough from the builder's yard;
 The man of the market left his load,
 The teamster leaned on his bending goad,
 The maiden, and youth beside her, felt
 Their hearts in a closer union melt, ²⁵⁰
 And saw the flowers of their love in bloom
 Down the endless vistas of life to come.

Old age sat feebly brushing away
 From his ears the scanty locks of gray;
 And careless boyhood, living the free
 Unconscious life of bird and tree,
 Suddenly wakened to a sense
 Of sin and its guilty consequence.
 It was as if an angel's voice
 Called the listeners up for their final choice; ²⁶⁰

As if a strong hand rent apart
 The veils of sense from soul and heart,
 Showing in light ineffable
 The joys of heaven and woes of hell!
 All about in the misty air
 The hills seemed kneeling in silent prayer;
 The rustle of leaves, the moaning sedge,
 The water's lap on its gravelled edge,
 The wailing pines, and, far and faint,
 The wood-dove's note of sad complaint, — ²⁷⁰
 To the solemn voice of the preacher lent
 An undertone as of low lament;
 And the rote of the sea from its sandy coast,
 On the easterly wind, now heard, now lost,
 Seemed the murmurous sound of the judgment host.

Yet wise men doubted, and good men
wept,

As that storm of passion above them
swept,

And, comet-like, adding flame to
flame,

The priests of the new Evangel
came, — ²⁷⁰

Davenport, flashing upon the crowd,
Charged like summer's electric cloud,
Now holding the listener still as death
With terrible warnings under breath,
Now shouting for joy, as if he viewed
The vision of Heaven's beatitude!

And Celtic Tennant, his long coat
bound

Like a monk's with leathern girdle
round,

Wild with the toss of unshorn hair,
And wringing of hands, and eyes
aglare,

Groaning under the world's despair!
Grave pastors, grieving their flocks to
lose, ²⁹¹

Propheied to the empty pews
That gourds would wither, and mush-
rooms die,

And noisiest fountains run soonest dry,
Like the spring that gushed in New-
bury Street,

Under the tramp of the earthquake's
feet,

A silver shaft in the air and light,
For a single day, then lost in night,
Leaving only, its place to tell,

Sandy fissure and sulphurous smell. ³⁰⁰
With zeal wing-clipped and white-heat
cool,

Moved by the spirit in grooves of rule,
No longer harried, and cropped, and
fleeced,

Flogged by sheriff and cursed by
priest,

But by wiser counsels left at ease
To settle quietly on his lees,

And, self-concentred, to count as done
The work which his fathers well begun,

In silent protest of letting alone,
The Quaker kept the way of his
own, — ³¹⁰

A non-conductor among the wires,
With coat of asbestos proof to fires.

And quite unable to mend his pace
To catch the falling manna of grace,

He hugged the closer his little store
Of faith, and silently prayed for more.

And vague of creed and barren of rite,
But holding, as in his Master's sight,
Act and thought to the inner light,
The round of his simple duties
walked, ³²⁰

And strove to live what the others
talked.

And who shall marvel if evil went
Step by step with the good intent,
And with love and meekness, side by
side,

Lust of the flesh and spiritual pride? —
That passionate longings and fancies
vain

Set the heart on fire and crazed the
brain?

That over the holy oracles
Folly sported with cap and bells?

That goodly women and learned
men ³³⁰

Marvelling told with tongue and pen
How unweaned children chirped like
birds

Texts of Scripture and solemn words,
Like the infant seers of the rocky glens
In the Puy de Dome of wild Cevennes:
Or baby Lamas who pray and preach
From Tartar cradles in Buddha's
speech?

In the war which Truth or Freedom
wages

With impious fraud and the wrong of
ages,

Hate and malice and self-love mar ³⁴⁰
The notes of triumph with painful jar,
And the helping angels turn aside

Their sorrowing faces the shame to
hide.

Never on custom's oilèd grooves
The world to a higher level moves,
But grates and grinds with friction

hard

On granite boulder and flinty shard.
The heart must bleed before it feels,

The pool be troubled before it heals;
Ever by losses the right must gain, ³⁵⁰

Every good have its birth of pain;
The active Virtues blush to find

The Vices wearing their badge behind,
And Graces and Charities feel the fire

Wherein the sins of the age expire;
The fiend still rends as of old he rent

The tortured body from which he
went.

But Time tests all. In the over-drift
And flow of the Nile, with its annual
gift,

Who cares for the Hadji's relics
sunk? 360

Who thinks of the drowned-out Coptic
monk?

But left a result of holier lives, 371
Tenderer mothers and worthier
wives.

The husband and father whose chil-
dren fled

And sad wife wept when his drunken
tread



Whitefield Church

The tide that loosens the temple's
stones,

And scatters the sacred ibis-bones,
Drives away from the valley-land
That Arab robber, the wandering
sand,

Moistens the fields that know no rain,
Fringes the desert with belts of grain,
And bread to the sower brings again.
So the flood of emotion deep and
strong

Troubled the land as its wept along,

Frightened peace from his roof-tree's
shade,

And a rock of offence his hearthstone
made,

In a strength that was not his own be-
gan

To rise from the brute's to the plane of
man.

Old friends embraced, long held apart
By evil counsel and pride of heart; 380

And penitence saw through misty
tears,

In the bow of hope on its cloud of fears,
The promise of Heaven's eternal
years, —
The peace of God for the world's annoy, —
Beauty for ashes, and oil of joy !

Under the church of Federal Street,
Under the tread of its Sabbath feet,
Walled about by its basement stones,
Lie the marvellous preacher's bones.
No saintly honors to them are
shown, ³⁹⁰

No sign nor miracle have they known;
But he who passes the ancient church
Stops in the shade of its belfry-porch,
And ponders the wonderful life of him
Who lies at rest in that charnel dim.
Long shall the traveller strain his eye
From the railroad car, as it plunges by,
And the vanishing town behind him
search

For the slender spire of the Whitefield
Church;

And feel for one moment the ghosts of
trade, ⁴⁰⁰

And fashion, and folly, and pleasure
laid,

By the thought of that life of pure in-
tent,

That voice of warning yet eloquent,
Of one on the errands of angels sent.

And if where he labored the flood of sin
Like a tide from the harbor-bar sets in,
And over a life of time and sense

The church-spires lift their vain de-
fence,

As if to scatter the bolts of God
With the points of Calvin's thunder-
rod, — ⁴¹⁰

Still, as the gem of its civic crown,
Precious beyond the world's renown,
His memory hallows the ancient town !

THE TRUCE OF PISCATAQUA

1675

RAZE these long blocks of brick and
stone,

These huge mill-monsters overgrown;
Blot out the humbler piles as well,
Where, moved like living shuttles,
dwell

The weaving genii of the bell;

Tear from the wild Coheco's track
The dams that hold its torrents back;
And let the loud-rejoicing fall
Plunge, roaring, down its rocky wall;
And let the Indian's paddle play ¹⁰
On the unbridged Piscataqua !

Wide over hill and valley spread
Once more the forest, dusk and dread,
With here and there a clearing cut
From the walled shadows round it
shut;

Each with its farm-house builded
rude,

By English yeoman squared and
hewed,

And the grim, flankered block-house
bound

With bristling palisades around.
So, haply shall before thine eyes ²⁰

The dusty veil of centuries rise,
The old, strange scenery overlay
The tamer pictures of to-day,

While, like the actors in a play,
Pass in their ancient guise along

The figures of my border song:
What time beside Coheco's flood

The white man and the red man stood,
With words of peace and brotherhood;

When passed the sacred calumet ³⁰
From lip to lip with fire-draught wet,
And, puffed in scorn, the peace-pipe's
smoke

Through the gray beard of Waldron
broke,

And Squando's voice, in suppliant plea
For mercy, struck the haughty key
Of one who held, in any fate,
His native pride inviolate !

" Let your ears be opened wide !
He who speaks has never lied.

Waldron of Piscataqua, ⁴⁰
Hear what Squando has to say !

" Squando shuts his eyes and sees,
Far off, Saco's hemlock-trees.

In his wigwam, still as stone,
Sits a woman all alone,

" Wampum beads and birchen strands
Dropping from her careless hands,
Listening ever for the fleet
Patter of a dead child's feet !

" When the moon a year ago ⁵⁰
Told the flowers the time to blow,

In that lonely wigwam smiled
Menewee, our little child.

"Ere that moon grew thin and old,
He was lying still and cold;
Sent before us, weak and small,
When the Master did not call!

"On his little grave I lay;
Three times went and came the day,
Thrice above me blazed the noon, 60
Thrice upon me wept the moon.

"In the third night-watch I heard,
Far and low, a spirit-bird;
Very mournful, very wild,
Sang the totem of my child.

"Menewee, poor Menewee,
Walks a path he cannot see:
Let the white man's wigwam light
With its blaze his steps aright.

"All-uncalled, he dares not show 70
Empty hands to Manito:
Better gifts he cannot bear
Than the scalps his slayers wear.'

"All the while the totem sang,
Lightning blazed and thunder rang;
And a black cloud, reaching high,
Pulled the white moon from the sky.

"I, the medicine-man, whose ear
All that spirits hear can hear, —
I, whose eyes are wide to see 80
All the things that are to be, —

"Well I knew the dreadful signs
In the whispers of the pines,
In the river roaring loud,
In the mutter of the cloud.

"At the breaking of the day,
From the grave I passed away;
Flowers bloomed round me, birds sang
glad,
But my heart was hot and mad.

"There is rust on Squando's knife 90
From the warm, red springs of life;
On the funeral hemlock-trees
Many a scalp the totem sees.

"Blood for blood! But evermore
Squando's heart is sad and sore;

And his poor squaw waits at
home
For the feet that never come!

"Waldron of Cocheco, hear!
Squando speaks, who laughs at
fear;
Take the captives he has ta'en; 100
Let the land have peace again!"

As the words died on his tongue,
Wide apart his warriors swung;
Parted, at the sign he gave,
Right and left, like Egypt's wave.

And, like Israel passing free
Through the prophet-charm'd sea,
Captive mother, wife, and child
Through the dusky terror filed.

One alone, a little maid, 110
Middleway her steps delayed,
Glancing, with quick, troubled sight,
Round about from red to white.

Then his hand the Indian laid
On the little maiden's head,
Lightly from her forehead fair
Smoothing back her yellow hair.

"Gift or favor ask I none;
What I have is all my own:
Never yet the birds have sung, 120
'Squando hath a beggar's tongue.'

"Yet for her who waits at home,
For the dead who cannot come,
Let the little Gold-hair be
In the place of Menewee!

"Mishanock, my little star!
Come to Saco's pines afar;
Where the sad one waits at home,
Wequashim, my moonlight, come!"

"What!" quoth Waldron, "leave a
child 130
Christian-born to heathens wild?
As God lives, from Satan's hand
I will pluck her as a brand!"

"Hear me, white man!" Squando
cried;

"Let the little one decide.
Wequashim, my moonlight, say,
Wilt thou go with me, or stay?"

Slowly, sadly, half afraid,
Half regretfully, the maid ¹³⁹
Owned the ties of blood and race, —
Turned from Squando's pleading face.

Not a word the Indian spoke,
But his wampum chain he broke,
And the beaded wonder hung
On that neck so fair and young.

Silence-shod, as phantoms seem
In the marches of a dream,
Single-filed, the grim array
Through the pine-trees wound away.

Doubting, trembling, sore amazed, ¹⁵⁰
Through her tears the young child
gazed.
"God preserve her!" Waldron said;
"Satan hath bewitched the maid!"

Years went and came. At close of
day
Singing came a child from play,
Tossing from her loose-locked head
Gold in sunshine, brown in shade.

Pride was in the mother's look,
But her head she gravely shook,
And with lips that fondly smiled ¹⁶⁰
Feigned to chide her truant child.

Unabashed, the maid began:
"Up and down the brook I ran,
Where, beneath the bank so steep,
Lie the spotted trout asleep.

"'Chip!' went squirrel on the wall,
After me I heard him call,
And the cat-bird on the tree
Tried his best to mimic me.

"Where the hemlocks grew so dark ¹⁷⁰
That I stopped to look and hark,
On a log, with feather-hat,
By the path, an Indian sat.

"Then I cried, and ran away;
But he called, and bade me stay;
And his voice was good and mild
As my mother's to her child.

"And he took my wampum chain,
Looked and looked it o'er again;
Gave me berries, and, beside, ¹⁸⁰
On my neck a plaything tied."

Straight the mother stooped to see
What the Indian's gift might be.
On the braid of wampum hung,
Lo! a cross of silver swung.

Well she knew its graven sign,
Squando's bird and totem pine;
And, a mirage of the brain,
Flowed her childhood back again.

Flashed the roof the sunshine through,
Into space the walls outgrew; ¹⁹¹
On the Indian's wigwam-mat,
Blossom-crowned, again she sat.

Cool she felt the west-wind blow,
In her ear the pines sang low,
And, like links from out a chain,
Dropped the years of care and pain.

From the outward toil and din,
From the griefs that gnaw within,
To the freedom of the woods ²⁰⁰
Called the birds, and winds, and
floods.

Well, O painful minister!
Watch thy flock, but blame not her,
If her ear grew sharp to hear
All their voices whispering near.

Blame her not, as to her soul
All the desert's glamour stole,
That a tear for childhood's loss
Dropped upon the Indian's cross.

When, that night, the Book was read,
And she bowed her widowed head, ²¹¹
And a prayer for each loved name
Rose like incense from a flame,

With a hope the creeds forbid
In her pitying bosom hid,
To the listening ear of Heaven
Lo! the Indian's name was given.

MY PLAYMATE

THE pines were dark on Ramoth hill,
Their song was soft and low;
The blossoms in the sweet May wind
Were falling like the snow.

The blossoms drifted at our feet,
The orchard birds sang clear;

The sweetest and the saddest day
It seemed of all the year.

For, more to me than birds or flowers,
My playmate left her home, ¹⁰
And took with her the laughing
spring,
The music and the bloom.

She kissed the lips of kith and kin,
She laid her hand in mine:
What more could ask the bashful
boy
Who fed her father's kine?

She left us in the bloom of May:
The constant years told o'er
Their seasons with as sweet May
morns,
But she came back no more. ²⁰

I walk, with noiseless feet, the round
Of uneventful years;
Still o'er and o'er I sow the spring
And reap the autumn ears.

She lives where all the golden year
Her summer roses blow;
The dusky children of the sun
Before her come and go.

There haply with her jewelled hands
She smooths her silken gown, — ³⁰
No more the homespun lap wherein
I shook the walnuts down.

The wild grapes wait us by the brook,
The brown nuts on the hill,
And still the May-day flowers make
sweet
The woods of Follymill.

The lilies blossom in the pond,
The bird builds in the tree,
The dark pines sing on Ramoth hill
The slow song of the sea. ⁴⁰

I wonder if she thinks of them,
And how the old time seems, —
If ever the pines of Ramoth wood
Are sounding in her dreams.

I see her face, I hear her voice;
Does she remember mine?
And what to her is now the boy
Who fed her father's kine?

What cares she that the orioles build
For other eyes than ours, — ⁵⁰
That other hands with nuts are filled,
And other laps with flowers?

O playmate in the golden time!
Our mossy seat is green,
Its fringing violets blossom yet,
The old trees o'er it lean.

The winds so sweet with birch and
fern
A sweeter memory blow;
And there in spring the veeries sing
The song of long ago. ⁶⁰

And still the pines of Ramoth wood
Are moaning like the sea, —
The moaning of the sea of change
Between myself and thee!

COBBLER KEEZAR'S VISION

THE beaver cut his timber
With patient teeth that day,
The minks were fish-wards, and the
crows
Surveyors of highway, —

When Keezar sat on the hillside
Upon his cobbler's form,
With a pan of coals on either hand
To keep his waxed-ends warm.

And there, in the golden weather,
He stitched and hammered and
sung; ¹⁰
In the brook he moistened his leather,
In the pewter mug his tongue.

Well knew the tough old Teuton
Who brewed the stoutest ale,
And he paid the goodwife's reckon-
ing
In the coin of song and tale.

The songs they still are singing
Who dress the hills of vine,
The tales that haunt the Brocken
And whisper down the Rhine. ²⁰

Woodsy and wild and lonesome,
The swift stream wound away,
Through birches and scarlet maples
Flashing in foam and spray, —

Down on the sharp-horned ledges
Plunging in steep cascade,
Tossing its white-maned waters
Against the hemlock's shade.

Woodsy and wild and lonesome, 29
East and west and north and south;
Only the village of fishers
Down at the river's mouth;

Only here and there a clearing,
With its farm-house rude and
new,
And tree-stumps, swart as Indians,
Where the scanty harvest grew.

No shout of home-bound reapers,
No vintage-song he heard,
And on the green no dancing feet
The merry violin stirred. 40

"Why should folk be glum," said
Keezar,
"When Nature herself is glad,
And the painted woods are laughing
At the faces so sour and sad?"

Small heed had the careless cobbler
What sorrow of heart was theirs
Who travailed in pain with the births
of God,
And planted a state with prayers,—

Hunting of witches and warlocks,
Smiting the heathen horde, — 50
One hand on the mason's trowel,
And one on the soldier's sword!

But give him his ale and cider,
Give him his pipe and song,
Little he cared for Church or State,
Or the balance of right and wrong.

"'T is work, work, work," he mut-
tered, —
"And for rest a snuffle of psalms!"
He smote on his leathern apron
With his brown and waxen palms. 60

"Oh for the purple harvests
Of the days when I was young!
For the merry grape-stained maidens,
And the pleasant songs they sung!

"Oh for the breath of vineyards,
Of apples and nuts and wine!

For an oar to row and a breeze to blow
Down the grand old river Rhine!"

A tear in his blue eye glistened,
And dropped on his beard so gray. 70
"Old, old am I," said Keezar,
"And the Rhine flows far away!"

But a cunning man was the cobbler;
He could call the birds from the
trees,
Charm the black snake out of the
ledges,
And bring back the swarming bees.

All the virtues of herbs and metals,
All the lore of the woods, he knew,
And the arts of the Old World min-
gled
With the marvels of the New. 80

Well he knew the tricks of magic,
And the lapstone on his knee
Had the gift of the Mormon's goggles
Or the stone of Doctor Dee.

For the mighty master Agrippa
Wrought it with spell and rhyme
From a fragment of mystic moonstone
In the tower of Netesheim.

To a cobbler Minnesinger
The marvellous stone gave he, — 90
And he gave it, in turn, to Keezar,
Who brought it over the sea.

He held up that mystic lapstone,
He held it up like a lens,
And he counted the long years coming
By twenties and by tens.

"One hundred years," quoth Keezar,
"And fifty have I told:
Now open the new before me,
And shut me out the old!" 100

Like a cloud of mist, the blackness
Rolled from the magic stone,
And a marvellous picture mingled
The unknown and the known.

Still ran the stream to the river,
And river and ocean joined;
And there were the bluffs and the blue
sea-line,
And cold north hills behind.

But the mighty forest was broken
 By many a steepled town, ¹¹⁰
 By many a white-walled farm-house,
 And many a garner brown.

Turning a score of mill-wheels,
 The stream no more ran free;
 White sails on the winding river,
 White sails on the far-off sea.

Below in the noisy village
 The flags were floating gay,
 And shone on a thousand faces
 The light of a holiday. ¹²⁰

Swiftly the rival ploughmen
 Turned the brown earth from their
 shares;
 Here were the farmer's treasures,
 There were the craftman's wares.

Golden the goodwife's butter,
 Ruby her currant-wine;
 Grand were the strutting turkeys,
 Fat were the beeves and swine.

Yellow and red were the apples,
 And the ripe pears russet-brown, ¹³⁰
 And the peaches had stolen blushes
 From the girls who shook them
 down.

And with blooms of hill and wildwood,
 That shame the toil of art,
 Mingled the gorgeous blossoms
 Of the garden's tropic heart.

"What is it I see?" said Keezar:
 "Am I here, or am I there?
 Is it a fête at Bingen?
 Do I look on Frankfort fair? ¹⁴⁰

"But where are the clowns and pup-
 pets,
 And imps with horns and tail?
 And where are the Rhenish flagons?
 And where is the foaming ale?"

"Strange things, I know, will hap-
 pen,—
 Strange things the Lord permits;
 But that doughty folk should be jolly
 Puzzles my poor old wits.

"Here are smiling many faces,
 And the maiden's step is gay; ¹⁵⁰

Nor sad by thinking, nor mad by
 drinking,
 Nor mopes, nor fools, are they.

"Here's pleasure without regretting,
 And good without abuse,
 The holiday and the bridal
 Of beauty and of use.

"Here's a priest and there is a Quaker,
 Do the cat and dog agree?
 Have they burned the stocks for oven-
 wood?
 Have they cut down the gallows-
 tree? ¹⁶⁰

"Would the old folk know their chil-
 dren?
 Would they own the graceless town,
 With never a ranter to worry
 And never a witch to drown?"

Loud laughed the cobbler Keezar,
 Laughed like a school-boy gay;
 Tossing his arms above him,
 The lapstone rolled away.

It rolled down the rugged hillside,
 It spun like a wheel bewitched, ¹⁷⁰
 It plunged through the leaning wil-
 lows,
 And into the river pitched.

There, in the deep, dark water,
 The magic stone lies still,
 Under the leaning willows
 In the shadow of the hill.

But oft the idle fisher
 Sits on the shadowy bank,
 And his dreams make marvellous pic-
 tures ¹⁷⁰
 Where the wizard's lapstone sank.

And still, in the summer twilights,
 When the river seems to run
 Out from the inner glory,
 Warm with the melted sun,

The weary mill-girl lingers
 Beside the charmed stream,
 And the sky and the golden water
 Shape and color her dream.

Fair wave the sunset gardens,
 The rosy signals fly; ¹⁹⁰

Her homestead beckons from the
cloud,
And love goes sailing by.

AMY WENTWORTH

TO WILLIAM BRADFORD

As they who watch by sick-beds find
relief
Unwittingly from the great stress of
grief
And anxious care, in fantasies out-
wrought
From the hearth's embers flickering
low, or caught
From whispering wind, or tread of
passing feet,
Or vagrant memory calling up some
sweet
Snatch of old song or romance, whence
or why
They scarcely know or ask, — so, thou
and I,
Nursed in the faith that Truth alone is
strong
In the endurance which outwearies
Wrong, 10
With meek persistence baffling brutal
force,
And trusting God against the uni-
verse, —
We, doomed to watch a strife we may
not share
With other weapons than the patriot's
prayer,
Yet owning, with full hearts and
moistened eyes,
The awful beauty of self-sacrifice,
And wrung by keenest sympathy for
all
Who give their loved ones for the liv-
ing wall
"Twixt law and treason, — in this evil
day
May haply find, through automatic
play 20
Of pen and pencil, solace to our
pain,
And hearten others with the strength
we gain.
I know it has been said our times re-
quire
No play of art, nor dalliance with the
lyre,

No weak essay with Fancy's chloro-
form
To calm the hot, mad pulses of the
storm,
But the stern war-blast rather, such as
sets
The battle's teeth of serried bayonets,
And pictures grim as Vernet's. Yet
with these
Some softer tints may blend, and
milder keys 30
Relieve the storm-stunned ear. Let
us keep sweet,
If so we may, our hearts, even while
we eat
The bitter harvest of our own device
And half a century's moral cowardice,
As Nürnberg sang while Wittenberg
defied,
And Kranach painted by his Luther's
side,
And through the war-march of the
Puritan
The silver stream of Marvell's music
ran,
So let the household melodies be sung,
The pleasant pictures on the wall be
hung, — 40
So let us hold against the hosts of
night
And slavery all our vantage-ground of
light.
Let Treason boast its savagery, and
shake
From its flag-folds its symbol rattle-
snake,
Nurse its fine arts, lay human skins in
tan,
And carve its pipe-bowls from the
bones of man,
And make the tale of Fijian banquets
dull
By drinking whiskey from a loyal
skull, —
But let us guard, till this sad war shall
cease,
(God grant it soon!) the graceful arts
of peace: 50
No foes are conquered who the victors
teach
Their vandal manners and barbaric
speech.
And while, with hearts of thankful-
ness, we bear
Of the great common burden our full
share,

Let none upbraid us that the waves
 entice
 Thy sea-dipped pencil, or some quaint
 device,
 Rhythmic and sweet, beguiles my pen
 away
 From the sharp strifes and sorrows of
 to-day.
 Thus, while the east-wind keen from
 Labrador
 Sings in the leafless elms, and from the
 shore ⁶⁰
 Of the great sea comes the monoto-
 nous roar
 Of the long-breaking surf, and all the
 sky
 Is gray with cloud, home-bound and
 dull, I try
 To time a simple legend to the sounds
 Of winds in the woods, and waves on
 pebbled bounds, —
 A song for oars to chime with, such as
 might
 Be sung by tired sea-painters, who at
 night
 Look from their hemlock camps, by
 quiet cove
 Or beach, moon-lighted, on the waves
 they love.
 (So hast thou looked, when level sun-
 set lay ⁷⁰
 On the calm bosom of some Eastern
 bay,
 And all the spray-moist rocks and
 waves that rolled
 Up the white sand-slopes flashed with
 ruddy gold.)
 Something it has — a flavor of the
 sea,
 And the sea's freedom — which re-
 minds of thee.
 Its faded picture, dimly smiling
 down
 From the blurred fresco of the ancient
 town,
 I have not touched with warmer tints
 in vain,
 If, in this dark, sad year, it steals one
 thought from pain.

Her fingers shame the ivory keys ⁸⁰
 They dance so light along;
 The bloom upon her parted lips
 Is sweeter than the song.

O perfumed suitor, spare thy smiles!
 Her thoughts are not of thee;
 She better loves the salted wind,
 The voices of the sea.

Her heart is like an outbound ship
 That at its anchor swings;
 The murmur of the stranded shell ⁹⁰
 Is in the song she sings.

She sings, and, smiling, hears her
 praise,
 But dreams the while of one
 Who watches from his sea-blown deck
 The icebergs in the sun.

She questions all the winds that blow,
 And every fog-wreath dim,
 And bids the sea-birds flying north
 Bear messages to him.

She speeds them with the thanks of
 men ¹⁰⁰
 He perilled life to save,
 And grateful prayers like holy oil
 To smooth for him the wave.

Brown Viking of the fishing-smack!
 Fair toast of all the town! —
 The skipper's jerkin ill beseems
 The lady's silken gown!

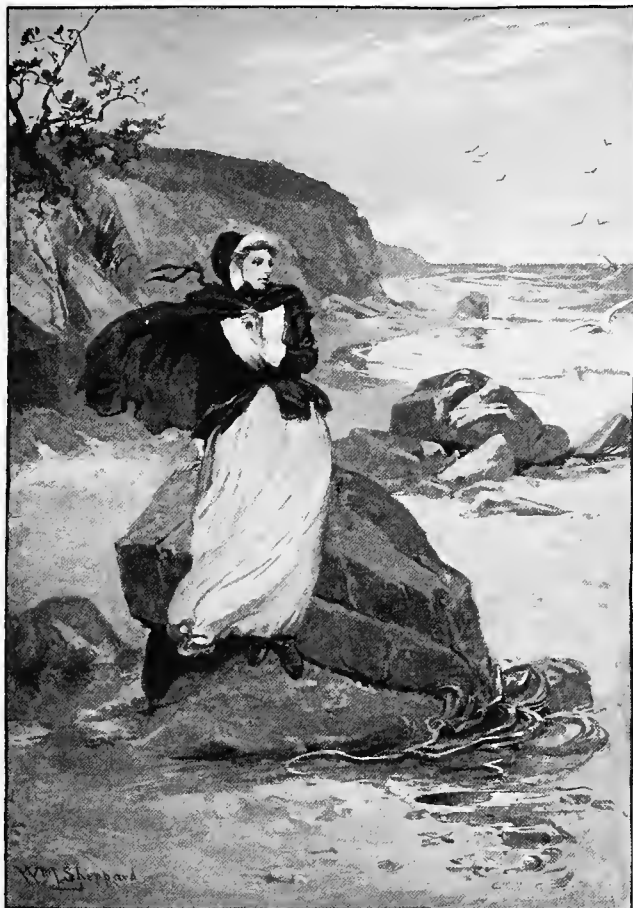
But ne'er shall Amy Wentworth wear
 For him the blush of shame
 Who dares to set his manly gifts ¹¹⁰
 Against her ancient name.

The stream is brightest at its spring,
 And blood is not like wine;
 Nor honored less than he who heirs
 Is he who founds a line.

Full lightly shall the prize be won,
 If love be Fortune's spur;
 And never maiden stoops to him
 Who lifts himself to her.

Her home is brave in Jaffrey Street,
 With stately stairways worn ¹²¹
 By feet of old Colonial knights
 And ladies gentle-born.

Still green about its ample porch
 The English ivy twines,
 Trained back to show in English oak
 The herald's craven signs.



"She looks across the harbor-bar
To see the white gulls fly"

And on her, from the wainscot old,
Ancestral faces frown, — 129
And this has worn the soldier's sword,
And that the judge's gown.

But, strong of will and proud as they,
She walks the gallery floor
As if she trod her sailor's deck
By stormy Labrador!

The sweetbrier blooms on Kitteryside,
And green are Elliot's bowers;
Her garden is the pebbled beach,
The mosses are her flowers.

She looks across the harbor-bar 140
To see the white gulls fly;
His greeting from the Northern sea
Is in their clanging cry.

She hums a song, and dreams that he,
As in its romance old,
Shall homeward ride with silken sails
And masts of beaten gold!

Oh, rank is good, and gold is fair,
And high and low mate ill;
But love has never known a law ¹⁵⁰
Beyond its own sweet will!

THE COUNTESS

TO ELIAS WELD

I KNOW not, Time and Space so inter-
vene,
Whether, still waiting with a trust se-
rene,
Thou bearest up thy fourscore years
and ten,
Or, called at last, art now Heaven's
citizen;
But, here or there, a pleasant thought
of thee,
Like an old friend, all day has been
with me.
The shy, still boy, for whom thy
kindly hand
Smoothed his hard pathway to the
wonderland
Of thought and fancy, in gray man-
hood yet
Keeps green the memory of his early
debt. ¹⁰
To-day, when truth and falsehood
speak their words
Through hot-lipped cannon and the
teeth of swords,
Listening with quickened heart and
ear intent
To each sharp clause of that stern
argument,
I still can hear at times a softer
note
Of the old pastoral music round me
float,
While through the hot gleam of our
civil strife
Looms the green mirage of a simpler
life.
As, at his alien post, the sentinel
Drops the old bucket in the home-
stead well, ²⁰
And hears old voices in the winds that
toss

Above his head the live-oak's beard of
moss,
So, in our trial-time, and under skies
Shadowed by swords like Islam's para-
dise,
I wait and watch, and let my fancy
stray
To milder scenes and youth's Arca-
dian day;
And howsoe'er the pencil dipped in
dreams
Shades the brown woods or tints the
sunset streams,
The country doctor in the foreground
seems,
Whose ancient sulky down the village
lanes ³⁰
Dragged, like a war-car, captive ills
and pains.
I could not paint the scenery of my
song,
Mindless of one who looked thereon so
long;
Who, night and day, on duty's lonely
round,
Made friends o' the woods and rocks,
and knew the sound
Of each small brook, and what the
hillside trees
Said to the winds that touched their
leafy keys;
Who saw so keenly and so well could
paint
The village-folk, with all their hu-
mors quaint, —
The parson ambling on his wall-eyed
roan, ⁴⁰
Grave and erect, with white hair back-
ward blown;
The tough old boatman, half amphibi-
ous grown;
The muttering witch-wife of the gos-
sip's tale,
And the loud straggler levying his
blackmail, —
Old customs, habits, superstitions,
fears,
All that lies buried under fifty years.
To thee, as is most fit, I bring my
lay,
And, grateful, own the debt I cannot
pay.

Over the wooded northern ridge,
Between its houses brown, ⁵⁰

To the dark tunnel of the bridge
The street comes straggling down.

You catch a glimpse, through birch
and pine,
Of gable, roof, and porch,
The tavern with its swinging sign,
The sharp horn of the church.

The river's steel-blue crescent curves
To meet, in ebb and flow,
The single broken wharf that serves
For sloop and gundelow. 60

With salt sea-scents along its shores
The heavy hay-boats crawl,
The long antennæ of their oars
In lazy rise and fall.

Along the gray abutment's wall
The idle shad-net dries;
The toll-man in his cobbler's stall
Sits smoking with closed eyes.

You hear the pier's low undertone
Of waves that chafe and gnaw; 70
You start, — a skipper's horn is
blown
To raise the creaking draw.

At times a blacksmith's anvil sounds
With slow and sluggard beat,
Or stage-coach on its dusty rounds
Wakes up the staring street.

A place for idle eyes and ears,
A cobwebbed nook of dreams;
Left by the stream whose waves are
years
The stranded village seems. 80

And there, like other moss and rust,
The native dweller clings,
And keeps, in uninquiring trust,
The old, dull round of things.

The fisher drops his patient lines,
The farmer sows his grain,
Content to hear the murmuring
pines
Instead of railroad train.

Go where, along the tangled steep
That slopes against the west, 90
The hamlet's buried idlers sleep
In still profounder rest.

Throw back the locust's flowery
plume,
The birch's pale-green scarf,
And break the web of brier and bloom
From name and epitaph.

A simple muster-roll of death,
Of pomp and romance shorn,
The dry, old names that common
breath
Has cheapened and outworn. 100

Yet pause by one low mound, and
part
The wild vines o'er it laced,
And read the words by rustic art
Upon its headstone traced.

Haply yon white-haired villager
Of fourscore years can say
What means the noble name of her
Who sleeps with common clay.

An exile from the Gascon land
Found refuge here and rest, 110
And loved, of all the village band,
Its fairest and its best.

He knelt with her on Sabbath morns,
He worshipped through her eyes,
And on the pride that doubts and
scorns
Stole in her faith's surprise.

Her simple daily life he saw
By homeliest duties tried,
In all things by an untaught law
Of fitness justified. 120

For her his rank aside he laid;
He took the hue and tone
Of lowly life and toil, and made
Her simple ways his own.

Yet still, in gay and careless ease,
To harvest-field or dance
He brought the gentle courtesies,
The nameless grace of France.

And she who taught him love not less
From him she loved in turn 130
Caught in her sweet unconsciousness
What love is quick to learn.

Each grew to each in pleased accord,
Nor knew the gazing town

If she looked upward to her lord
Or he to her looked down.

How sweet, when summer's day was
o'er,
His violin's mirth and wail,
The walk on pleasant Newbury's
shore,
The river's moonlit sail! 140

Ah! life is brief, though love be long;
The altar and the bier,
The burial hymn and bridal song,
Were both in one short year!

Her rest is quiet on the hill,
Beneath the locust's bloom;
Far off her lover sleeps as still
Within his scutcheoned tomb.

The Gascon lord, the village maid,
In death still clasp their hands; 150
The love that levels rank and grade
Unites their severed lands.

What matter whose the hillside grave,
Or whose the blazoned stone?
Forever to her western wave
Shall whisper blue Garonne!

O Love! — so hallowing every soil
That gives thy sweet flower room,
Wherever, nursed by ease or toil,
The human heart takes bloom! —

Plant of lost Eden, from the sod 161
Of sinful earth unripen,
White blossom of the trees of God
Dropped down to us from heaven! —

This tangled waste of mound and
stone
Is holy for thy sake;
A sweetness which is all thy own
Breathes out from fern and brake.

And while ancestral pride shall twine
The Gascon's tomb with flowers, 170
Fall sweetly here, O song of mine,
With summer's bloom and show-
ers!

And let the lines that severed seem
Unite again in thee,
As western wave and Gallic stream
Are mingled in one sea!

AMONG THE HILLS

PRELUDE

ALONG the roadside, like the flowers of
gold
That tawny Incas for their gardens
wrought,
Heavy with sunshine droops the golden-rod,
And the red pennons of the cardinal-
flowers
Hang motionless upon their upright
staves.
The sky is hot and hazy, and the wind,
Wing-weary with its long flight from
the south,
Unfelt; yet, closely scanned, yon
maple leaf
With faintest motion, as one stirs in
dreams,
Confesses it. The locust by the wall 10
Stabs the noon-silence with his sharp
alarm.
A single hay-cart down the dusty road
Creaks slowly, with its driver fast
asleep
On the load's top. Against the neigh-
boring hill,
Huddled along the stone wall's shady
side,
The sheep show white, as if a snow-
drift still
Defied the dog-star. Through the open
door
A drowsy smell of flowers — gray
heliotrope,
And white sweet clover, and shy mig-
nonette —
Comes faintly in, and silent chorus
lends 20
To the pervading symphony of peace.
No time is this for hands long over-
worn
To task their strength: and (unto
Him be praise
Who giveth quietness!) the stress
and strain
Of years that did the work of cen-
turies
Have ceased, and we can draw our
breath once more
Freely and full. So, as yon harvesters
Make glad their nooning underneath
the elms

With tale and riddle and old snatch of
 song,
 I lay aside grave themes, and idly
 turn 30
 The leaves of memory's sketch-book,
 dreaming o'er
 Old summer pictures of the quiet hills,
 And human life, as quiet, at their feet.

And yet not idly all. A farmer's son,
 Proud of field-lore and harvest craft,
 and feeling
 All their fine possibilities, how rich
 And restful even poverty and toil
 Become when beauty, harmony, and
 love
 Sit at their humble hearth as angels
 sat
 At evening in the patriarch's tent,
 when man 40
 Makes labor noble, and his farmer's
 frock
 The symbol of a Christian chivalry
 Tender and just and generous to her
 Who clothes with grace all duty; still,
 I know
 Too well the picture has another
 side, —
 How wearily the grind of toil goes on
 Where love is wanting, how the eye
 and ear
 And heart are starved amidst the
 plentitude
 Of nature, and how hard and colorless
 Is life without an atmosphere. I look
 Across the lapse of half a century, 51
 And call to mind old homesteads,
 where no flower
 Told that the spring had come, but
 evil weeds,
 Nightshade and rough-leaved burdock
 in the place
 Of the sweet doorway greeting of the
 rose
 And honeysuckle, where the house
 walls seemed
 Blistering in sun, without a tree or
 vine
 To cast the tremulous shadow of its
 leaves
 Across the curtainless windows, from
 whose panes
 Fluttered the signal rags of shiftless-
 ness. 60
 Within, the cluttered kitchen floor,
 unwashed

(Broom-clean I think they called it);
 the best room
 Stifling with cellar-damp, shut from
 the air
 In hot midsummer, bookless, picture-
 less
 Save the inevitable sampler hung
 Over the fireplace, or a mourning
 piece,
 A green-haired woman, peony-
 cheeked, beneath
 Impossible willows; the wide-throated
 hearth
 Bristling with faded pine-boughs half
 concealing
 The piled-up rubbish at the chimney's
 back; 70
 And, in sad keeping with all things
 about them,
 Shrill, querulous women, sour and
 sullen men,
 Untidy, loveless, old before their time,
 With scarce a human interest save
 their own
 Monotonous round of small econom-
 ies,
 Or the poor scandal of the neighbor-
 hood;
 Blind to the beauty everywhere re-
 vealed,
 Treading the May-flowers with re-
 gardless feet;
 For them the song-sparrow and the
 bobolink
 Sang not, nor winds made music in
 the leaves; 80
 For them in vain October's holocaust
 Burned, gold and crimson, over all the
 hills,
 The sacramental mystery of the
 woods.
 Church-goers, fearful of the unseen
 Powers,
 But grumbling over pulpit-tax and
 pew-rent,
 Saving, as shrewd economists, their
 souls
 And winter pork with the least pos-
 sible outlay
 Of salt and sanctity; in daily life
 Showing as little actual comprehen-
 sion
 Of Christian charity and love and
 duty, 90
 As if the Sermon on the Mount had
 been

Outdated like a last year's almanac:
 Rich in broad woodlands and in half-
 tilled fields,
 And yet so pinched and bare and com-
 fortless,
 The veriest straggler limping on his
 rounds,
 The sun and air his sole inheritance,
 Laughed at a poverty that paid its
 taxes,
 And hugged his rags in self-compla-
 cency!

Not such should be the homesteads
 of a land
 Where whose wisely wills and acts
 may dwell ¹⁰⁰
 As king and lawgiver, in broad-acred
 state,
 With beauty, art, taste, culture,
 books, to make
 His hour of leisure richer than a life
 Of fourscore to the barons of old time.
 Our yeoman should be equal to his
 home
 Set in the fair, green valleys, purple
 walled,
 A man to match his mountains, not to
 creep
 Dwarfed and abased below them. I
 would fain
 In this light way (of which I needs
 must own
 With the knife-grinder of whom Can-
 ning sings, ¹¹⁰
 "Story, God bless you! I have none
 to tell you!")
 Invite the eye to see and heart to feel
 The beauty and the joy within their
 reach, —
 Home, and home loves, and the beati-
 tudes
 Of nature free to all. Haply in years
 That wait to take the places of our
 own,
 Heard where some breezy balcony
 looks down
 On happy homes, or where the lake in
 the moon
 Sleeps dreaming of the mountains,
 fair as Ruth,
 In the old Hebrew pastoral, at the
 feet ¹²⁰
 Of Boaz, even this simple lay of mine
 May seem the burden of a prophecy,
 Finding its late fulfilment in a change

Slow as the oak's growth, lifting man-
 hood up
 Through broader culture, finer man-
 ners, love,
 And reverence, to the level of the
 hills.

O Golden Age, whose light is of the
 dawn,
 And not of sunset, forward, not be-
 hind,
 Flood the new heavens and earth, and
 with thee bring ¹²⁰
 All the old virtues, whatsoever things
 Are pure and honest and of good re-
 pute,
 But add thereto whatever bard has
 sung
 Or seer has told of when in trance and
 dream
 They saw the Happy Isles of pro-
 phecy!
 Let Justice hold her scale, and Truth
 divide
 Between the right and wrong; but
 give the heart
 The freedom of its fair inheritance;
 Let the poor prisoner, cramped and
 starved so long,
 At Nature's table feast his ear and eye
 With joy and wonder; let all har-
 monies ¹⁴⁰
 Of sound, form, color, motion, wait
 upon
 The princely guest, whether in soft
 attire
 Of leisure clad, or the coarse frock of
 toil,
 And, lending life to the dead form of
 faith,
 Give human nature reverence for the
 sake
 Of One who bore it, making it divine
 With the ineffable tenderness of God;
 Let common need, the brotherhood of
 prayer,
 The heirship of an unknown destiny,
 The unsolved mystery round about us,
 make ¹⁵⁰
 A man more precious than the gold of
 Ophir.
 Sacred, inviolate, unto whom all
 things
 Should minister, as outward types and
 signs
 Of the eternal beauty which fulfils



“ And once again Chocorua’s horn
Of shadow pierced the water.”

The one great purpose of creation, Love,
The sole necessity of Earth and Heaven!

For weeks the clouds had raked the hills

And vexed the vales with raining,
And all the woods were sad with mist,
And all the brooks complaining. 160

At last, a sudden night-storm tore
The mountain veils asunder,
And swept the valleys clean before
The besom of the thunder.

Through Sandwich notch the west-
wind sang

Good morrow to the cotter;
And once again Chocorua’s horn
Of shadow pierced the water.

Above his broad lake Ossipee,
Once more the sunshine wear-
ing,

Stooped, tracing on that silver shield¹⁷⁰
His grim armorial bearing.

Clear drawn against the hard blue
sky,
The peaks had winter’s keenness;

- And, close on autumn's frost, the vales
Had more than June's fresh green-
ness.
- Again the sodden forest floors
With golden lights were checkered,
Once more rejoicing leaves in wind 179
And sunshine danced and flickered.
- It was as if the summer's late
Atoning for its sadness
Had borrowed every season's charm
To end its days in gladness.
- I call to mind those banded vales
Of shadow and of shining,
Through which, my hostess at my side,
I drove in day's declining.
- We held our sideling way above
The river's whitening shallows, 190
By homesteads old, with wide-flung
barns
Swept through and through by
swallows;
- By maple orchards, belts of pine
And larches climbing darkly
The mountain slopes, and, over all,
The great peaks rising starkly.
- You should have seen that long hill-
range
With gaps of brightness riven, —
How through each pass and hollow
streamed
The purpling lights of heaven, — 200
- Rivers of gold-mist flowing down
From far celestial fountains, —
The great sun flaming through the rifts
Beyond the wall of mountains!
- We paused at last where home-bound
cows
Brought down the pasture's trea-
sure,
And in the barn the rhythmic flails
Beat out a harvest measure.
- We heard the night-hawk's sullen
plunge,
The crow his tree-mates calling: 210
The shadows lengthening down the
slopes
About our feet were falling.
- And through them smote the level sun
In broken lines of splendor,
Touched the gray rocks and made the
green
Of the shorn grass more tender.
- The maples bending o'er the gate,
Their arch of leaves just tinted
With yellow warmth, the golden glow
Of coming autumn hinted. 220
- Keen white between the farm-house
showed,
And smiled on porch and trellis,
The fair democracy of flowers
That equals cot and palace.
- And weaving garlands for her dog,
'Twixt chidings and caresses,
A human flower of childhood shook
The sunshine from her tresses.
- On either hand we saw the signs
Of fancy and of shrewdness, 230
Where taste had wound its arms of vines
Round thrift's uncomely rudeness.
- The sun-brown farmer in his frock
Shook hands, and called to Mary:
Bare-armed, as Juno might, she came,
White-aproned from her dairy.
- Her air, her smile, her motions, told
Of womanly completeness;
A music as of household songs
Was in her voice of sweetness. 240
- Not fair alone in curve and line,
But something more and better,
The secret charm eluding art,
Its spirit, not its letter; —
- An inborn grace that nothing lacked
Of culture or appliance. —
The warmth of genial courtesy,
The calm of self-reliance.
- Before her queenly womanhood
How dared our hostess utter 250
The paltry errand of her need
To buy her fresh-churned butter?
- She led the way with housewife pride,
Her goodly store disclosing,
Full tenderly the golden balls
With practised hands disposing.

Then, while along the western hills
 We watched the changeful glory
 Of sunset, on our homeward way,
 I heard her simple story. 260

The early crickets sang; the stream
 Plashed through my friend's narra-
 tion:
 Her rustic patois of the hills
 Lost in my free translation.

"More wise," she said, "than those
 who swarm
 Our hills in middle summer,
 She came, when June's first roses
 blow,
 To greet the early comer.

"From school and ball and rout she
 came,
 The city's fair, pale daughter, 270
 To drink the wine of mountain air
 Beside the Bearcamp Water.

"Her step grew firmer on the hills
 That watch our homesteads over;
 On cheek and lip, from summer fields,
 She caught the bloom of clover.

"For health comes sparkling in the
 streams
 From cool Chocorua stealing:
 There's iron in our Northern winds;
 Our pines are trees of healing. 280

"She sat beneath the broad-armed
 elms
 That skirt the mowing meadow,
 And watched the gentle west-wind
 weave
 The grass with shine and shadow.

"Beside her, from the summer heat
 To share her grateful screening,
 With forehead bared, the farmer stood,
 Upon his pitchfork leaning.

"Framed in its damp, dark locks, his
 face 289
 Had nothing mean or common, —
 Strong, manly, true, the tenderness
 And pride beloved of woman.

"She looked up, glowing with the
 health
 The country air had brought her,

And, laughing, said: 'You lack a wife,
 Your mother lacks a daughter.

"To mend your frock and bake your
 bread
 You do not need a lady:
 Be sure among these brown old homes
 Is some one waiting ready, — 300

"Some fair, sweet girl with skilful
 hand
 And cheerful heart for treasure,
 Who never played with ivory keys,
 Or danced the polka's measure.'

"He bent his black brows to a frown,
 He set his white teeth tightly.
 'Tis well,' he said, 'for one like you
 To choose for me so lightly.

"You think because my life is rude
 I take no note of sweetness: 310
 I tell you love has naught to do
 With meetness or unmeetness.

"Itself its best excuse, it asks
 No leave of pride or fashion
 When silken zone or homespun frock
 It stirs with throbs of passion.

"You think me deaf and blind: you
 bring
 Your winning graces hither
 As free as if from cradle-time
 We two had played together. 320

"You tempt me with your laughing
 eyes,
 Your cheek of sundown's blushes,
 A motion as of waving grain,
 A music as of thrushes.

"The plaything of your summer
 sport,
 The spells you weave around me
 You cannot at your will undo,
 Nor leave me as you found me.

"You go as lightly as you came,
 Your life is well without me; 330
 What care you that these hills will
 close
 Like prison-walls about me?

"No mood is mine to seek a wife,
 Or daughter for my mother:

- Who loves you loses in that love
All power to love another!
- "I dare your pity or your scorn,
With pride your own exceeding;
I fling my heart into your lap
Without a word of pleading.' 340
- "She looked up in his face of pain
So archly, yet so tender:
'And if I lend you mine,' she said,
'Will you forgive the lender?"
- "Nor frock nor tan can hide the
man;
And see you not, my farmer,
How weak and fond a woman waits
Behind the silken armor?"
- "I love you: on that love alone,
And not my worth, presuming, 350
Will you not trust for summer fruit
The tree in May-day blooming?"
- "Alone the hangbird overhead,
His hair-swinged cradle straining,
Looked down to see love's miracle, —
The giving that is gaining.
- "And so the farmer found a wife,
His mother found a daughter:
There looks no happier home than
hers
On pleasant Bearcamp Water. 360
- "Flowers spring to blossom where she
walks
The careful ways of duty;
Our hard, stiff lines of life with her
Are flowing curves of beauty.
- "Our homes are cheerier for her
sake,
Our door-yards brighter blooming,
And all about the social air
Is sweeter for her coming.
- "Unspoken homilies of peace
Her daily life is preaching; 370
The still refreshment of the dew
Is her unconscious teaching.
- "And never tenderer hand than hers
Unknits the brow of ailing;
Her garments to the sick man's ear
Have music in their trailing.
- "And when, in pleasant harvest
moons,
The youthful huskers gather,
Or sleigh-drives on the mountain ways
Defy the winter weather, — 380
- "In sugar-camps, when south and
warm
The winds of March are blowing,
And sweetly from its thawing veins
The maple's blood is flowing, —
- "In summer, where some lilled pond
Its virgin zone is baring,
Or where the ruddy autumn fire
Lights up the apple-paring, —
- "The coarseness of a ruder time
Her finer mirth displaces, 390
A subtler sense of pleasure fills
Each rustic sport she graces.
- "Her presence lends its warmth and
health
To all who come before it.
If woman lost us Eden, such
As she alone restore it.
- "For larger life and wiser aims
The farmer is her debtor;
Who holds to his another's heart
Must needs be worse or better. 400
- "Through her his civic service shows
A purer-toned ambition;
No double consciousness divides
The man and politician.
- "In party's doubtful ways he trusts
Her instincts to determine;
At the loud polls, the thought of her
Recalls Christ's Mountain Sermon.
- "He owns her logic of the heart,
And wisdom of unreason, 410
Supplying, while he doubts and
weighs,
The needed word in season.
- "He sees with pride her richer thought,
Her fancy's freer ranges;
And love thus deepened to respect
Is proof against all changes.
- "And if she walks at ease in ways
His feet are slow to travel,

And if she reads with cultured eyes
What his may scarce unravel, 420

"Still clearer, for her keener sight
Of beauty and of wonder,
He learns the meaning of the hills
He dwelt from childhood under.

"And higher, warmed with summer
lights,
Or winter-crowned and hoary,
The ridged horizon lifts for him
Its inner veils of glory.

"He has his own free, bookless lore,
The lessons nature taught him, 430
The wisdom which the woods and
hills
And toiling men have brought him:

"The steady force of will whereby
Her flexile grace seems sweeter;
The sturdy counterpoise which makes
Her woman's life completer;

"A latent fire of soul which lacks
No breath of love to fan it;
And wit, that, like his native brooks
Plays over solid granite. 440

"How dwarfed against his manli-
ness
She sees the poor pretension,
The wants, the aims, the follies, born
Of fashion and convention!

"How life behind its accidents
Stands strong and self-sustaining,
The human fact transcending all
The losing and the gaining.

"And so in grateful interchange
Of teacher and of hearer, 450
Their lives their true distinctness keep
While daily drawing nearer.

"And if the husband or the wife
In home's strong light discovers
Such slight defaults as failed to meet
The blinded eyes of lovers,

"Why need we care to ask? — who
dreams
Without their thorns of roses,
Or wonders that the truest steel
The readiest spark discloses? 460

"For still in mutual sufferance lies
The secret of true living;
Love scarce is love that never knows
The sweetness of forgiving.

"We send the Squire to General
Court,
He takes his young wife thither;
No prouder man election day
Rides through the sweet June
weather.

"He sees with eyes of manly trust
All hearts to her inclining; 470
Not less for him his household light
That others share its shining."

Thus, while my hostess spake, there
grew
Before me, warmer tinted
And outlined with a tenderer grace,
The picture that she hinted.

The sunset smouldered as we drove
Beneath the deep hill-shadows.
Below us wreaths of white fog walked
Like ghosts the haunted meadows.

Sounding the summer night, the
stars 481
Dropped down their golden plum-
mets;

The pale arc of the Northern lights
Rose o'er the mountain summits,

Until, at last, beneath its bridge,
We heard the Bearcamp flowing,
And saw across the mapled lawn
The welcome home-lights glowing.

And, musing on the tale I heard,
"T were well, thought I, if often 490
To rugged farm-life came the gift
To harmonize and soften;

If more and more we found the
truth
Of fact and fancy plighted,
And culture's charm and labor's
strength
In rural homes united, —

The simple life, the homely hearth,
With beauty's sphere surrounding,
And blessing toil where toil abounds
With graces more abounding. 500

THE DOLE OF JARL THORKELL

The land was pale with famine
And racked with fever-pain;
The frozen fiords were fishless,
The earth withheld her grain.

Men saw the boding Fylgja
Before them come and go,
And, through their dreams, the Ur-
darmoon
From west to east sailed slow!

Jarl Thorkell of Thevera
At Yule-time made his vow; 10
On Rykdal's holy Doom-stone
He slew to Frey his cow.

To bounteous Frey he slew her;
To Skuld, the younger Norn,
Who watches over birth and death,
He gave her calf unborn.

And his little gold-haired daughter
Took up the sprinkling-rod,
And smeared with blood the temple
And the wide lips of the god. 20

Hoarse below, the winter water
Ground its ice blocks o'er and o'er;
Jets of foam, like ghosts of dead waves,
Rose and fell along the shore.

The red torch of the Jokul,
Aloft in icy space,
Shone down on the bloody Horg-
stones
And the statue's carven face.

And closer round and grimmer
Beneath its baleful light 30
The Jotun shapes of mountains
Came crowding through the night.

The gray-haired Hersir trembled
As a flame by wind is blown;
A weird power moved his white lips,
And their voice was not his own!

"The Æsir thirst!" he muttered;
"The gods must have more blood
Before the tun shall blossom
Or fish shall fill the flood. 40

"The Æsir thirst and hunger,
And hence our blight and ban;

The mouths of the strong gods water
For the flesh and blood of man!

"Whom shall we give the strong
ones?
Not warriors, sword on thigh;
But let the nursing infant
And bedrid old man die."

"So be it!" cried the young men,
"There needs nor doubt nor parle."
But, knitting hard his red brows, 51
In silence stood the Jarl.

A sound of woman's weeping
At the temple door was heard,
But the old men bowed their white
heads,
And answered not a word.

Then the Dream-wife of Thingvalla,
A Vala young and fair,
Sang softly, stirring with her breath
The veil of her loose hair. 60

She sang: "The winds from Alfheim
Bring never sound of strife;
The gifts for Frey the meetest
Are not of death, but life.

"He loves the grass-green meadows,
The grazing kine's sweet breath;
He loathes your bloody Horg-stones,
Your gifts that smell of death.

"No wrong by wrong is righted,
No pain is cured by pain; 70
The blood that smokes from Doom-
rings
Falls back in redder rain.

"The gods are what you make them,
As earth shall Asgard prove;
And hate will come of hating,
And love will come of love.

"Make dole of skyr and black bread
That old and young may live;
And look to Frey for favor
When first like Frey you give. 80

"Even now o'er Njord's sea-mead-
ows
The summer dawn begins:
The tun shall have its harvest,
The fiord its glancing fins."

Then up and swore Jarl Thorkell:
 "By Gimli and by Hel,
 O Vala of Thingvalla,
 Thou singest wise and well!
 "Too dear the Æsir's favors
 Bought with our children's lives; 90
 Better die than shame in living
 Our mothers and our wives.

"The full shall give his portion
 To him who hath most need;
 Of curdled skyr and black bread,
 Be daily dole decreed."

He broke from off his neck-chain
 Three links of beaten gold;
 And each man, at his bidding,
 Brought gifts for young and old. 100

Then mothers nursed their children,
 And daughters fed their sires,
 And Health sat down with Plenty
 Before the next Yule fires.

The Horg-stones stand in Rykdal;
 The Doom-ring still remains;
 But the snows of a thousand winters
 Have washed away the stains.

Christ ruleth now; the Æsir
 Have found their twilight dim; 110
 And, wiser than she dreamed, of old
 The Vala sang of Him!

THE TWO RABBINS

THE Rabbi Nathan twoscore years
 and ten
 Walked blameless through the evil
 world, and then,
 Just as the almond blossomed in his
 hair,
 Met a temptation all too strong to
 bear,
 And miserably sinned. So, adding not
 Falsehood to guilt, he left his seat, and
 taught
 No more among the elders, but went
 out
 From the great congregation girt about
 With sackcloth, and with ashes on his
 head,
 Making his gray locks grayer. Long he
 prayed, 10

Smiting his breast; then, as the Book
 he laid
 Open before him for the Bath-Col's
 choice,
 Pausing to hear that Daughter of a
 Voice,
 Behold the royal preacher's words:
 "A friend
 Loveth at all times, yea, unto the end;
 And for the evil day thy brother
 lives."
 Marvelling, he said: "It is the Lord
 who gives
 Counsel in need. At Ecbatana dwells
 Rabbi Ben Isaac, who all men excels
 In righteousness and wisdom, as the
 trees 20
 Of Lebanon the small weeds that the
 bees
 Bow with their weight. I will arise,
 and lay
 My sins before him."

And he went his way
 Barefooted, fasting long, with many
 prayers;
 But even as one who, followed un-
 awares,
 Suddenly in the darkness feels a hand
 Thrill with its touch his own, and his
 cheek fanned
 By odors subtly sweet, and whispers
 near
 Of words he loathes, yet cannot choose
 but hear,
 So, while the Rabbi journeyed, chant-
 ing low 30
 The wail of David's penitential woe,
 Before him still the old temptation
 came,
 And mocked him with the motion and
 the shame
 Of such desires that, shuddering, he
 abhorred
 Himself; and, crying mightily to the
 Lord
 To free his soul and cast the demon
 out,
 Smote with his staff the blankness
 round about.

At length, in the low light of a spent
 day,
 The towers of Ecbatana far away
 Rose on the desert's rim; and Nathan.
 faint 40

And footsore, pausing where for some
 dead saint
 The faith of Islam reared a domed
 tomb,
 Saw some one kneeling in the shadow,
 whom
 He greeted kindly: "May the Holy
 One
 Answer thy prayers, O stranger!"
 whereupon
 The shape stood up with a loud cry,
 and then,
 Clapsed in each other's arms, the two
 gray men
 Wept, praising Him whose gracious
 providence
 Made their paths one. But straight-
 way, as the sense
 Of his transgression smote him, Na-
 than tore ⁵⁰
 Himself away: "O friend beloved, no
 more
 Worthy am I to touch thee, for I
 came,
 Foul from my sins, to tell thee all my
 shame.
 Haply thy prayers, since naught avail-
 eth mine,
 May purge my soul, and make it white
 like thine.
 Pity me, O Ben Isaac, I have sinned!"

Awestruck Ben Isaac stood. The des-
 ert wind
 Blew his long mantle backward, laying
 bare
 The mournful secret of his shirt of
 hair.
 "I too, O friend, if not in act," he
 said, ⁶⁰
 "In thought have verily sinned. Hast
 thou not read,
 'Better the eye should see than that
 desire
 Should wander?' Burning with a hid-
 den fire
 That tears and prayers quench not, I
 come to thee
 For pity and for help, as thou to me.
 Pray for me, O my friend!" But Na-
 than cried,
 "Pray thou for me, Ben Isaac!"

Side by side
 In the low sunshine by the turban
 stone

They knelt; each made his brother's
 woe his own,
 Forgetting, in the agony and stress ⁷⁰
 Of pitying love, his claim of selfish-
 ness;
 Peace, for his friend besought, his own
 became;
 His prayers were answered in another's
 name;
 And, when at last they rose up to em-
 brace,
 Each saw God's pardon in his brother's
 face!

Long after, when his headstone gath-
 ered moss,
 Traced on the targum-marge of On-
 kelos
 In Rabbi Nathan's hand these words
 were read:
 "*Hope not the cure of sin till Self is
 dead;*
*Forget it in love's service, and the
 debt ⁸⁰*
*Thou canst not pay the angels shall for-
 get;*
*Heaven's gate is shut to him who comes
 alone;*
*Save thou a soul, and it shall save thy
 own!"*

NOREMBEGA

Norembege, or Norimbege, is the name given by early French fishermen and explorers to a fabulous country south of Cape Breton, first discovered by Verrazzani in 1524. It was supposed to have a magnificent city of the same name on a great river, probably the Penobscot. The site of this barbaric city is laid down on a map published at Antwerp in 1570. In 1604 Champlain sailed in search of the Northern Eldorado, twenty-two leagues up the Penobscot from the Isle Haute. He supposed the river to be that of Norembege, but wisely came to the conclusion that those travellers who told of the great city had never seen it. He saw no evidences of anything like civilization, but mentions the finding of a cross, very old and mossy, in the woods.

THE winding way the serpent takes
 The mystic water took,
 From where, to count its beaded
 lakes,
 The forest sped its brook.

A narrow space 'twixt shore and shore
For sun or stars to fall,
While evermore, behind, before,
Closed in the forest wall.

The dim wood hiding underneath
Wan flowers without a name; 10
Life tangled with decay and death,
League after league the same.

Unbroken over swamp and hill
The rounding shadow lay,
Save where the river cut at will
A pathway to the day.

Beside that track of air and light,
Weak as a child unweaned,
At shut of day a Christian knight
Upon his henchman leaned. 20

The embers of the sunset's fires
Along the clouds burned down;
"I see," he said, "the domes and
spires
Of Norembeга town."

"Alack! the domes, O master mine,
Are golden clouds on high;
Yon spire is but the branchless pine
That cuts the evening sky."

"Oh, hush and hark! What sounds
are these
But chants and holy hymns?" 30
"Thou hear'st the breeze that stirs the
trees
Through all their leafy limbs."

"Is it a chapel bell that fills
The air with its low tone?"
"Thou hear'st the tinkle of the rills,
The insect's vesper drone."

"The Christ he praised! — He sets for
me
A blessed cross in sight!"
"Now, nay, 't is but yon blasted tree
With two gaunt arms outright!" 40

"Be it wind so sad or tree so stark,
It mattereth not, my knave;
Methinks to funeral hymns I hark,
The cross is for my grave!

"My life is sped; I shall not see
My home-set sails again;

The sweetest eyes of Normandie
Shall watch for me in vain.

"Yet onward still to ear and eye
The baffling marvel calls; 50
I fain would look before I die
On Norembeга's walls.

"So, haply, it shall be thy part
At Christian feet to lay
The mystery of the desert's heart
My dead hand plucked away.

"Leave me an hour of rest; go thou
And look from yonder heights;
Perchance the valley even now
Is starred with city lights." 60

The henchman climbed the nearest
hill,
He saw nor tower nor town,
But, through the drear woods, lone
and still,
The river rolling down.

He heard the stealthy feet of things
Whose shapes he could not see,
A flutter as of evil wings,
The fall of a dead tree.

The pines stood black against the
moon,
A sword of fire beyond; 70
He heard the wolf howl, and the
loon
Laugh from his reedy pond.

He turned him back: "O master dear,
We are but men misled;
And thou hast sought a city here
To find a grave instead."

"As God shall will! what matters
where
A true man's cross may stand,
So Heaven be o'er it here as there
In pleasant Norman land? 80

"These woods, perchance, no secret
hide
Of lordly tower and hall;
Yon river in its wanderings wide
Has washed no city wall;

"Yet mirrored in the sullen stream
The holy stars are given:

Is Norembege, then, a dream
Whose waking is in Heaven?

"No builded wonder of these lands
My weary eyes shall see; 90
A city never made with hands
Alone awaiteth me —

"*Urbs Syon mystica;* I see
Its mansions passing fair,
'*Conditæ cælo;*' let me be,
Dear Lord, a dweller there!"

Above the dying exile hung
The vision of the bard,
As faltered on his failing tongue
The song of good Bernard. 100

The henchman dug at dawn a grave
Beneath the hemlocks brown,
And to the desert's keeping gave
The lord of fief and town.

Years after, when the Sieur Champlain
Sailed up the unknown stream,
And Norembege proved again
A shadow and a dream,

He found the Norman's nameless
grave
Within the hemlock's shade, 110
And, stretching wide its arms to save,
The sign that God had made,

The cross-boughed tree that marked
the spot
And made it holy ground:
He needs the earthly city not
Who hath the heavenly found.

MIRIAM

TO FREDERICK A. P. BARNARD

THE years are many since, in youth
and hope,
Under the Charter Oak, our horoscope
We drew thick-studded with all favor-
ing stars.
Now, with gray beards, and faces
seamed with scars
From life's hard battle, meeting once
again,
We smile, half sadly, over dreams so
vain;

Knowing, at last, that it is not in man
Who walketh to direct his steps, or
plan

His permanent house of life. Alike we
loved
The muses' haunts, and all our fancies
moved 10
To measures of old song. How since
that day
Our feet have parted from the path
that lay
So fair before us! Rich, from lifelong
search

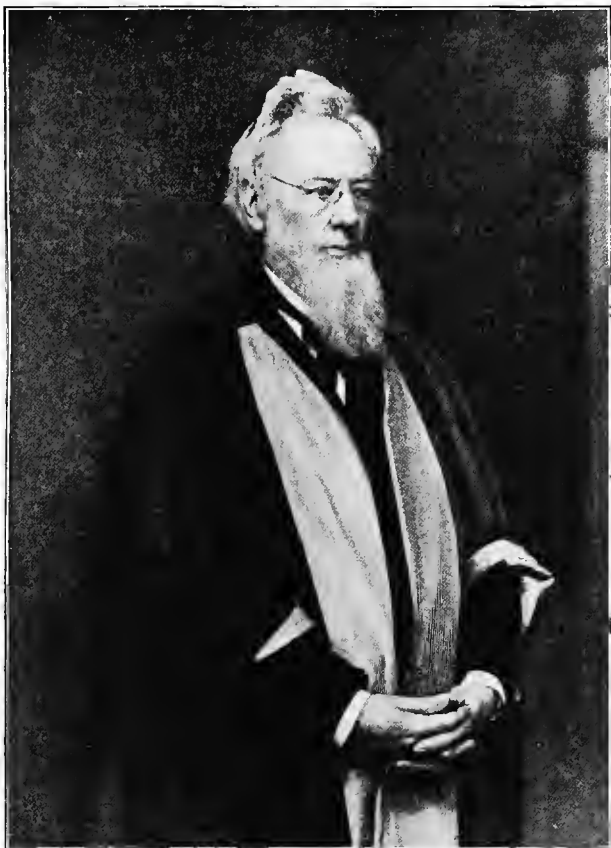
Of truth, within thy Academic porch
Thou sittest now, lord of a realm of
fact,

Thy servitors the sciences exact;
Still listening with thy hand on Na-
ture's keys,
To hear the Samian's spherul har-
monies
And rhythm of law. I, called from
dream and song,

Thank God! so early to a strife so
long, 20
That, ere it closed, the black, abun-
dant hair
Of boyhood rested silver-sown and
spare
On manhood's temples, now at sunset-
chime
Tread with fond feet the path of morn-
ing time.

And if perchance too late I linger
where
The flowers have ceased to blow, and
trees are bare,
Thou, wiser in thy choice, wilt scarcely
blame
The friend who shields his folly with
thy name.

One Sabbath day my friend and I,
After the meeting, quietly 30
Passed from the crowded village lanes,
White with dry dust for lack of rains,
And climbed the neighboring slope,
with feet
Slackened and heavy from the heat,
Although the day was wellnigh done,
And the low angle of the sun
Along the naked hillside cast
Our shadows as of giants vast.
We reached, at length, the topmost
swell,



Frederick A. P. Barnard

Whence, either way, the green turf
fell 40

In terraces of nature down
To fruit-hung orchards, and the town
With white, pretenceless houses, tall
Church-steeple, and, o'ershadowing
all,

Huge mills whose windows had the
look

Of eager eyes that ill could brook
The Sabbath rest. We traced the
track

Of the sea-seeking river back,
Glistening for miles above its mouth,
Through the long valley to the south,
And, looking eastward, cool to view,
Stretched the illimitable blue 52
Of ocean, from its curved coast-line;
Sombred and still the warm sunshine
Filled with pale gold-dust all the reach
Of slumberous woods from hill to
beach, —
Slanted on walls of thronged retreats
From city toil and dusty streets,

On grassy bluff, and dune of sand,
 And rocky islands miles from land; 60
 Touched the far-glancing sails, and
 showed
 White lines of foam where long waves
 flowed
 Dumb in the distance. In the north,
 Dim through their misty hair, looked
 forth
 The space-dwarfed mountains to the
 sea,
 From mystery to mystery!

So, sitting on that green hill-slope,
 We talked of human life, its hope
 And fear, and unsolved doubts, and
 what
 It might have been, and yet was
 not. 70
 And, when at last the evening air
 Grew sweeter for the bells of prayer
 Ringing in steeples far below,
 We watched the people churchward
 go,
 Each to his place, as if thereon
 The true shekinah only shone;
 And my friend queried how it came
 To pass that they who owned the
 same
 Great Master still could not agree
 To worship Him in company. 80
 Then, broadening in his thought, he
 ran
 Over the whole vast field of man, —
 The varying forms of faith and creed
 That somehow served the holders'
 need;
 In which, unquestioned, undenied,
 Uncounted millions lived and died;
 The bibles of the ancient folk,
 Through which the heart of nations
 spoke;
 The old moralities which lent
 To home its sweetness and content, 90
 And rendered possible to bear
 The life of peoples everywhere:
 And asked if we, who boast of light,
 Claim not a too exclusive right
 To truths which must for all be meant,
 Like rain and sunshine freely sent.
 In bondage to the letter still,
 We give it power to cramp and kill, —
 To tax God's fulness with a scheme
 Narrower than Peter's house-top
 dream, 100
 His wisdom and his love with plans

Poor and inadequate as man's.
 It must be that He witnesses
 Somehow to all men that He is:
 That something of His saving grace
 Reaches the lowest of the race,
 Who, through strange creed and rite,
 may draw
 The hints of a diviner law.
 We walk in clearer light; — but then,
 Is He not God? — are they not men?
 Are His responsibilities 111
 For us alone and not for these?

And I made answer: "Truth is one;
 And, in all lands beneath the sun,
 Whoso hath eyes to see may see
 The tokens of its unity.
 No scroll of creed its fulness wraps,
 We trace it not by school-boy maps,
 Free as the sun and air it is
 Of latitudes and boundaries. 120
 In Vedic verse, in dull Korán,
 Are messages of good to man;
 The angels to our Aryan sires
 Talked by the earliest household
 fires;
 The prophets of the elder day,
 The slant-eyed sages of Cathay,
 Read not the riddle all amiss
 Of higher life evolved from this.

"Nor doth it lessen what He taught,
 Or make the gospel Jesus brought 130
 Less precious, that His lips retold
 Some portion of that truth of old;
 Denying not the proven seers,
 The tested wisdom of the years;
 Confirming with His own impress
 The common law of righteousness.
 We search the world for truth; we
 cull
 The good, the pure, the beautiful,
 From graven stone and written scroll,
 From all old flower-fields of the soul;
 And, weary seekers of the best, 141
 We come back laden from our quest,
 To find that all the sages said
 Is in the Book our mothers read,
 And all our treasure of old thought
 In His harmonious fulness wrought
 Who gathers in one sheaf complete
 The scattered blades of God's sown
 wheat,
 The common growth that maketh
 good
 His all-embracing Fatherhood. 150

"Wherever through the ages rise
The altars of self-sacrifice,
Where love its arms has opened
wide,

Or man for man has calmly died,
I see the same white wings outspread
That hovered o'er the Master's head!
Up from undated time they come,
The martyr souls of heathendom,
And to His cross and passion bring
Their fellowship of suffering. ¹⁶⁰

I trace His presence in the blind
Pathetic gropings of my kind, —
In prayers from sin and sorrow wrung,
In cradle-hymns of life they sung,
Each, in its measure, but a part
Of the unmeasured Over-heart;
And with a stronger faith confess
The greater that it owns the less.
Good cause it is for thankfulness
That the world-blessing of His life ¹⁷⁰
With the long past is not at strife;
That the great marvel of His death
To the one order witnesseth,
No doubt of changeless goodness
wakes,

No link of cause and sequence breaks,
But, one with nature, rooted is
In the eternal verities;
Whereby, while differing in degree
As finite from infinity,
The pain and loss for others borne, ¹⁸⁰
Love's crown of suffering meekly
worn,

The life man giveth for his friend
Becomes vicarious in the end;
Their healing place in nature take,
And make life sweeter for their
sake.

"So welcome I from every source
The tokens of that primal Force,
Older than heaven itself, yet new
As the young heart it reaches to,
Beneath whose steady impulse rolls
The tidal wave of human souls; ¹⁹¹
Guide, comforter, and inward word,
The eternal spirit of the Lord!
Nor fear I aught that science brings
From searching through material
things;

Content to let its glasses prove,
Not by the letter's oldness move
The myriad worlds on worlds that
course

The spaces of the universe;

Since everywhere the Spirit walks ²⁰⁰
The garden of the heart, and talks
With man, as under Eden's trees,
In all his varied languages.
Why mourn above some hopeless flaw
In the stone tables of the law,
When scripture every day afresh
Is traced on tablets of the flesh?
By inward sense, by outward signs,
God's presence still the heart divines;
Through deepest joy of Him we learn,
In sorest grief to Him we turn, ²¹¹
And reason stoops its pride to share
The child-like instinct of a prayer."

And then, as is my wont, I told
A story of the days of old,
Not found in printed books, — in
sooth,

A fancy, with slight hint of truth,
Showing how differing faiths agree
In one sweet law of charity.
Meanwhile the sky had golden grown,
Our faces in its glory shone; ²²¹
But shadows down the valley swept,
And gray below the ocean slept,
As time and space I wandered o'er
To tread the Mogul's marble floor,
And see a fairer sunset fall
On Jumna's wave and Agra's wall.

The good Shah Akbar (peace be his
always!)

Came forth from the Divan at close of
day

Bowed with the burden of his many
cares, ²³⁰

Worn with the hearing of unnum-
bered prayers, —

Wild cries for justice, the importu-
nate

Appeals of greed and jealousy and
hate,

And all the strife of sect and creed and
rite,

Senton and Gouroo waging holy fight:
For the wise monarch, claiming not to
be

Allah's avenger, left his people free,
With a faint hope, his Book scarce jus-
tified,

That all the paths of faith, though
severed wide,

O'er which the feet of prayerful rever-
ence passed, ²⁴⁰

Met at the gate of Paradise at last.

He sought an alcove of his cool ha-
 reem,
 Where, far beneath, he heard the Jum-
 na's stream
 Lapse soft and low along his palace
 wall,
 And all about the cool sound of the
 fall
 Of fountains, and of water circling
 free
 Through marble ducts along the bal-
 cony;
 The voice of women in the distance
 sweet,
 And, sweeter still, of one who, at his
 feet,
 Soothed his tired ear with songs of a
 far land ²⁵⁰
 Where Tagus shatters on the salt sea-
 sand
 The mirror of its cork-grown hills of
 drouth
 And vales of vine, at Lisbon's harbor-
 mouth.

The date-palms rustled not; the que-
 peepul laid
 Its topmost boughs against the bal-
 ustrade,
 Motionless as the mimic leaves and
 vines
 That, light and graceful as the shawl-
 designs
 Of Delhi or Umritsir, twined in stone;
 And the tired monarch, who aside had
 thrown
 The day's hard burden, sat from care
 apart, ²⁶⁰
 And let the quiet steal into his heart
 From the still hour. Below him Agra
 slept
 By the long light of sunset overswept:
 The river flowing through a level land,
 By mango-groves and banks of yellow
 sand,
 Skirted with lime and orange, gay
 kiosks,
 Fountains at play, tall minarets of
 mosques,
 Fair pleasure-gardens, with their flow-
 ering trees
 Relieved against the mournful cy-
 presses;
 And, air-poised lightly as the blown
 sea-foam, ²⁷⁰
 The marble wonder of some holy dome

Hung a white moonrise over the still
 wood,
 Glassing its beauty in a stiller flood.

Silent the monarch gazed, until the
 night
 Swift-falling hid the city from his
 sight;
 Then to the woman at his feet he said:
 "Tell me, O Miriam, something thou
 hast read
 In childhood of the Master of thy
 faith,
 Whom Islam also owns. Our Prophet
 saith:
 'He was a true apostle, yea, a Word
 And Spirit sent before me from the
 Lord.' ²⁸¹
 Thus the Book witnesseth; and well I
 know
 By what thou art, O dearest, it is so.
 As the lute's tone the maker's hand
 betrays,
 The sweet disciple speaks her Master's
 praise."

Then Miriam, glad of heart, (for in
 some sort
 She cherished in the Moslem's liberal
 court
 The sweet traditions of a Christian
 child;
 And, through her life of sense, the un-
 defiled
 And chaste ideal of the sinless One ²⁹⁰
 Gazed on her with an eye she might
 not shun, —
 The sad, reproachful look of pity, born
 Of love that hath no part in wrath or
 scorn.)
 Began, with low voice and moist eyes,
 to tell
 Of the all-loving Christ, and what be-
 fell
 When the fierce zealots, thirsting for
 her blood,
 Dragged to his feet a shame of wo-
 manhood.
 How, when his searching answer
 pierced within
 Each heart, and touched the secret of
 its sin,
 And her accusers fled his face be-
 fore, ³⁰⁰
 He bade the poor one go and sin no
 more.

And Akbar said, after a moment's thought,
 "Wise is the lesson by thy prophet taught;
 Woe unto him who judges and forgets
 What hidden evil his own heart besets!
 Something of this large charity I find
 In all the sects that sever humankind;
 I would to Allah that their lives agreed
 More nearly with the lesson of their creed!
 Those yellow Lamas who at Meerut pray ³¹⁰
 By wind and water power, and love to say:
 'He who forgiveth not shall, unforgiven,
 Fail of the rest of Buddha,' and who even
 Spare the black gnat that stings them, vex my ears
 With the poor hates and jealousies and fears
 Nursed in their human hives. That lean, fierce priest
 Of thy own people, (be his heart increased
 By Allah's love!) his black robes smelling yet
 Of Goa's roasted Jews, have I not met
 Meek-faced, barefooted, crying in the street ³²⁰
 The saying of his prophet true and sweet, —
 'He who is merciful shall mercy meet!'"

But, next day, so it chanced, as night began
 To fall, a murmur through the hareem ran
 That one, recalling in her dusky face
 The full-lipped, mild-eyed beauty of a race
 Known as the blameless Ethiops of Greek song,
 Plotting to do her royal master wrong,
 Watching, reproachful of the lingering light,
 The evening shadows deepen for her flight, ³³⁰
 Love-guided, to her home in a far land,
 Now waited death at the great Shah's command.

Shapely as that dark princess for whose smile
 A world was bartered, daughter of the Nile
 Herself, and veiling in her large, soft eyes
 The passion and the languor of her skies,
 The Abyssinian knelt low at the feet
 Of her stern lord: "O king, if it be meet,
 And for thy honor's sake," she said,
 "that I,
 Who am the humblest of thy slaves, should die, ³⁴⁰
 I will not tax thy mercy to forgive.
 Easier it is to die than to outlive
 All that life gave me, — him whose wrong of thee
 Was but the outcome of his love for me,
 Cherished from childhood, when, beneath the shade
 Of templed Axum, side by side we played.
 Stolen from his arms, my lover followed me
 Through weary seasons over land and sea;
 And two days since, sitting disconsolate
 Within the shadow of the hareem gate, ³⁵⁰
 Suddenly, as if dropping from the sky,
 Down from the lattice of the balcony
 Fell the sweet song by Tigre's cowherds sung
 In the old music of his native tongue.
 He knew my voice, for love is quick of ear,
 Answering in song.
 This night he waited near
 To fly with me. The fault was mine alone:
 He knew thee not, he did but seek his own;
 Who, in the very shadow of thy throne,
 Sharing thy bounty, knowing all thou art, ³⁶⁰
 Greatest and best of men, and in her heart
 Grateful to tears for favor undeserved,
 Turned ever homeward, nor one moment swerved

From her young love. He looked into
 my eyes,
 He heard my voice, and could not
 otherwise
 Than he hath done; yet, save one wild
 embrace
 When first we stood together face to
 face,
 And all that fate had done since last
 we met
 Seemed but a dream and left us chil-
 dren yet,
 He hath not wronged thee nor thy
 royal bed:
 Spare him, O king! and slay me in his
 stead!"

But over Akbar's brows the frown
 hung black,
 And, turning to the eunuch at his
 back,
 "Take them," he said, "and let the
 Jumna's waves
 Hide both my shame and these ac-
 cursed slaves!"
 His loathly length the unsexed bond-
 man bowed:
 "On my head be it!"

Straightway from a cloud
 Of dainty shawls and veils of woven
 mist
 The Christian Miriam rose, and, stoop-
 ing, kissed
 The monarch's hand. Loose down her
 shoulders bare
 Swept all the rippled darkness of her
 hair,
 Veiling the bosom that, with high,
 quick swell
 Of fear and pity, through it rose and
 fell.

"Alas!" she cried, "hast thou for-
 gotten quite
 The words of Him we spake of yester-
 night?
 Or thy own prophet's, 'Whoso doth
 endure
 And pardon, of eternal life is sure'?
 O great and good! be thy revenge
 alone
 Felt in thy mercy to the erring shown;
 Let thwarted love and youth their
 pardon plead,
 Who sinned but in intent, and not in
 deed!"

One moment the strong frame of
 Akbar shook
 With the great storm of passion. Then
 his look
 Softened to her uplifted face, that
 still
 Pleaded more strongly than all words,
 until
 Its pride and anger seemed like over-
 blown,
 Spent clouds of thunder left to tell
 alone
 Of strife and overcoming. With
 bowed head,
 And smiting on his bosom: "God," he
 said,
 "Alone is great, and let His holy name
 Be honored, even to His servant's
 shame!
 Well spake thy prophet, Miriam, — he
 alone
 Who hath not sinned is meet to cast a
 stone
 At such as these, who here their doom
 await,
 Held like myself in the strong grasp of
 fate.
 They sinned through love, as I
 through love forgive;
 Take them beyond my realm, but let
 them live!"

And, like a chorus to the words of
 grace,
 The ancient fakir, sitting in his place,
 Motionless as an idol and as grim,
 In the pavilion Akbar built for him
 Under the court-yard trees, (for he
 was wise,
 Knew Menu's laws, and through his
 close-shut eyes
 Saw things far off, and as an open
 book
 Into the thoughts of other men could
 look.)
 Began, half chant, half howling, to re-
 hearse
 The fragment of a holy Vedic verse;
 And thus it ran: "He who all things
 forgives
 Conquers himself and all things else,
 and lives
 Above the reach of wrong or hate or
 fear,
 Calm as the gods, to whom he is most
 dear."

Two leagues from Agra still the
traveller sees
The tomb of Akbar through its cy-
press-trees;
And, near at hand, the marble walls
that hide
The Christian Begum sleeping at his
side.
And o'er her vault of burial (who shall
tell
If it be chance alone or miracle?)
The Mission press with tireless hand
unrolls
The words of Jesus on its lettered
scrolls, —
Tells, in all tongues, the tale of mercy
o'er, ⁴³⁰
And bids the guilty, "Go and sin no
more!"

It now was dew-fall; very still
The night lay on the lonely hill,
Down which our homeward steps we
bent,
And, silent, through great silence
went,
Save that the tireless crickets played
Their long, monotonous serenade.
A young moon, at its narrowest,
Curved sharp against the darkening
west;
And, momentarily, the beacon's star, ⁴⁴⁰
Slow wheeling o'er its rock afar,
From out the level darkness shot
One instant and again was not.
And then my friend spake quietly
The thought of both: "Yon crescent
see!
Like Islam's symbol-moon it gives
Hints of the light whereby it lives:
Somewhat of goodness, something
true
From sun and spirit shining through
All faiths, all worlds, as through the
dark ⁴⁵⁰
Of ocean shines the lighthouse spark,
Attests the presence everywhere
Of love and providential care.
The faith the old Norse heart con-
fessed
In one dear name, — the hopefulest
And tenderest heard from mortal lips
In pangs of birth or death, from ships
Ice-bitten in the winter sea,

Or lisped beside a mother's knee, —
The wiser world hath not outgrown,
And the All-Father is our own!" ⁴⁶¹

NAUHAUGHT, THE DEACON

NAUHAUGHT, the Indian deacon, who
of old
Dwelt, poor but blameless, where his
narrowing Cape
Stretches its shrunk arm out to all the
winds
And the relentless smiting of the
waves,
Awoke one morning from a pleasant
dream
Of a good angel dropping in his hand
A fair, broad gold-piece, in the name
of God.

He rose and went forth with the early
day
Far inland, where the voices of the
waves
Mellowed and mingled with the whis-
pering leaves, ¹⁰
As, through the tangle of the low,
thick woods,
He searched his traps. Therein nor
beast nor bird
He found; though meanwhile in the
reedy pools
The otter plashed, and underneath the
pines
The partridge drummed: and as his
thoughts went back
To the sick wife and little child at
home,
What marvel that the poor man felt
his faith
Too weak to bear its burden, — like a
rope
That, strand by strand uncoiling,
breaks above
The hand that grasps it. "Even now,
O Lord! ²⁰
Send me," he prayed, "the angel of
my dream!
Nauhaught is very poor; he cannot
wait."

Even as he spake he heard at his bare
feet
A low, metallic click, and, looking
down,

He saw a dainty purse with disks of
 gold
 Crowding its silken net. Awhile he
 held
 The treasure up before his eyes, alone
 With his great need, feeling the won-
 drous coins
 Slide through his eager fingers, one by
 one.
 So then the dream was true. The an-
 gel brought ³⁰
 One broad piece only; should he take
 all these?
 Who would be wiser, in the blind,
 dumb woods?
 The loser, doubtless rich, would
 scarcely miss
 This dropped crumb from a table al-
 ways full.
 Still, while he mused, he seemed to
 hear the cry
 Of a starved child; the sick face of his
 wife
 Tempted him. Heart and flesh in
 fierce revolt
 Urged the wild license of his savage
 youth
 Against his later scruples. Bitter toil,
 Prayer, fasting, dread of blame, and
 pitiless eyes ⁴⁰
 To watch his halting, — had he lost
 for these
 The freedom of the woods; — the
 hunting-grounds
 Of happy spirits for a walled-in heaven
 Of everlasting psalms? One healed
 the sick
 Very far off thousands of moons
 ago:
 Had he not prayed him night and day
 to come
 And cure his bed-bound wife? Was
 there a hell?
 Were all his fathers' people writhing
 there —
 Like the poor shell-fish set to boil
 alive —
 Forever, dying never? If he kept ⁵⁰
 This gold, so needed, would the dread-
 ful God
 Torment him like a Mohawk's captive
 stuck
 With slow-consuming splinters?
 Would the saints
 And the white angels dance and laugh
 to see him

Burn like a pitch-pine torch? His
 Christian garb
 Seemed falling from him; with the
 fear and shame
 Of Adam naked at the cool of day,
 He gazed around. A black snake lay
 in coil
 On the hot sand, a crow with sidelong
 eye
 Watched from a dead bough. All his
 Indian lore ⁶⁰
 Of evil blending with a convert's faith
 In the supernal terrors of the Book,
 He saw the Tempter in the coiling
 snake
 And ominous, black-winged bird; and
 all the while
 The low rebuking of the distant waves
 Stole in upon him like the voice of God
 Among the trees of Eden. Girding up
 His soul's loins with a resolute hand,
 he thrust
 The base thought from him: "Nau-
 haught, be a man!
 Starve, if need be; but, while you live,
 look out ⁷⁰
 From honest eyes on all men, un-
 ashamed.
 God help me! I am deacon of the
 church,
 A baptized, praying Indian! Should I
 do
 This secret meanness, even the barken
 knots
 Of the old trees would turn to eyes to
 see it,
 The birds would tell of it, and all the
 leaves
 Whisper above me: 'Nauhaught is a
 thief!'
 The sun would know it, and the stars
 that hide
 Behind his light would watch me, and
 at night
 Follow me with their sharp, accusing
 eyes. ⁸⁰
 Yea, thou, God, seest me!" Then
 Nauhaught drew
 Closer his belt of leather, dulling thus
 The pain of hunger, and walked brave-
 ly back
 To the brown fishing-hamlet by the sea;
 And, pausing at the inn-door, cheerily
 asked:
 "Who hath lost aught to-day?"
 "I," said a voice:

"Ten golden pieces, in a silken purse,
My daughter's handiwork." He
looked, and lo!

One stood before him in a coat of
frieze,

And the glazed hat of a seafaring man,
Shrewd-faced, broad-shouldered, with
no trace of wings.

Marvelling, he dropped within the
stranger's hand

The silken web, and turned to go his
way.

But the man said: "A tithe at least is
yours;

Take it in God's name as an honest
man."

And as the deacon's dusky fingers
closed

Over the golden gift, "Yea, in God's
name

I take it, with a poor man's thanks,"
he said.

So down the street that, like a river of
sand,

Ran, white in sunshine, to the sum-
mer sea,

He sought his home, singing and prais-
ing God;

And when his neighbors in their care-
less way

Spoke of the owner of the silken purse,
A Wellfleet skipper, known in every
port

That the Cape opens in its sandy
wall —

He answered, with a wise smile, to
himself:

"I saw the angel where they see a
man."

THE SISTERS

ANNIE and Rhoda, sisters twain,
Woke in the night to the sound of rain,

The rush of wind, the ramp and roar
Of great waves climbing a rocky shore.

Annie rose up in her bed-gown white,
And looked out into the storm and
night.

"Hush, and hearken!" she cried in
fear,

"Hearest thou nothing, sister dear?"

"I hear the sea, and the splash of rain,
And roar of the northeast hurricane. 10

"Get thee back to the bed so warm,
No good comes of watching a storm.

"What is it to thee, I fain would know,
That waves are roaring and wild
winds blow?"

"No lover of thine's afloat to miss
The harbor-lights on a night like this."

"But I heard a voice cry out my name
Up from the sea on the wind it came!

"Twice and thrice have I heard it call,
And the voice is the voice of Estwick
Hall!" 20

On her pillow the sister tossed her
head.

"Hall of the Heron is safe," she said.

"In the tautest schooner that ever
swam

He rides at anchor in Annisquam.

"And, if in peril from swamping sea
Or lee shore rocks, would he call on
thee?"

But the girl heard only the wind and
tide,

And wringing her small white hands
she cried:

"O sister Rhoda, there's something
wrong;

I hear it again, so loud and long. 30

"Annie! Annie! I hear it call,
And the voice is the voice of Estwick
Hall!"

Up sprang the elder, with eyes aflame,
"Thou liest! He never would call thy
name!

"If he did, I would pray the wind and
sea

To keep him forever from thee and me!"

Then out of the sea blew a dreadful
blast;

Like the cry of a dying man it passed.

The young girl hushed on her lips a
groan,
But through her tears a strange light
shone, — 40

The solemn joy of her heart's release
To own and cherish its love in peace.

"Dearest!" she whispered, under
breath,
"Life was a lie, but true is death.

"The love I hid from myself away
Shall crown me now in the light of
day.

"My ears shall never to wooer list,
Never by lover my lips be kissed.

"Sacred to thee am I henceforth,
Thou in heaven and I on earth!" 50

She came and stood by her sister's
bed
"Hall of the Heron is dead!" she said.

"The wind and the waves their work
have done,
We shall see him no more beneath the
sun.

"Little will reck that heart of thine;
It loved him not with a love like
mine.

"I, for his sake, were he but here,
Could hem and 'broider thy bridal
gear,

"Though hands should tremble and
eyes be wet,
And stitch for stitch in my heart be
set. 60

"But now my soul with his soul I wed;
Thine the living, and mine the dead!"

MARGUERITE

MASSACHUSETTS BAY, 1760

THE robins sang in the orchard, the
buds into blossoms grew;
Little of human sorrow the buds and
the robins knew!

Sick, in an alien household, the poor
French neutral lay;
Into her lonesome garret fell the light
of the April day,

Through the dusty window, curtained
by the spider's warp and woof,
On the loose-laid floor of hemlock, on
oaken ribs of roof,

The bedquilt's faded patchwork, the
teacups on the stand,
The wheel with flaxen tangle, as it
dropped from her sick hand!

What to her was the song of the robin,
or warm morning light,
As she lay in the trance of the dying,
heedless of sound or sight? 10

Done was the work of her hands, she
had eaten her bitter bread;
The world of the alien people lay be-
hind her dim and dead.

But her soul went back to its child-
time; she saw the sun o'er-
flow
With gold the Basin of Minas, and set
over Gaspereau;

The low, bare flats at ebb-tide, the
rush of the sea at flood,
Through inlet and creek and river,
from dike to upland wood;

The gulls in the red of morning, the
fish-hawk's rise and fall,
The drift of the fog in moonshine, over
the dark coast-wall.

She saw the face of her mother, she
heard the song she sang;
And far off, faintly, slowly, the bell
for vespers rang! 20

By her bed the hard-faced mistress
sat, smoothing the wrinkled
sheet,
Peering into the face, so helpless, and
feeling the ice-cold feet.

With a vague remorse atoning for her
greed and long abuse,
By care no longer heeded and pity too
late for use.

Up the stairs of the garret softly the
son of the mistress stepped,
Leaned over the head-board, covering
his face with his hands, and
wept.

Outspake the mother, who watched
him sharply, with brow
a-frown:

"What! love you the Papist, the
beggar, the charge of the
town?"

"Be she Papist or beggar who lies
here, I know and God knows
I love her, and fain would go with her
wherever she goes!" 30

"O mother! that sweet face came
pleading, for love so athirst.
You saw but the town-charge; I knew
her God's angel at first."

Shaking her gray head, the mistress
hushed down a bitter cry;
And awed by the silence and shadow
of death drawing nigh,

She murmured a psalm of the Bible;
but closer the young girl
pressed,
With the last of her life in her fingers,
the cross to her breast.

"My son, come away," cried the
mother, her voice cruel grown.
"She is joined to her idols, like Eph-
raim; let her alone!"

But he knelt with his hand on her fore-
head, his lips to her ear,
And he called back the soul that was
passing: "Marguerite, do you
hear?" 40

She paused on the threshold of hea-
ven; love, pity, surprise,
Wistful, tender, lit up for an instant
the cloud of her eyes.

With his heart on his lips he kissed
her, but never her cheek grew
red,
And the words the living long for
he spake in the ear of the
dead.

And the robins sang in the orchard,
where buds to blossoms grew;
Of the folded hands and the still face
never the robins knew!

THE ROBIN

My old Welsh neighbor over the way
Crept slowly out in the sun of
spring,
Pushed from her ears the locks of
gray,
And listened to hear the robins sing.

Her grandson, playing at marbles,
stopped,
And, cruel in sport as boys will be,
Tossed a stone at the bird, who hopped
From bough to bough in the apple-
tree.

"Nay!" said the grandmother; "have
you not heard,
My poor, bad boy! of the fiery pit,
And how, drop by drop, this merciful
bird
Carries the water that quenches it?"

"He brings cool dew in his little bill,
And lets it fall on the souls of sin:
You can see the mark on his red breast
still
Of fires that scorch as he drops it in.

"My poor Bron rhuddyn! my breast-
burned bird,
Singing so sweetly from limb to
limb,
Very dear to the heart of Our Lord
Is he who pities the lost like Him!"

"Amen!" I said to the beautiful
myth;
"Sing, bird of God, in my heart as
well:
Each good thought is a drop where-
with
To cool and lessen the fires of hell.

"Prayers of love like rain-drops fall,
Tears of pity are cooling dew,
And dear to the heart of Our Lord are
all
Who suffer like Him in the good
they do!"

THE PENNSYLVANIA PILGRIM

HAIL to posterity!
 Hail, future men of Germanopolis!
 Let the young generations yet to
 be
 Look kindly upon this.
 Think how your fathers left their na-
 tive land, —
 Dear German-land! O sacred
 hearths and homes! —
 And, where the wild beast roams,
 In patience planned
 New forest-homes beyond the mighty
 sea,
 There undisturbed and free 10
 To live as brothers of one family.
 What pains and cares befell,
 What trials and what fears,
 Remember, and wherein we have done
 well
 Follow our footsteps, men of coming
 years!
 Where we have failed to do
 Aright, or wisely live,
 Be warned by us, the better way pursue,
 And, knowing we were human, even as
 you,
 Pity us and forgive! 20
 Farewell, Posterity!
 Farewell, dear Germany!
 Forevermore farewell!

PRELUDE

I SING the Pilgrim of a softer clime
 And milder speech than those brave
 men's who brought
 To the ice and iron of our winter
 time
 A will as firm, a creed as stern, and
 wrought
 With one mailed hand, and with the
 other fought.
 Simply, as fits my theme, in homely
 rhyme
 I sing the blue-eyed German Spener
 taught, 30
 Through whose veiled, mystic faith
 the Inward Light,
 Steady and still, an easy brightness,
 shone,
 Transfiguring all things in its radiance
 white.
 The garland which his meekness never
 sought

I bring him; over fields of harvest
 sown
 With seeds of blessing, now to ripe-
 ness grown,
 I bid the sower pass before the reap-
 ers' sight.

Never in tenderer quiet lapsed the
 day
 From Pennsylvania's vales of spring
 away,
 Where, forest-walled, the scattered
 hamlets lay 40

Along the wedded rivers. One long
 bar
 Of purple cloud, on which the evening
 star
 Shone like a jewel on a scimitar,

Held the sky's golden gateway.
 Through the deep
 Hush of the woods a murmur seemed
 to creep,
 The Schuylkill whispering in a voice of
 sleep.

All else was still. The oxen from their
 ploughs
 Rested at last, and from their long
 day's browse
 Came the dun files of Krisheim's home-
 bound cows.

And the young city, round whose vir-
 gin zone 50
 The rivers like two mighty arms were
 thrown,
 Marked by the smoke of evening fires
 alone,

Lay in the distance, lovely even
 then
 With its fair women and its stately
 men
 Gracing the forest court of William
 Penn,

Urban yet sylvan; in its rough-hewn
 frames
 Of oak and pine the dryads beld their
 claims,
 And lent, its streets their pleasant
 woodland names.



Spener

Anna Pastorius down the leafy
 lane
 Looked city-ward, then stooped to
 prune again 60
 Her vines and simples, with a sigh of
 pain.

For fast the streaks of ruddy sunset
 paled
 In the oak clearing, and, as daylight
 failed,
 Slow, overhead, the dusky night-birds
 sailed.

Again she looked: between green walls
 of shade,
 With low-bent head as if with sorrow
 weighed,

Daniel Pastorius slowly came and
 said,

"God's peace be with thee, Anna!"
 Then he stood
 Silent before her, wrestling with the
 mood
 Of one who sees the evil and not good.

"What is it, my Pastorius?" As she
 spoke, 71
 A slow, faint smile across his features
 broke,
 Sadder than tears. "Dear heart," he
 said, "our folk

"Are even as others. Yea, our goodli-
 est Friends

Are frail; our elders have their selfish
ends,
And few dare trust the Lord to make
amends

“For duty’s loss. So even our feeble
word

For the dumb slaves the startled meet-
ing heard

As if a stone its quiet waters stirred;

“And, as the clerk ceased reading,
there began 80

A ripple of dissent which downward
ran

In widening circles, as from man to
man.

“Somewhat was said of running be-
fore sent,

Of tender fear that some their guide
outwent,

Troublers of Israel. I was scarce in-
tent

“On hearing, for behind the reverend
row

Of gallery Friends, in dumb and pite-
ous show,

I saw, methought, dark faces full of
woe.

“And, in the spirit, I was taken where
They toiled and suffered; I was made

aware 90
Of shame and wrath and anguish and
despair!

“And while the meeting smothered
our poor plea

With cautious phrase, a Voice there
seemed to be,

‘As ye have done to these ye do to me!’

“So it all passed; and the old tithe
went on

Of anise, mint, and cumin, till the sun
Set, leaving still the weightier work
undone.

“Help, for the good man faileth! Who
is strong,

If these be weak? Who shall rebuke
the wrong,

If these consent? How long, O Lord!
how long!” 100

He ceased; and, bound in spirit with
the bound,

With folded arms, and eyes that
sought the ground,

Walked musingly his little garden
round.

About him, beaded with the falling
dew,

Rare plants of power and herbs of
healing grew,

Such as Van Helmont and Agrippa
knew.

For, by the lore of Gorlitz’ gentle
sage,

With the mild mystics of his dreamy
age

He read the herbal signs of nature’s
page,

As once he heard in sweet Von Mer-
lau’s bowers 110

Fair as herself, in boyhood’s happy
hours,

The pious Spener read his creed in
flowers.

“The dear Lord give us patience!”
said his wife,

Touching with finger-tip an aloe, rife
With leaves sharp-pointed like an Az-
tec knife

Or Carib spear, a gift to William Penn
From the rare gardens of John Eve-
lyn,

Brought from the Spanish Main by
merchantmen.

“See this strange plant its steady pur-
pose hold,

And, year by year, its patient leaves
unfold, 120

Till the young eyes that watched it
first are old.

“But some time, thou hast told me,
there shall come

A sudden beauty, brightness, and per-
fume;

The century-moulded bud shall burst
in bloom.

“So may the seed which hath been
sown to-day

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Grow with the years, and, after long delay, Break into bloom, and God's eternal Yea</p> <p>"Answer at last the patient prayers of them Who now, by faith alone, behold its stem Crowned with the flowers of Free- dom's diadem. 130</p> <p>"Meanwhile, to feel and suffer, work and wait, Remains for us. The wrong indeed is great, But love and patience conquer soon or late."</p> <p>"Well hast thou said, my Anna!" Tenderer Than youth's caress upon the head of her Pastorius laid his hand. "Shall we de- mur</p> <p>"Because the vision tarrieth? In an hour We dream not of, the slow-grown bud may flower, And what was sown in weakness rise in power!"</p> <p>Then through the vine-draped door whose legend read, 140 "Procul este profani!" Anna led To where their child upon his little bed Looked up and smiled. "Dear heart," she said, "if we Must bearers of a heavy burden be, Our boy, God willing, yet the day shall see</p> <p>"When from the gallery to the far- thest seat, Slave and slave-owner shall no longer meet, But all sit equal at the Master's feet."</p> <p>On the stone hearth the blazing wal- nut block Set the low walls a-glimmer, showed the cock 150 Rebuking Peter on the Van Wyck clock,</p> | <p>Shone on old tomes of law and physic, side By side with Fox and Behmen, played at hide And seek with Anna, amidst her household pride</p> <p>Of flaxen webs, and on the table, bare Of costly cloth or silver cup, but where, Tasting the fat shads of the Delaware,</p> <p>The courtly Penn had praised the good-wife's cheer, And quoted Horace o'er her home- brewed beer, Till even grave Pastorius smiled to hear. 160</p> <p>In such a home, beside the Schuyl- kill's wave, He dwelt in peace with God and man, and gave Food to the poor and shelter to the slave.</p> <p>For all too soon the New World's scan- dal shamed The righteous code by Penn and Sid- ney framed, And men withheld the human rights they claimed.</p> <p>And slowly wealth and station sanc- tion lent, And hardened avarice, on its gains intent, Stified the inward whisper of dissent.</p> <p>Yet all the while the burden rested sore 170 On tender hearts. At last Pastorius bore Their warning message to the Church's door</p> <p>In God's name; and the leaven of the word Wrought ever after in the souls who heard, And a dead conscience in its grave- clothes stirred</p> <p>To troubled life, and urged the vain excuse Of Hebrew custom, patriarchal use, Good in itself if evil in abuse.</p> |
|--|---|

Gravely Pastorius listened, not the less
Discerning through the decent fig-
leaf dress ¹⁸⁰
Of the poor plea its shame of selfish-
ness.

One Scripture rule, at least, was unfor-
got;
He hid the outcast, and bewrayed him
not;
And, when his prey the human hunter
sought,

He scrupled not, while Anna's wise
delay
And proffered cheer prolonged the
master's stay,
To speed the black guest safely on his
way.

Yet who shall guess his bitter grief
who lends
His life to some great cause, and finds
his friends
Shame or betray it for their private
ends? ¹⁹⁰

How felt the Master when his chosen
stroke
In childish folly for their seats above;
And that fond mother, blinded by her
love,

Besought him that her sons, beside his
throne,
Might sit on either hand? Amidst his
own
A stranger oft, companionless and lone,

God's priest and prophet stands. The
martyr's pain
Is not alone from scourge and cell and
chain;
Sharper the pang when, shouting in
his train, ¹⁹⁹

His weak disciples by their lives deny
The loud hosannas of their daily cry,
And make their echo of his truth a lie.

His forest home no hermit's cell he
found,
Guests, motley-minded, drew his
hearth around,
And held armed truce upon its neu-
tral ground.

There Indian chiefs with battle-bows
unstrung,
Strong, hero-limbed, like those whom
Homer sung,
Pastorius fancied, when the world was
young,

Came with their tawny women, lithe
and tall,
Like bronzes in his friend Von Ro-
deck's hall, ²¹⁰
Comely, if black, and not unpleasing
all.

There hungry folk in homespun drab
and gray
Drew round his board on Monthly
Meeting day,
Genial, half merry in their friendly
way,

Or, haply, pilgrims from the Father-
land,
Weak, timid, homesick, slow to un-
derstand
The New World's promise, sought his
helping hand.

Or painful Kelpius from his hermit den
By Wissahickon, maddest of good
men,
Dreamed o'er the Chiliast dreams of
Petersen. ²²⁰

Deep in the woods, where the small
river slid
Snake-like in shade, the Helmstadt-
Mystic hid,
Weird as a wizard, over arts forbid,

Reading the books of Daniel and of
John,
And Behmen's Morning-Redness,
through the Stone
Of Wisdom, vouchsafed to his eyes
alone,

Whereby he read what man ne'er read
before,
And saw the visions man shall see no-
more,
Till the great angel, striding sea and
shore,

Shall bid all flesh await, on land or
ships, ²³⁰

The warning trump of the Apocalypse,
Shattering the heavens before the
dread eclipse.

Or meek-eyed Mennonist his bearded
chin
Leaned o'er the gate; or Ranter, pure
within,
Aired his perfection in a world of sin.

Or, talking of old home scenes, Op der
Graaf
Teased the low back-log with his shod-
den staff,
Till the red embers broke into a laugh
And dance of flame, as if they fain
would cheer
The rugged face, half tender, half aus-
tere, ²⁴⁰
Touched with the pathos of a home-
sick tear!

Or Sluyter, saintly familist, whose
word
As law the Brethren of the Manor
heard,
Announced the speedy terrors of the
Lord,

And turned, like Lot at Sodom, from
his race,
Above a wrecked world with compla-
cent face
Riding secure upon his plank of grace!

Haply, from Finland's birchen groves
exiled,
Manly in thought, in simple ways a
child,
His white hair floating round his vis-
age mild, ²⁵⁰

The Swedish pastor sought the Quak-
er's door,
Pleased from his neighbor's lips to
hear once more
His long-disused and half-forgotten
lore.

For both could baffle Babel's lingual
curse,
And speak in Bion's Doric, and re-
hearse
Cleanthes' hymn or Virgil's sounding
verse.

And oft Pastorius and the meek old man
Argued as Quaker and as Lutheran,
Ending in Christian love, as they be-
gan.

With lettered Lloyd on pleasant
morns he strayed ²⁶⁰
Where Sommerhausen over vales of
shade
Looked miles away, by every flower
delayed,

Or song of bird, happy and free with
one
Who loved, like him, to let his mem-
ory run
Over old fields of learning, and to sun
Himself in Plato's wise philosophies,
And dream with Philo over mysteries
Whereof the dreamer never finds the
keys;

To touch all themes of thought, nor
weakly stop
For doubt of truth, but let the buckets
drop ²⁷⁰
Deep down and bring the hidden wa-
ters up.

For there was freedom in that waken-
ing time
Of tender souls; to differ was not
crime;
The varying bells made up the perfect
chime.

On lips unlike was laid the altar's coal,
The white, clear light, tradition-col-
ored, stole
Through the stained oriel of each hu-
man soul.

Gathered from many sects, the
Quaker brought
His old beliefs, adjusting to the
thought
That moved his soul the creed his
fathers taught. ²⁸⁰

One faith alone, so broad that all man-
kind
Within themselves its secret witness
find,
The soul's communion with the Eter-
nal Mind,

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>The Spirit's law, the Inward Rule and Guide, Scholar and peasant, lord and serf, allied, The polished Penn and Cromwell's Ironsides.</p> | <p>And all the woods with many-colored flame Of splendor, making summer's green- ness tame, 310</p> |
| <p>As still in Hemskerck's Quaker Meet- ing, face By face in Flemish detail, we may trace How loose-mouthed boor and fine an- cestral grace</p> | <p>Burned, unconsumed, a voice without a sound Spake to him from each kindled bush around, And made the strange, new landscape holy ground!</p> |
| <p>Sat in close contrast, — the clipt- headed churl, 290 Broad market-dame, and simple serv- ing-girl By skirt of silk and periwig in curl!</p> | <p>And when the bitter north-wind, keen and swift, Swept the white street and piled the door-yard drift, He exercised, as Friends might say, his gift</p> |
| <p>For soul touched soul; the spiritual treasure-trove Made all men equal, none could rise above Nor sink below that level of God's love.</p> | <p>Of verse, Dutch, English, Latin, like the hash Of corn and beans in Indian succotash; Dull, doubtless, but with here and there a flash</p> |
| <p>So, with his rustic neighbors sitting down, The homespun frock beside the schol- ar's gown, Pastorius to the manners of the town</p> | <p>Of wit and fine conceit, — the good man's play 320 Of quiet fancies, meet to while away The slow hours measuring off an idle day.</p> |
| <p>Added the freedom of the woods, and sought The bookless wisdom by experience taught, 300 And learned to love his new-found home, while not</p> | <p>At evening, while his wife put on her look Of love's endurance, from its niche he took The written pages of his ponderous book,</p> |
| <p>Forgetful of the old; the seasons went Their rounds, and somewhat to his spirit lent Of their own calm and measureless content.</p> | <p>And read, in half the languages of man, His "Rusca Apium," which with bees began, And through the gamut of creation ran.</p> |
| <p>Glad even to tears, he heard the robin sing His song of welcome to the Western spring, And bluebird borrowing from the sky his wing.</p> | <p>Or, now and then, the missive of some friend In gray Altorf or storied Nürnberg penned 330 Dropped in upon him like a guest to spend</p> |
| <p>And when the miracle of autumn came,</p> | <p>The night beneath his roof-tree. Mys- tical The fair Von Merlau spake as waters fall And voices sound in dreams, and yet withal</p> |



William Penn

Human and sweet, as if each far, low
tone,
Over the roses of her gardens blown
Brought the warm sense of beauty all
her own.

Wise Spener questioned what his
friend could trace
Of spiritual influx or of saving grace
In the wild natures of the Indian race.

And learned Schurmberg, fain, at
times, to look

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From Talmud, Koran, Veds, and Pen-
tateuch,
Sought out his pupil in his far-off
nook,

To query with him of climatic change,
Of bird, beast, reptile, in his forest
range,
Of flowers and fruits and simples new
and strange.

And thus the Old and New World
reached their hands

Across the water, and the friendly lands
Talked with each other from their
severed strands.

Pastorius answered all: while seed
and root ³⁵⁰
Sent from his new home grew to flower
and fruit
Along the Rhine and at the Spessart's
foot;

And, in return, the flowers his boy-
hood knew
Smiled at his door, the same in form
and hue,
And on his vines the Rhenish clusters
grew.

No idler he; whoever else might shirk,
He set his hand to every honest
work, —
Farmer and teacher, court and meet-
ing clerk.

Still on the town seal his device is found,
Grapes, flax, and thread-spool on a
trefoil ground, ³⁶⁰
With "Vinum, Linum et Textrinum"
wound.

One house sufficed for gospel and for
law,
Where Paul and Grotius, Scripture
text and saw,
Assured the good, and held the rest in
awe.

Whatever legal maze he wandered
through,
He kept the Sermon on the Mount in
view,
And justice always into mercy grew.

No whipping-post he needed, stocks,
nor jail,
Nor ducking-stool; the orchard-thief
grew pale
At his rebuke, the vixen ceased to
rail, ³⁷⁰

The usurer's grasp released the forfeit
land;
The slanderer faltered at the witness-
stand,
And all men took his counsel for com-
mand.

Was it caressing air, the brooding
love
Of tenderer skies than German land
knew of,
Green calm below, blue quietness
above,

Still flow of water, deep repose of
wood
That, with a sense of loving Father-
hood
And childlike trust in the Eternal
Good,

Softened all hearts, and dulled the
edge of hate, ³⁸⁰
Hushed strife, and taught impatient
zeal to wait
The slow assurance of the better state?

Who knows what goadings in their
sterner way
O'er jagged ice, relieved by granite
gray,
Blew round the men of Massachusetts
Bay?

What hate of heresy the east-wind
woke?
What hints of pitiless power and terror
spoke
In waves that on their iron coast-line
broke?

Be it as it may: within the Land of
Penn
The sectary yielded to the citizen, ³⁹⁰
And peaceful dwelt the many-creeded
men.

Peace brooded over all. No trumpet
stung
The air to madness, and no steeple
flung
Alarums down from bells at midnight
rung.

The land slept well. The Indian from
his face
Washed all his war-paint off, and in
the place
Of battle-marches sped the peaceful
chase,

Or wrought for wages at the white
man's side, —

Giving to kindness what his native
pride
And lazy freedom to all else denied.

And well the curious scholar loved the
old
Traditions that his swarthy neighbors ⁴⁰¹
told
By wigwam-fires when nights were
growing cold,

Discerned the fact round which their
fancy drew
Its dreams, and held their childish
faith more true
To God and man than half the creeds
he knew.

The desert blossomed round him;
wheat-fields rolled
Beneath the warm wind waves of
green and gold;
The planted ear returned its hundred-
fold.

Great clusters ripened in a warmer
sun ⁴¹⁰
Than that which by the Rhine stream
shines upon
The purpling hillsides with low vines
o'erun.

About each rustic porch the humming-
bird
Tried with light bill, that scarce a
petal stirred,
The Old World flowers to virgin soil
transferred;

And the first-fruits of pear and apple,
bending
The young boughs down, their gold
and russet blending,
Made glad his heart, familiar odors
lending

To the fresh fragrance of the birch and
pine,
Life-everlasting, bay, and eglantine,
And all the subtle scents the woods
combine. ⁴²¹

Fair First-Day mornings, steeped in
summer calm,
Warm, tender, restful, sweet with
woodland balm,

Came to him, like some mother-hal-
lowed psalm

To the tired grinder at the noisy
wheel
Of labor, winding off from memory's
reel
A golden thread of music. With no
peal

Of bells to call them to the house of
praise,
The scattered settlers through green
forest-ways
Walked meeting-ward. In reverent
amaze ⁴³⁰

The Indian trapper saw them, from
the dim
Shade of the alders on the rivulet's
rim,
Seek the Great Spirit's house to talk
with Him.

There, through the gathered stillness
multiplied
And made intense by sympathy, out-
side
The sparrows sang, and the gold-robin
cried,

A-swing upon his elm. A faint per-
fume
Breathed through the open windows
of the room
From locust-trees, heavy with clus-
tered bloom.

Thither, perchance, sore-tried confes-
sors came, ⁴⁴⁰
Whose fervor jail nor pillory could
tame,
Proud of the cropped ears meant to be
their shame,

Men who had eaten slavery's bitter
bread
In Indian isles; pale women who had
bled
Under the hangman's lash, and bravely
said

God's message through their prison's
iron bars;
And gray old soldier-converts, seamed
with scars

From every stricken field of England's wars.

Lowly before the Unseen Presence knelt

Each waiting heart, till haply some one felt

On his moved lips the seal of silence melt

Or, without spoken words, low breathings stole

Of a diviner life from soul to soul, Baptizing in one tender thought the whole.

When shaken hands announced the meeting o'er,

The friendly group still lingered at the door,

Greeting, inquiring, sharing all the store

Of weekly tidings. Meanwhile youth and maid

Down the green vistas of the woodland strayed,

Whispered and smiled and oft their feet delayed.

Did the boy's whistle answer back the thrushes?

Did light girl laughter ripple through the bushes,

As brooks make merry over roots and rushes?

Unvexed the sweet air seemed. Without a wound

The ear of silence heard, and every sound

Its place in nature's fine accord found.

And solemn meeting, summer sky and wood,

Old kindly faces, youth and maidenhood

Seemed, like God's new creation, very good!

And, greeting all with quiet smile and word,

Pastorius went his way. The unscared bird

Sang at his side; scarcely the squirrel stirred

At his hushed footstep on the mossy sod;

And, wheresoe'er the good man looked or trod,

He felt the peace of nature and of God.

His social life wore no ascetic form, He loved all beauty, without fear of harm,

And in his veins his Teuton blood ran warm.

Strict to himself, of other men no spy, He made his own no circuit-judge to try

The freer conscience of his neighbors by.

With love rebuking, by his life alone, Gracious and sweet, the better way

was shown, The joy of one, who, seeking not his own,

And faithful to all scruples, finds at last

The thorns and shards of duty overpast,

And daily life, beyond his hope's forecast,

Pleasant and beautiful with sight and sound

And flowers upspringing in its narrow round,

And all his days with quiet gladness crowned.

He sang not; but if sometimes tempted strong,

He hummed what seemed like Altorf's Burschen-song,

His good wife smiled and did not count it wrong.

For well he loved his boyhood's brother-band;

His Memory, while he trod the New World's strand,

A double ganger walked the Fatherland!

If, when on frosty Christmas eves the light

Shone on his quiet hearth, he missed the sight

Of Yule-log, Tree, and Christ-child all
in white;

And closed his eyes, and listened to
the sweet ⁵⁰⁰

Old wait-songs sounding down his na-
tive street,
And watched again the dancers' min-
gling feet;

Yet not the less, when once the vision
passed,
He held the plain and sober maxims
fast

Of the dear Friends with whom his lot
was cast.

Still all attuned to nature's melodies
He loved the bird's song in his door-
yard trees,
And the low hum of home-returning
bees;

The blossomed flax, the tulip-trees in
bloom
Down the long street, the beauty and
perfume ⁵¹⁰
Of apple-boughs, the mingling light
and gloom

Of Sommerhausen's woodlands, woven
through
With sun-threads; and the music the
wind drew,
Mournful and sweet, from leaves it
overblew.

And evermore, beneath this outward
sense,
And through the common sequence of
events,
He felt the guiding hand of Provi-
dence

Reach out of space. A Voice spake in
his ear,
And lo! all other voices far and near
Died at that whisper, full of meanings
clear. ⁵²⁰

The Light of Life shone round him;
one by one
The wandering lights, that all-mis-
leading run,
Went out like candles paling in the
sun.

That Light he followed, step by step,
where'er

It led, as in the vision of the seer
The wheels moved as the spirit in the
clear

And terrible crystal moved, with all
their eyes
Watching the living splendor sink or
rise,
Its will their will, knowing no other-
wise.

Within himself he found the law of
right, ⁵³⁰
He walked by faith and not the let-
ter's sight,
And read his Bible by the Inward
Light.

And if sometimes the slaves of form
and rule,
Frozen in their creeds like fish in win-
ter's pool,
Tried the large tolerance of his liberal
school,

His door was free to men of every
name,
He welcomed all the seeking souls
who came,
And no man's faith he made a cause
of blame.

But best he loved in leisure hours to
see
His own dear Friends sit by him knee
to knee, ⁵⁴⁰
In social converse, genial, frank, and
free.

There sometimes silence (it were hard
to tell
Who owned it first) upon the circle
fell,
Hushed Anna's busy wheel, and laid
its spell

On the black boy who grimaced by the
hearth,
To solemnize his shining face of mirth;
Only the old clock ticked amidst the
dearth

Of sound; nor eye was raised nor
hand was stirred

In that soul-sabbath, till at last some
word
Of tender counsel or low prayer was
heard. 550

Then guests, who lingered but fare-
well to say
And take love's message, went their
homeward way;
So passed in peace the guileless Quak-
er's day.

Nay, were the plant itself but mythi-
cal,
Set in the fresco of tradition's wall
Like Jotham's bramble, mattereth not
at all.

Enough to know that, through the
winter's frost
And summer's heat, no seed of truth is
lost, 570
And every duty pays at last its cost.



Nürnberg

His was the Christian's unsung Age of
Gold,
A truer idyl than the bards have
told
Of Arno's banks or Arcady of old.

Where still the Friends their place of
burial keep,
And century-rooted mosses o'er it
creep,
The Nürnberg scholar and his help-
meet sleep.

And Anna's aloë? if it flowered at
last 560
In Bartram's garden, did John Wool-
man cast
A glance upon it as he meekly passed?

And did a secret sympathy possess
That tender soul, and for the slave's
redress
Lend hope, strength, patience? It
were vain to guess.

For, ere Pastorius left the sun and air,
God sent the answer to his life-long
prayer;
The child was born beside the Dela-
ware,

Who, in the power a holy purpose
lends,
Guided his people unto nobler ends,
And left them worthier of the name of
Friends.

And lo! the fulness of the time has
come,
And over all the exile's Western
home,
From sea to sea the flowers of freedom
bloom! 580

And joy-bells ring, and silver trum-
pets blow;
But not for thee, Pastorius! Even so
The world forgets, but the wise angels
know.

KING VOLMER AND ELSIE

AFTER THE DANISH OF CHRISTIAN
WINTER

WHERE, over heathen doom-rings and
gray stones of the Horg,
In its little Christian city stands the
church of Vordingborg,
In merry mood King Volmer sat, for-
getful of his power,
As idle as the Goose of Gold that
brooded on his tower.

Out spake the King to Henrik, his
young and faithful squire:
"Dar'st trust thy little Elsie, the maid
of thy desire?"
"Of all the men in Denmark she lov-
eth only me:
As true to me is Elsie as thy Lily is to
thee."

Loud laughed the king: "To-morrow
shall bring another day,
When I myself will test her; she will
not say me nay."¹⁰
Thereat the lords and gallants, that
round about him stood,
Wagged all their heads in concert and
smiled as courtiers should.

The gray lark sings o'er Vordingborg,
and on the ancient town
From the tall tower of Valdemar the
Golden Goose looks down;
The yellow grain is waving in the
pleasant wind of morn,
The wood resounds with cry of hounds
and blare of hunter's horn.

In the garden of her father little Elsie
sits and spins,
And, singing with the early birds, her
daily task begins.
Gay tulips bloom and sweet mint curls
around her garden-bower,
But she is sweeter than the mint and
fairer than the flower."²⁰

About her form her kirtle blue clings
lovingly, and, white
As snow, her loose sleeves only leave
her small, round wrists in sight;
Below, the modest petticoat can only
half conceal
The motion of the lightest foot that
ever turned a wheel.

The cat sits purring at her side, bees
hum in sunshine warm;
But, look! she starts, she lifts her
face, she shades it with her
arm.

And, hark! a train of horsemen, with
sound of dog and horn,
Come leaping o'er the ditches, come
trampling down the corn!

Merrily rang the bridle-reins, and
scarf and plume streamed gay,
As fast beside her father's gate the
riders held their way;³⁰
And one was brave in scarlet cloak,
with golden spur on heel,
And, as he checked his foaming steed,
the maiden checked her wheel.

"All hail among thy roses, the fairest
rose to me!
For weary months in secret my heart
has longed for thee!"
What noble knight was this? What
words for modest maiden's
ear?
She dropped a lowly courtesy of bash-
fulness and fear.

She lifted up her spinning-wheel; she
fain would seek the door,
Trembling in every limb, her cheek
with blushes crimsoned o'er.
"Nay, fear me not," the rider said, "I
offer heart and hand,
Bear witness these good Danish
knights who round about me
stand."⁴⁰

"I grant you time to think of this, to
answer as you may,
For to-morrow, little Elsie, shall bring
another day."
He spake the old phrase slyly, as glan-
cing round his train,
He saw his merry followers seek to
hide their smiles in vain.

"The snow of pearls I'll scatter in
your curls of golden hair,
I'll line with furs the velvet of the
kirtle that you wear;
All precious gems shall twine your
neck; and in a chariot gay
You shall ride, my little Elsie, behind
four steeds of gray.

"And harps shall sound, and flutes
shall play, and brazen lamps
shall glow;
On marble floors your feet shall weave
the dances to and fro. 50
At frosty eventide for us the blazing
hearth shall shine,
While at our ease we play at draughts,
and drink the blood-red wine."

Then Elsie raised her head and met
her wooer face to face;
A roguish smile shone in her eye and
on her lip found place.
Back from her low white forehead the
curls of gold she threw,
And lifted up her eyes to his, steady
and clear and blue.

"I am a lowly peasant, and you a gal-
lant knight;
I will not trust a love that soon may
cool and turn to slight.
If you would wed me henceforth be a
peasant, not a lord;
I bid you hang upon the wall your
tried and trusty sword." 60

"To please you, Elsie, I will lay keen
Dynadel away,
And in its place will swing the scythe
and mow your father's hay."
"Nay, but your gallant scarlet cloak
my eyes can never bear;
A Vadmal coat, so plain and gray, is
all that you must wear."

"Well, Vadmal will I wear for you,"
the rider gayly spoke,
"And on the Lord's high altar I'll lay
my scarlet cloak."
"But mark," she said, "no stately
horse my peasant love must
ride,
A yoke of steers before the plough is
all that he must guide."

The knight looked down upon his
steed: "Well, let him wander
free:
No other man must ride the horse that
has been backed by me. 70
Henceforth I'll tread the furrow and
to my oxen talk,
If only little Elsie beside my plough
will walk."

"You must take from out your cellar
cask of wine and flask and
can;
The homely mead I brew you may
serve a peasant-man."
"Most willingly, fair Elsie, I'll drink
that mead of thine,
And leave my minstrel's thirsty throat
to drain my generous wine."

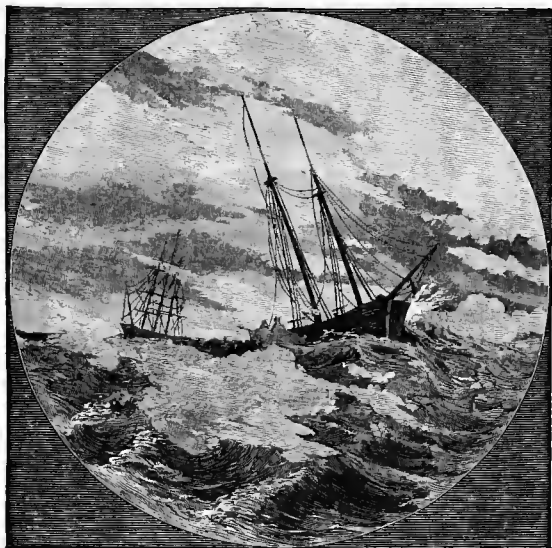
"Now break your shield asunder, and
shatter sign and boss,
Unmeet for peasant-wedded arms,
your knightly knee across.
And pull me down your castle from
top to basement wall,
And let your plough trace furrows in
the ruins of your hall!" 80

Then smiled he with a lofty pride;
right well at last he knew
The maiden of the spinning-wheel
was to her troth-pledge true.
"Ah, roguish little Elsie! you act
your part full well:
You know that I must bear my shield
and in my castle dwell!"

"The lions ramping on that shield be-
tween the hearts aflame
Keep watch o'er Denmark's honor,
and guard her ancient name.
For know that I am Volmer; I dwell
in yonder towers,
Who ploughs them ploughs up Den-
mark, this goodly home of
ours!"

"I tempt no more, fair Elsie! your
heart I know is true;
Would God that all our maidens were
good and pure as you! 90
Well have you pleased your monarch,
and he shall well repay;
God's peace! Farewell! To-morrow
will bring another day!"

He lifted up his bridle hand, he
spurred his good steed then,
And like a whirl-blast swept away
with all his gallant men.
The steel hoofs beat the rocky path;
again on winds of morn
The wood resounds with cry of
hounds and blare of hunter's
horn.



“ All night across the waters
The tossing lights shone clear ”

“Thou true and ever faithful!” the
listening Henrik cried;
And, leaping o'er the green hedge, he
stood by Elsie's side.
None saw the fond embracing, save,
shining from afar,
The Golden Goose that watched them
from the tower of Valdemar.

O darling girls of Denmark! of all the
flowers that throng ¹⁰¹
Her vales of spring the fairest, I sing
for you my song.
No praise as yours so bravely rewards
the singer's skill;
Thank God! of maids like Elsie the
land has plenty still!

THE THREE BELLS

BENEATH the low-hung night cloud
That raked her splintering mast
The good ship settled slowly,
The cruel leak gained fast.

Over the awful ocean
Her signal guns pealed out.
Dear God! was that Thy answer
From the horror round about?

A voice came down the wild wind,
“Ho! ship ahoy!” its cry: ¹⁰
“Our stout Three Bells of Glasgow
Shall lay till daylight by!”

Hour after hour crept slowly,
Yet on the heaving swells
Tossed up and down the ship-lights,
The lights of the Three Bells!

And ship to ship made signals,
Man answered back to man,
While oft, to cheer and hearten,
The Three Bells nearer ran; ²⁰

And the captain from her taffrail
Sent down his hopeful cry:
“Take heart! Hold on!” he shouted!
“The Three Bells shall lay by!”

All night across the waters
 The tossing lights shone clear;
 All night from reeling taffrail
 The Three Bells sent her cheer.

And when the dreary watches
 Of storm and darkness passed, 30
 Just as the wreck lurched under,
 All souls were saved at last.

Sail on, Three Bells, forever,
 In grateful memory sail!
 Ring on, Three Bells of rescue,
 Above the wave and gale!

Type of the Love eternal,
 Repeat the Master's cry,
 As tossing through our darkness
 The lights of God draw nigh! 40

JOHN UNDERHILL

A SCORE of years had come and gone
 Since the Pilgrims landed on Ply-
 mouth stone,
 When Captain Underhill, bearing
 scars
 From Indian ambush and Flemish
 wars,
 Left three-hilled Boston and wan-
 dered down,
 East by north, to Cochecho town.

With Vane the younger, in council
 sweet,
 He had sat at Anna Hutchinson's feet,
 And, when the bolt of banishment fell
 On the head of his saintly oracle, 10
 He had shared her ill as her good re-
 port,
 And braved the wrath of the General
 Court.

He shook from his feet as he rode away
 The dust of the Massachusetts Bay.
 The world might bless and the world
 might ban,
 What did it matter the perfect man,
 To whom the freedom of earth was
 given,
 Proof against sin, and sure of heaven?

He cheered his heart as he rode along
 With screed of Scripture and holy
 song, 20

Or thought how he rode with h
 lances free
 By the Lower Rhine and the Zuyde
 Zee,
 Till his wood-path grew to a trodde
 road,
 And Hilton Point in the distanc
 showed.

He saw the church with the block
 house nigh,
 The two fair rivers, the flakes thereb
 And, tacking to windward, low an
 crank,
 The little shallop from Strawberr
 Bank;
 And he rose in his stirrups and looke
 abroad
 Over land and water, and praised th
 Lord. 3

Goodly and stately and grave to see
 Into the clearing's space rode he,
 With the sun on the hilt of his swor
 in sheath,
 And his silver buckles and spurs be
 neath,
 And the settlers welcomed him, on
 and all,
 From swift Quampeagan to Goni
 Fall.

And he said to the elders: "Lo,
 come
 As the way seemed open to seek
 home.
 Somewhat the Lord hath wrought b
 my hands
 In the Narragansett and Nether
 lands, 4
 And if here ye have work for a Chris
 tian man,
 I will tarry, and serve ye as best I can

"I boast not of gifts, but fain woul
 own
 The wonderful favor God hath show
 The special mercy vouchsafed one da
 On the shore of Narragansett Bay,
 As I sat, with my pipe, from the cam
 aside,
 And mused like Isaac at eventide.

"A sudden sweetness of peace I found
 A garment of gladness wrapped m
 round; 5

I felt from the law of works released,
The strife of the flesh and spirit
ceased,

My faith to a full assurance grew,
And all I had hoped for myself I
knew.

"Now, as God appointeth, I keep my
way,

I shall not stumble, I shall not stray;
He hath taken away my fig-leaf dress,
I wear the robe of His righteousness;
And the shafts of Satan no more avail
Than Pequot arrows on Christian
mail." 60

"Tarry with us," the settlers cried,
"Thou man of God, as our ruler and
guide."

And Captain Underhill bowed his
head.

"The will of the Lord be done!" he
said.

And the morrow beheld him sitting
down

In the ruler's seat in Cochecho town.

And he judged therein as a just man
should;

His words were wise and his rule was
good;

He coveted not his neighbor's land,
From the holding of bribes he shook
his hand; 70

And through the camps of the heathen
ran

A wholesome fear of the valiant man.

But the heart is deceitful, the good
Book saith,

And life hath ever a savor of death.
Through hymns of triumph the

tempter calls,

And whoso thinketh he standeth falls.
Alas! ere their round the seasons ran,
There was grief in the soul of the
saintly man.

The tempter's arrows that rarely fail
Had found the joints of his spiritual
mail; 80

And men took note of his gloomy air,
The shame in his eye, the halt in his
prayer,

The signs of a battle lost within,
The pain of a soul in the coils of sin.

Then a whisper of scandal linked his
name

With broken vows and a life of blame;
And the people looked askance on him
As he walked among them sullen and
grim,

Ill at ease, and bitter of word,
And prompt of quarrel with hand or
sword. 90

None knew how, with prayer and fast-
ing still,

He strove in the bonds of his evil will;
But he shook himself like Samson at
length,

And girded anew his loins of strength,
And bade the crier go up and down
And call together the wondering town.

Jeer and murmur and shaking of head
Ceased as he rose in his place and said:

"Men, brethren, and fathers, well ye
know

How I came among you a year ago, 100
Strong in the faith that my soul was
freed

From sin of feeling, or thought, or deed.

"I have sinned, I own it with grief and
shame,

But not with a lie on my lips I came.
In my blindness I verily thought my
heart

Swept and garnished in every part.
He chargeth His angels with folly; He
sees

The heavens unclean. Was I more
than these?

"I urge no plea. At your feet I lay
The trust you gave me, and go my
way. 110

Hate me or pity me, as you will,
The Lord will have mercy on sinners
still;

And I, who am chiefest, say to all,
Watch and pray, lest ye also fall."

No voice made answer: a sob so low
That only his quickened ear could know
Smote his heart with a bitter pain,

As into the forest he rode again,
And the veil of its oaken leaves shut
down

On his latest glimpse of Cochecho
town. 120

Crystal-clear on the man of sin
 The streams flashed up, and the sky
 shone in;
 On his cheek of fever the cool wind
 blew,
 The leaves dropped on him their tears
 of dew,
 And angels of God, in the pure, sweet
 guise
 Of flowers, looked on him with sad
 surprise.

Was his ear at fault that brook and
 breeze
 Sang in their saddest of minor
 keys?
 What was it the mournful wood-
 thrush said?
 What whispered the pine-trees over-
 head?
 Did he hear the Voice on his lonely
 way ¹³⁰
 That Adam heard in the cool of day?

Into the desert alone rode he,
 Alone with the Infinite Purity;
 And, bowing his soul to its tender re-
 buke,
 As Peter did to the Master's look,
 He measured his path with prayers of
 pain
 For peace with God and nature again.

And in after years to Coheco came
 The bruit of a once familiar name; ¹⁴⁰
 How among the Dutch of New Nether-
 lands,
 From wild Danskamer to Haarlem
 sands,
 A penitent soldier preached the
 Word,
 And smote the heathen with Gideon's
 sword!

And the heart of Boston was glad to
 hear
 How he harried the foe on the long
 frontier,
 And heaped on the land against him
 barred
 The coils of his generous watch and
 ward.
 Frailest and bravest! the Bay State
 still
 Counts with her worthies John Under-
 hill. ¹⁵⁰

CONDUCTOR BRADLEY

CONDUCTOR BRADLEY, (always may
 his name
 Be said with reverence!) as the swift
 doom came,
 Smitten to death, a crushed and man-
 gled frame,

Sank, with the brake he grasped just
 where he stood
 To do the utmost that a brave man
 could,
 And die, if needful, as a true man
 should.

Men stooped above him; women
 dropped their tears
 On that poor wreck beyond all hopes
 or fears,
 Lost in the strength and glory of his
 years.

What heard they? Lo! the ghastly
 lips of pain,
 Dead to all thought save duty's,
 moved again:
 "Put out the signals for the other
 train!"

No nobler utterance since the world
 began
 From lips of saint or martyr ever ran,
 Electric, through the sympathies of
 man.

Ah me! how poor and noteless seem
 to this
 The sick-bed dramas of self-conscious-
 ness,
 Our sensual fears of pain and hopes of
 bliss!

Oh, grand, supreme endeavor! Not in
 vain
 That last brave act of failing tongue
 and brain!
 Freightened with life the downward
 rushing train,

Following the wrecked one, as wave
 follows wave,
 Obeyed the warning which the dead
 lips gave.
 Others he saved, himself he could not
 save.

Nay, the lost life *was* saved. He is not
 dead
 Who in his record still the earth shall
 tread
 With God's clear aureole shining
 round his head.

We bow as in the dust, with all our
 pride
 Of virtue dwarfed the noble deed be-
 side.

God give us grace to live as Bradley
 died!

THE WITCH OF WENHAM

I

ALONG Crane River's sunny slopes
 Blew warm the winds of May,
 And over Naumkeag's ancient oaks
 The green outgrew the gray.

The grass was green on Rial-side,
 The early birds at will
 Waked up the violet in its dell,
 The wind-flower on its hill.

"Where go you, in your Sunday coat,
 Son Andrew, tell me, pray." 10
 "For striped perch in Wenham Lake
 I go to fish to-day."

"Unharméd of thee in Wenham Lake
 The mottled perch shall be:
 A blue-eyed witch sits on the bank
 And weaves her net for thee.

"She weaves her golden hair; she sings
 Her spell-song low and faint;
 The wickedest witch in Salem jail
 Is to that girl a saint." 20

"Nay, mother, hold thy cruel tongue;
 God knows," the young man cried,
 "He never made a whiter soul
 Than hers by Wenham side.

"She tends her mother sick and blind,
 And every want supplies;
 To her above the blessed Book
 She lends her soft blue eyes.

"Her voice is glad with holy songs,
 Her lips are sweet with prayer; 30

Go where you will, in ten miles round
 Is none more good and fair."

"Son Andrew, for the love of God
 And of thy mother, stay!"
 She clasped her hands, she wept aloud,
 But Andrew rode away.

"O reverend sir, my Andrew's soul
 The Wenham witch has caught;
 She holds him with the curled gold
 Whereof her snare is wrought. 40

"She charms him with her great blue
 eyes,
 She binds him with her hair;
 Oh, break the spell with holy words,
 Unbind him with a prayer!"

"Take heart," the painful preacher
 said,
 "This mischief shall not be;
 The witch shall perish in her sins
 And Andrew shall go free.

"Our poor Ann Putnam testifies
 She saw her weave a spell, 50
 Bare-armed, loose-haired, at full of
 moon,
 Around a dried-up well.

"'Spring up, O well!' she softly sang
 The Hebrew's old refrain
 (For Satan uses Bible words),
 Till water flowed amain.

"And many a goodwife heard her
 speak
 By Wenham water words
 That made the buttercups take wings
 And turn to yellow birds. 60

"They say that swarming wild bees seek
 The hive at her command;
 And fishes swim to take their food
 From out her dainty hand.

"Meek as she sits in meeting-time,
 The godly minister
 Notes well the spell that doth compel
 The young men's eyes to her.

"The mole upon her dimpled chin
 Is Satan's seal and sign; 70
 Her lips are red with evil bread
 And stain of unblest wine.

"For Tituba, my Indian, saith
At Quasycung she took
The Black Man's godless sacrament
And signed his dreadful book.

"Last night my sore-afflicted child
Against the young witch cried.
To take her Marshal Herrick rides
Even now to Wenham side." 80

The marshal in his saddle sat,
His daughter at his knee;
"I go to fetch that arrant witch,
Thy fair playmate," quoth he.

"Her spectre walks the parsonage,
And haunts both hall and stair;
They know her by the great blue
eyes
And floating gold of hair."

"They lie, they lie, my father dear!
No foul old witch is she,
But sweet and good and crystal-pure
As Wenham waters be." 90

"I tell thee, child, the Lord hath set
Before us good and ill,
And woe to all whose carnal loves
Oppose His righteous will.

"Between Him and the powers of hell
Choose thou, my child, to-day:
No sparing hand, no pitying eye,
When God commands to slay!" 100

He went his way; the old wives shook
With fear as he drew nigh;
The children in the dooryards held
Their breath as he passed by.

Too well they knew the gaunt gray
horse
The grim witch-hunter rode,
The pale Apocalyptic beast
By grisly Death bestrode.

II

Oh, fair the face of Wenham Lake
Upon the young girl's shone, 110
Her tender mouth, her dreaming eyes,
Her yellow hair outblown.

By happy youth and love attuned
To natural harmonies,

The singing birds, the whispering
wind,
She sat beneath the trees.

Sat shaping for her bridal dress
Her mother's wedding gown,
When lo! the marshal, writ in hand,
From Alford hill rode down. 120

His face was hard with cruel fear,
He grasped the maiden's hands:
"Come with me unto Salem town,
For so the law commands!"

"Oh, let me to my mother say
Farewell before I go!"
He closer tied her little hands
Unto his saddle bow.

"Unhand me," cried she piteously,
"For thy sweet daughter's sake." 130
"I'll keep my daughter safe," he said,
"From the witch of Wenham Lake."

"Oh, leave me for my mother's sake,
She needs my eyes to see."
"Those eyes, young witch, the crow
shall peck
From off the gallows-tree."

He bore her to a farm-house old
And up its stairway long,
And closed on her the garret-door
With iron bolted strong. 140

The day died out, the night came
down:
Her evening prayer she said,
While, through the dark, strange faces
seemed
To mock her as she prayed.

The present horror deepened all
The fears her childhood knew;
The awe wherewith the air was filled
With every breath she drew.

And could it be, she trembling asked,
Some secret thought or sin 150
Had shut good angels from her heart
And let the bad ones in?

Had she in some forgotten dream
Let go her hold on Heaven,
And sold herself unwittingly
To spirits unforgiven?



“God keep her from the evil eye,
And harm of witch!’ he cried”

Oh, weird and still the dark hours
passed;
No human sound she heard,
But up and down the chimney stack
The swallows moaned and stirred.

And o’er her, with a dread surmise
Of evil sight and sound, ¹⁶²
The blind bats on their leathern wings
Went wheeling round and round.

Low hanging in the midnight sky
Looked in a half-faced moon.
Was it a dream, or did she hear
Her lover’s whistled tune?

She forced the oaken scuttle back;
A whisper reached her ear: ¹⁷⁰
“Slide down the roof to me,” it
said,
“So softly none may hear.”

She slid along the sloping roof
Till from its eaves she hung,
And felt the loosened shingles yield
To which her fingers clung.

Below, her lover stretched his hands
And touched her feet so small;
"Drop down to me, dear heart," he
said,
"My arms shall break the fall." 180

He set her on his pillion soft,
Her arms about him twined;
And, noiseless as if velvet-shod,
They left the house behind.

But when they reached the open way,
Full free the rein he cast;
Oh, never through the mirk mid-
night
Rode man and maid more fast.

Along the wild wood-paths they sped,
The bridgeless streams they swam;
At set of moon they passed the Bass,
At sunrise Agawam. 192

At high noon on the Merrimac
The ancient ferryman
Forgot, at times, his idle oars,
So fair a freight to scan.

And when from off his grounded boat
He saw them mount and ride,
"God keep her from the evil eye,
And harm of witch!" he cried. 200

The maiden laughed, as youth will
laugh
At all its fears gone by;
"He does not know," she whispered
low,
"A little witch am I."

All day he urged his weary horse,
And, in the red sundown,
Drew rein before a friendly door
In distant Berwick town.

A fellow-feeling for the wronged
The Quaker people felt; 210
And safe beside their kindly hearths
The hunted maiden dwelt,

Until from off its breast the land
The haunting horror threw,

And hatred, born of ghastly dreams,
To shame and pity grew.

Sad were the year's spring morns, and
sad
Its golden summer day,
But blithe and glad its withered
fields,
And skies of ashen gray; 220

For spell and charm had power no
more,
The spectres ceased to roam,
And scattered households knelt again
Around the hearths of home.

And when once more by Beaver
Dam
The meadow-lark outsang,
And once again on all the hills
The early violets sprang,

And all the windy pasture slopes
Lay green within the arms 230
Of creeks that bore the salted sea
To pleasant inland farms,

The smith filed off the chains he
forged,
The jail-bolts backward fell;
And youth and hoary age came forth
Like souls escaped from hell.

KING SOLOMON AND THE ANTS

OUT from Jerusalem
The king rode with his great
War chiefs and lords of state,
And Sheba's queen with them;

Comely, but black withal,
To whom, perchance, belongs
That wondrous Song of songs,
Sensuous and mystical,

Whereto devout souls turn
In fond, ecstatic dream, 10
And through its earth-born theme
The Love of loves discern.

Proud in the Syrian sun,
In gold and purple sheen,
The dusky Ethiop queen
Smiled on King Solomon.

Wisest of men, he knew
The languages of all
The creatures great or small
That trod the earth or flew. 20

Across an ant-hill led
The king's path, and he heard
Its small folk, and their word
He thus interpreted:

"Here comes the king men greet
As wise and good and just,
To crush us in the dust
Under his heedless feet."

The great king bowed his head,
And saw the wide surprise 30
Of the Queen of Sheba's eyes
As he told her what they said.

"O king!" she whispered sweet,
"Too happy fate have they
Who perish in thy way
Beneath thy gracious feet!

"Thou of the God-lent crown,
Shall these vile creatures dare
Murmur against thee where
The knees of kings kneel down?" 40

"Nay," Solomon replied,
"The wise and strong should seek
The welfare of the weak,"
And turned his horse aside.

His train, with quick alarm,
Curved with their leader round
The ant-hill's peopled mound,
And left it free from harm.

The jewelled head bent low;
"O king!" she said, "henceforth 50
The secret of thy worth
And wisdom well I know.

"Happy must be the State
Whose ruler heedeth more
The murmurs of the poor
Than flatteries of the great."

IN THE "OLD SOUTH "

SHE came and stood in the Old South
Church,
A wonder and a sign,

With a look the old-time sibyls wore,
Half-crazed and half-divine.

Save the mournful sackcloth about her
wound,
Unclothed as the primal mother,
With limbs that trembled and eyes
that blazed
With a fire she dare not smother.

Loose on her shoulders fell her hair,
With sprinkled ashes gray; 10
She stood in the broad aisle strange
and weird
As a soul at the judgment day.

And the minister paused in his ser-
mon's midst,
And the people held their breath,
For these were the words the maiden
spoke
Through lips as the lips of death:

"Thus saith the Lord, with equal feet
All men my courts shall tread,
And priest and ruler no more shall
eat
My people up like bread! 20

"Repent! repent! ere the Lord shall
speak
In thunder and breaking seals!
Let all souls worship Him in the way
His light within reveals."

She shook the dust from her naked
feet,
And her sackcloth closer drew,
And into the porch of the awe-hushed
church
She passed like a ghost from view.

They whipped her away at the tail o'
the cart
Through half the streets of the
town, 30
But the words she uttered that day
nor fire
Could burn nor water drown.

And now the aisles of the ancient
church
By equal feet are trod,
And the bell that swings in its belfry
rings
Freedom to worship God!

And now whenever a wrong is done
 It thrills the conscious walls;
 The stone from the basement cries
 aloud
 And the beam from the timber
 calls. 40

There are steeple-houses on every
 hand,
 And pulpits that bless and ban,
 And the Lord will not grudge the single
 church
 That is set apart for man.

For in two commandments are all the
 law
 And the prophets under the sun,
 And the first is last and the last is first,
 And the twain are verily one.

So long as Boston shall Boston be,
 And her bay-tides rise and fall, 50
 Shall freedom stand in the Old South
 Church
 And plead for the rights of all!

THE HENCHMAN

My lady walks her morning round,
 My lady's page her fleet greyhound,
 My lady's hair the fond winds stir,
 And all the birds make songs for her.

Her thrushes sing in Rathburn bow-
 ers,
 And Rathburn side is gay with flowers,
 But ne'er like hers, in flower or bird,
 Was beauty seen or music heard.

The distance of the stars is hers;
 The least of all her worshippers, 10
 The dust beneath her dainty heel,
 She knows not that I see or feel.

Oh, 'proud and calm! — she cannot
 know
 Where'er she goes with her I go;
 Oh, cold and fair! — she cannot guess
 I kneel to share her hound's caress!

Gay knights beside her hunt and
 hawk,
 I rob their ears of her sweet talk;
 Her suitors come from east and west,
 I steal her smiles from every guest. 20

Unheard of her, in loving words,
 I greet her with the song of birds;
 I reach her with her green-armed bow-
 ers,
 I kiss her with the lips of flowers.

The hound and I are on her trail,
 The wind and I uplift her veil;
 As if the calm, cold moon she were,
 And I the tide, I follow her.

As unrebuked as they, I share
 The license of the sun and air, 30
 And in a common homage hide
 My worship from her scorn and
 pride.

World-wide apart, and yet so near,
 I breathe her charmèd atmosphere,
 Wherein to her my service brings
 The reverence due to holy things.

Her maiden pride, her haughty name,
 My dumb devotion shall not shame;
 The love that no return doth crave
 To knightly levels lifts the slave. 40

No lance have I, in joust or fight,
 To splinter in my lady's sight;
 But, at her feet, how blest were I
 For any need of hers to die!

THE DEAD FEAST OF THE KOL-FOLK

WE have opened the door,
 Once, twice, thrice!
 We have swept the floor,
 We have boiled the rice.
 Come hither, come hither!
 Come from the far lands,
 Come from the star lands,
 Come as before!
 We lived long together,
 We loved one another; 10
 Come back to our life.
 Come father, come mother,
 Come sister and brother,
 Child, husband, and wife,
 For you we are sighing.
 Come take your old places,
 Come look in our faces,
 The dead on the dying,
 Come home!

We have opened the door, 20
 Once, twice, thrice!
 We have kindled the coals,
 And we boil the rice
 For the feast of souls.
 Come hither, come hither!
 Think not we fear you,
 Whose hearts are so near you.
 Come tenderly thought on,
 Come all unforgotten,
 Come from the shadow-lands, 30
 From the dim meadow-lands
 Where the pale grasses bend
 Low to our sighing.
 Come father, come mother,
 Come sister and brother,
 Come husband and friend,
 The dead to the dying,
 Come home!

We have opened the door
 You entered so oft; 40
 For the feast of souls
 We have kindled the coals,
 And we boil the rice soft.
 Come you who are dearest
 To us, who are nearest,
 Come hither, come hither,
 From out the wild weather;
 The storm clouds are flying,
 The peepul is sighing;
 Come in from the rain. 50
 Come father, come mother,
 Come sister and brother,
 Come husband and lover,
 Beneath our roof-cover.
 Look on us again,
 The dead on the dying,
 Come home!

We have opened the door!
 For the feast of souls
 We have kindled the coals 60
 We may kindle no more!
 Snake, fever, and famine,
 The curse of the Brahmin,
 The sun and the dew,
 They burn us, they bite us,
 They waste us and smite us;
 Our days are but few!
 In strange lands far yonder
 To wonder and wander
 We hasten to you. 70
 List then to our sighing,
 While yet we are here:
 Nor seeing nor hearing,

We wait without fearing
 To feel you draw near.
 O dead, to the dying
 Come home!

THE KHAN'S DEVIL

THE Khan came from Bokhara town
 To Hamza, santon of renown.

"My head is sick, my hands are weak;
 Thy help, O holy man, I seek."

In silence marking for a space
 The Khan's red eyes and purple face,

Thick voice, and loose, uncertain
 tread,
 "Thou hast a devil!" Hamza said.

"Allah forbid!" exclaimed the Khan.
 "Rid me of him at once, O man!" 10

"Nay," Hamza said, "no spell of
 mine
 Can slay that cursed thing of thine.

"Leave feast and wine, go forth and
 drink
 Water of healing on the brink

"Where clear and cold from mountain
 snows,
 The Nahr el Zeben downward flows.

"Six moons remain, then come to me;
 May Allah's pity go with thee!"

Awestruck, from feast and wine the
 Khan
 Went forth where Nahr el Zeben ran. 20

Roots were his food, the desert dust
 His bed, the water quenched his
 thirst;

And when the sixth moon's scimitar
 Curved sharp above the evening star,

He sought again the santon's door,
 Not weak and trembling as before,

But strong of limb and clear of
 brain;
 "Behold," he said, "the fiend is slain."

"Nay," Hamza answered, "starved
and drowned,
The curst one lies in death-like
swound. ³⁰

"But evil breaks the strongest gyves,
And jins like him have charmèd lives.

"One beaker of the juice of grape
May call him up in living shape.

"When the red wine of Badakshan
Sparkles for thee, beware, O Khan!

"With water quench the fire within,
And drown each day thy devilkin!"

Thenceforth the great Khan shunned
the cup ³⁹
As Shitan's own, though offered up,

With laughing eyes and jewelled
hands,
By Yarkand's maids and Samarcand's.

And, in the lofty vestibule
Of the medress of Kaush Kodul,

The students of the holy law
A golden-lettered tablet saw,

With these words, by a cunning hand,
Graved on it at the Khan's command:

"In Allah's name, to him who hath
A devil, Khan el Hamed saith, ⁵⁰

"Wisely our Prophet cursed the vine:
The fiend that loves the breath of wine

"No prayer can slay, no marabout
Nor Meccan dervis can drive out.

"I, Khan el Hamed, know the charm
That robs him of his power to harm.

"Drown him, O Islam's child! the spell
To save thee lies in tank and well!"

THE KING'S MISSIVE

1661

UNDER the great hill sloping bare
To cove and meadow and Common
lot,

In his council chamber and oaken
chair,
Sat the worshipful Governor Endi-
cott.

A grave, strong man, who knew no
peer
In the Pilgrim land, where he ruled in
fear

Of God, not man, and for good or ill
Held his trust with an iron will.

He had shorn with his sword the cross
from out

The flag, and cloven the May-pole
down, ¹⁰

Harried the heathen round about,
And whipped the Quakers from
town to town.

Earnest and honest, a man at need
To burn like a torch for his own harsh
creed,

He kept with the flaming brand of his
zeal

The gate of the holy common weal.

His brow was clouded, his eye was
stern,

With a look of mingled sorrow and
wrath;

"Woe's me!" he murmured: "at
every turn

The pestilent Quakers are in my
path! ²⁰

Some we have scourged, and banished
some,

Some hanged, more doomed, and still
they come,

Fast as the tide of yon bay sets
in,

Sowing their heresy's seed of sin.

"Did we count on this? Did we leave
behind

The graves of our kin, the comfort
and ease

Of our English hearths and homes, to
find

Troublers of Israel such as these?
Shall I spare? Shall I pity them?
God forbid!

I will do as the prophet to Agag
did: ³⁰

They come to poison the wells of the
Word,

I will hew them in pieces before the
Lord!"



John Endicott

The door swung open, and Rawson
 the clerk
 Entered, and whispered under
 breath,
 "There waits below for the hangman's
 work
 A fellow banished on pain of death—
 Shattuck, of Salem, unhealed of the
 whip,
 Brought over in Master Goldsmith's
 ship
 At anchor here in a Christian port,
 With freight of the devil and all his
 sort!"

40

Twice and thrice on the chamber
 floor
 Striding fiercely from wall to
 wall,
 "The Lord do so to me and more,"
 The Governor cried, "if I hang not
 all!
 Bring hither the Quaker." Calm, se-
 date,
 With the look of a man at ease with
 fate,
 Into that presence grim and dread
 Came Samuel Shattuck, with hat on
 head.

"Off with the knave's hat!" An angry hand

Smote down the offence; but the wearer said,

With a quiet smile, "By the king's command

I bear his message and stand in his stead."

In the Governor's hand a missive he laid

With the royal arms on its seal displayed,

And the proud man spake as he gazed thereat,

Uncovering, "Give Mr. Shattuck his hat."

He turned to the Quaker, bowing low, —

"The king commandeth your friends' release;

Doubt not he shall be obeyed, although

To his subjects' sorrow and sin's increase.

What he here enjoineth, John Endicott,

His loyal servant, questioneth not.

You are free! God grant the spirit you own

May take you from us to parts unknown."

So the door of the jail was open cast, And, like Daniel, out of the lion's den

Tender youth and girlhood passed, With age-bowed women and gray-locked men.

And the voice of one appointed to die Was lifted in praise and thanks on high,

And the little maid from New Netherlands

Kissed, in her joy, the doomed man's hands.

And one, whose call was to minister To the souls in prison, beside him went,

An ancient woman, bearing with her The linen shroud for his burial meant.

For she, not counting her own life dear,

In the strength of a love that cast out fear,

Had watched and served where her brethren died,
Like those who waited the cross beside.

One moment they paused on their way to look

On the martyr graves by the Common side,

And much scourged Wharton of Salem took

His burden of prophecy up and cried:

"Rest, souls of the valiant! Not in vain Have ye borne the Master's cross of pain;

Ye have fought the fight, ye are victors crowned,

With a fourfold chain ye have Satan bound!"

The autumn haze lay soft and still

On wood and meadow and upland farms;

On the brow of Snow Hill the great windmill

Slowly and lazily swung its arms;

Broad in the sunshine stretched away, With its capes and islands, the turquoise bay;

And over water and dusk of pines Blue hills lifted their faint outlines.

The topaz leaves of the walnut glowed,

The sumach added its crimson fleck, And double in air and water showed

The tinted maples along the Neck; Through frost flower clusters of pale star-mist,

And gentian fringes of amethyst, And royal plumes of golden-rod,

The grazing cattle on Centry trod.

But as they who see not, the Quakers saw

The world about them; they only thought

With deep thanksgiving and pious awe On the great deliverance God had wrought.

Through lane and alley the gazing town

Noisily followed them up and down; Some with scoffing and brutal jeer,

Some with pity and words of cheer.



"So passed the Quakers through Boston town"

One brave voice rose above the din.

Upsall, gray with his length of days,
Cried from the door of his Red Lion
Inn:

"Men of Boston, give God the
praise!

No more shall innocent blood call
down

The bolts of wrath on your guilty
town.

The freedom of worship, dear to you,
Is dear to all, and to all is due. 120

"I see the vision of days to come,
When your beautiful City of the
Bay

Shall be Christian liberty's chosen
home,

And none shall his neighbor's rights
gainsay.

The varying notes of worship shall
blend

And as one great prayer to God ascend,
And hands of mutual charity raise

Walls of salvation and gates of praise."

So passed the Quakers through Boston town,
 Whose painful ministers sighed to see
 The walls of their sheep-fold falling down,
 And wolves of heresy prowling free.
 But the years went on, and brought no wrong;
 With milder counsels the State grew strong,
 As outward Letter and inward Light
 Kept the balance of truth aright.

The Puritan spirit perishing not,
 To Concord's yeomen the signal sent,
 And spake in the voice of the cannon-shot
 That severed the chains of a continent.
 With its gentler mission of peace and good-will
 The thought of the Quaker is living still,
 And the freedom of soul he prophesied
 Is gospel and law where the martyrs died.

VALUATION

THE old Squire said, as he stood by his gate,
 And his neighbor, the Deacon, went by,
 "In spite of my bank stock and real estate,
 You are better off, Deacon, than I.

"We're both growing old, and the end's drawing near,
 You have less of this world to resign,
 But in Heaven's appraisal your assests I fear,
 Will reckon up greater than mine.

"They say I am rich, but I'm feeling so poor,
 I wish I could swap with you even:
 The pounds I have lived for and laid up in store
 For the shillings and pence you have given."

"Well, Squire," said the Deacon, with shrewd common sense,
 While his eye had a twinkle of fun,
 "Let your pounds take the way of my shillings and pence,
 And the thing can be easily done!"

RABBI ISHMAEL

THE Rabbi Ishmael, with the woe and sin
 Of the world heavy upon him, entering in
 The Holy of Holies, saw an awful Face
 With terrible splendor filling all the place.
 "O Ishmael Ben Elisha!" said a voice,
 "What seekest thou? What blessing is thy choice?"
 And, knowing that he stood before the Lord,
 Within the shadow of the cherubim,
 Wide-winged between the blinding light and him,
 He bowed himself, and uttered not a word;
 But in the silence of his soul was prayer:
 "O Thou Eternal! I am one of all,
 And nothing ask that others may not share.
 Thou art almighty; we are weak and small,
 And yet Thy children: let Thy mercy spare!"
 Trembling, he raised his eyes, and in the place
 Of the insufferable glory, lo! a face
 Of more than mortal tenderness, that bent
 Graciously down in token of assent,
 And, smiling, vanished! With strange joy elate,
 The wondering Rabbi sought the temple's gate.
 Radiant as Moses from the Mount, he stood
 And cried aloud unto the multitude:
 "O Israel, hear! The Lord our God is good!
 Mine eyes have seen His glory and His grace;
 Beyond His judgments shall His love endure;
 The mercy of the All Merciful is sure!"

THE ROCK-TOMB OF BRADORE

A DREAR and desolate shore!
 Where no tree unfolds its leaves,
 And never the spring wind weaves
 Green grass for the hunter's tread;
 A land forsaken and dead,
 Where the ghostly icebergs go
 And come with the ebb and flow
 Of the waters of Bradore!

A wanderer, from the land
 By summer breezes fanned, 10
 Looked round him, awed, subdued,
 By the dreadful solitude,
 Hearing alone the cry
 Of sea-birds clanging by,
 The crash and grind of the floe,
 Wail of wind and wash of tide.
 "O wretched land!" he cried,
 "Land of all lands the worst,
 God forsaken and curst!
 Thy gates of rock should show 20
 The words the Tuscan seer
 Read in the Realm of Woe:
Hope entereth not here!"

Lo! at his feet there stood
 A block of smooth larch wood,
 Waif of some wandering wave,
 Beside a rock-closed cave
 By Nature fashioned for a grave;
 Safe from the ravening bear
 And fierce fowl of the air, 30
 Wherein to rest was laid
 A twenty summers' maid,
 Whose blood had equal share
 Of the lands of vine and snow,
 Half French, half Eskimo.
 In letters uneffaced,
 Upon the block were traced
 The grief and hope of man,
 And thus the legend ran:
"We loved her!" 40
Words cannot tell how well!
We loved her!
God loved her!
 And called her home to peace and rest.
We love her!"

The stranger paused and read.
 "O winter land!" he said,
 "Thy right to be I own;
 God leaves thee not alone.

And if thy fierce winds blow 50
 Over drear wastes of rock and snow,
 And at thy iron gates
 The ghostly iceberg waits,
 Thy homes and hearts are dear.
 Thy sorrow o'er thy sacred dust
 Is sanctified by hope and trust;
 God's love and man's are here.
 And love where'er it goes
 Makes its own atmosphere;
 Its flowers of Paradise 60
 Take root in the eternal ice,
 And bloom through Polar snows!"

THE BAY OF SEVEN ISLANDS

FROM the green Amesbury hill which
 bears the name
 Of that half mythic ancestor of mine
 Who trod its slopes two hundred years
 ago,
 Down the long valley of the Merrimac,
 Midway between me and the river's
 mouth,
 I see thy home, set like an eagle's nest
 Among Deer Island's immemorial
 pines,
 Crowning the crag on which the sunset
 breaks
 Its last red arrow. Many a tale and
 song,
 Which thou hast told or sung, I call to
 mind, 10
 Softening with silvery mist the woods
 and hills,
 The out-thrust headlands and inreaching
 bays
 Of our northeastern coast-line, trending
 where
 The Gulf, midsummer, feels the chill
 blockade
 Of icebergs stranded at its northern
 gate.
 To thee the echoes of the Island Sound
 Answer not vainly, nor in vain the
 moan
 Of the South Breaker prophesying
 storm.
 And thou hast listened, like myself, to
 men
 Sea-periled off where Anticosti lies 20
 Like a fell spider in its web of fog,
 Or where the Grand Bank shallows
 with the wrecks

Of sunken fishers, and to whom
 strange isles
 And frost-rimmed bays and trading
 stations seem
 Familiar as Great Neck and Kettle
 Cove,
 Nubble and Boon, the common names
 of home.
 So let me offer thee this lay of mine,
 Simple and homely, lacking much thy
 play
 Of color and of fancy. If its theme
 And treatment seem to thee befitting
 youth ³⁰
 Rather than age, let this be my ex-
 cuse:
 It has beguiled some heavy hours and
 called
 Some pleasant memories up; and, bet-
 ter still,
 Occasion lent me for a kindly word
 To one who is my neighbor and my
 friend.

—————
 The skipper sailed out of the harbor
 mouth,
 Leaving the apple-bloom of the South
 For the ice of the Eastern seas,
 In his fishing schooner Breeze.

Handsome and brave and young was
 he, ⁴⁰
 And the maids of Newbury sighed to
 see
 His lessening white sail fall
 Under the sea's blue wall.

Through the Northern Gulf and the
 misty screen
 Of the isles of Mingan and Madeleine,
 St. Paul's and Blanc Sablon,
 The little Breeze sailed on,

Backward and forward, along the
 shore
 Of lorn and desolate Labrador,
 And found at last her way ⁵⁰
 To the Seven Islands Bay. \

The little hamlet, nestling below
 Great hills white with lingering snow,
 With its tin-roofed chapel stood
 Half hid in the dwarf spruce
 wood;

Green-turfed, flower-sown, the last
 outpost
 Of summer upon the dreary coast,
 With its gardens small and spare,
 Sad in the frosty air.

Hard by where the skipper's schooner
 lay, ⁶⁰
 A fisherman's cottage looked away
 Over isle and bay, and behind
 On mountains dim-defined.

And there twin sisters, fair and young,
 Laughed with their stranger guest,
 and sung
 In their native tongues the lays
 Of the old Provençal days.

Alike were they, save the faint outline
 Of a scar on Suzette's forehead fine;
 And both, it so befell, ⁷⁰
 Loved the heretic stranger well.

Both were pleasant to look upon,
 But the heart of the skipper clave to
 one;
 Though less by his eye than heart
 He knew the twain apart.

Despite of alien race and creed,
 Well did his wooing of Margueritespeed;
 And the mother's wrath was vain
 As the sister's jealous pain.

The shrill-tongued mistress her house
 forbade, ⁸⁰
 And solemn warning was sternly said
 By the black-robed priest, whose
 word
 As law the hamlet heard.

But half by voice and half by signs
 The skipper said, "A warm sun shines
 On the green-banked Merrimac;
 Wait, watch, till I come back.

"And when you see, from my masthead,
 The signal fly of a kerchief red,
 My boat on the shore shall wait;
 Come, when the night is late." ⁹¹

Ah! weighed with childhood's haunts
 and friends,
 And all that the home sky overbends,
 Did ever young love fail
 To turn the trembling scale?

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Under the night, on the wet sea sands, Slowly unclasped their plighted hands: One to the cottage hearth, And one to his sailor's berth.</p> <p>What was it the parting lovers heard? ¹⁰⁰ Nor leaf, nor ripple, nor wing of bird, But a listener's stealthy tread On the rock-moss, crisp and dead.</p> <p>He weighed his anchor, and fished once more By the black coast-line of Labrador; And by love and the north wind driven, Sailed back to the Islands Seven.</p> <p>In the sunset's glow the sisters twain Saw the Breeze come sailing in again; Said Suzette, "Mother dear, ¹¹⁰ The heretic's sail is here."</p> <p>"Go, Marguerite, to your room, and hide; Your door shall be bolted!" the mother cried: While Suzette, ill at ease, Watched the red sign of the Breeze.</p> <p>At midnight, down to the waiting skiff She stole in the shadow of the cliff; And out of the Bay's mouth ran The schooner with maid and man.</p> <p>And all night long, on a restless bed, Her prayers to the Virgin Marguerite said: ¹²¹ And thought of her lover's pain Waiting for her in vain.</p> <p>Did he pace the sands? Did he pause to hear The sound of her light step drawing near? And, as the slow hours passed, Would he doubt her faith at last?</p> <p>But when she saw through the misty pane, The morning break on a sea of rain, Could even her love avail ¹³⁰ To follow his vanished sail?</p> | <p>Meantime the Breeze, with favoring wind, Left the rugged Moisis hills behind, And heard from an unseen shore The falls of Manitou roar.</p> <p>On the morrow's morn in the thick, gray weather They sat on the reeling deck together, Lover and counterfeit Of hapless Marguerite.</p> <p>With a lover's hand, from her fore- head fair ¹⁴⁰ He smoothed away her jet-black hair, What was it his fond eyes met? The scar of the false Suzette!</p> <p>Fiercely he shouted: "Bear away East by north for the Seven Isles Bay!" The maiden wept and prayed, But the ship her helm obeyed.</p> <p>Once more the Bay of the Isles they found: They heard the bell of the chapel sound, ¹⁴⁹ And the chant of the dying sung In the harsh, wild Indian tongue.</p> <p>A feeling of mystery, change, and awe Was in all they heard and all they saw: Spell-bound the hamlet lay In the hush of its lonely bay.</p> <p>And when they came to the cottage door, The mother rose up from her weeping sore, And with angry gestures met The scared look of Suzette.</p> <p>"Here is your daughter," the skipper said; ¹⁶⁰ "Give me the one I love instead." But the woman sternly spake; "Go, see if the dead will wake!"</p> <p>He looked. Her sweet face still and white And strange in the noonday taper light, She lay on her little bed, With the cross at her feet and head.</p> |
|---|---|

In a passion of grief the strong man bent
Down to her face, and, kissing it, went
Back to the waiting Breeze, 170
Back to the mournful seas.

Never again to the Merrimac
And Newbury's homes that bark
came back
Whether her fate she met
On the shores of Carraquette,

Miscou, or Tracadie, who can say?
But even yet at Seven Isles Bay
Is told the ghostly tale
Of a weird, unspoken sail,

In the pale, sad light of the Northern
day 180
Seen by the blanketed Montagnais,
Or squaw, in her small kyack,
Crossing the spectre's track.

On the deck a maiden wrings her hands;
Her likeness kneels on the gray coast
sands;
One in her wild despair,
And one in the trance of prayer.

She flits before no earthly blast,
The red sign fluttering from her mast,
Over the solemn seas, 190
The ghost of the schooner Breeze!

THE WISHING BRIDGE

AMONG the legends sung or said
Along our rocky shore,
The Wishing Bridge of Marblehead
May well be sung once more.

An hundred years ago (so ran
The old-time story) all
Good wishes said above its span
Would, soon or late, befall.

If pure and earnest, never failed
The prayers of man or maid 20
For him who on the deep sea sailed,
For her at home who stayed.

Once thither came two girls from
school,
And wished in childish glee:
And one would be a queen and rule,
And one the world would see.

Time passed, with change of hopes
and fears,
And in the self-same place,
Two women, gray with middle years,
Stood, wondering, face to face. 20

With wakened memories, as they met,
They queried what had been:
"A poor man's wife am I, and yet,"
Said one, "I am a queen.

"My realm a little homestead is,
Where, lacking crown and throne,
I rule by loving services
And patient toil alone."

The other said: "The great world lies
Beyond me as it lay; 30
O'er love's and duty's boundaries
My feet may never stray.

"I see but common sights of home,
Its common sounds I hear,
My widowed mother's sick-bed room
Sufficeth for my sphere.

"I read to her some pleasant page
Of travel far and wide,
And in a dreamy pilgrimage
We wander side by side. 40

"And when at last she falls asleep,
My book becomes to me
A magic glass: my watch I keep,
But all the world I see.

"A farm-wife queen your place you fill,
While fancy's privilege
Is mine to walk the earth at will,
Thanks to the Wishing Bridge."

"Nay, leave the legend for the truth,"
The other cried, "and say 50
God gives the wishes of our youth,
But in His own best way!"

HOW THE WOMEN WENT FROM DOVER

1662

THE tossing spray of Coheco's fall
Hardened to ice on its rocky wall,
As through Dover town in the chill,
gray dawn,
Three women passed, at the cart-tail
drawn!



“ Through Dover town in the chill, gray dawn,
Three women passed, at the cart-tail drawn ! ”

Bared to the waist, for the north
wind's grip
And keener sting of the constable's
whip,
The blood that followed each hissing
blow
Froze as it sprinkled the winter snow.

Priest and ruler, boy and maid
Followed the dismal cavalcade; 10
And from door and window, open
thrown,
Looked and wondered gaffer and crone.

“ God is our witness,” the victims cried,
“ We suffer for Him who for all men
died;

The wrong ye do has been done before,
We bear the stripes that the Master
bore!

“ And thou, O Richard Waldron, for
whom
We hear the feet of a coming doom,
On thy cruel heart and thy hand of
wrong
Vengeance is sure, though it tarry
long. 20

“ In the light of the Lord, a flame we see
Climb and kindle a proud roof-tree;
And beneath it an old man lying dead,
With stains of blood on his hoary
head.”

"Smite, Goodman Hate-Evil! harder still!"
 The magistrate cried, "Lay on with a will!
 Drive out of their bodies the Father of Lies,
 Who through them preaches and prophesies!"

So into the forest they held their way,
 By winding river and frost-rimmed bay,
 Over wind-swept hills that felt the beat
 Of the winter sea at their icy feet.

The Indian hunter, searching his traps,
 Peered stealthily through the forest gaps;
 And the outlying settler shook his head,—
 "They're witches going to jail," he said.

At last a meeting-house came in view;
 A blast on his horn the constable blew;
 And the boys of Hampton cried up and down
 "The Quakers have come!" to the wondering town. 40

From barn and woodpile the goodman came;
 The goodwife quitted her quilting frame
 With her child at her breast; and, hobbling slow,
 The grandam followed to see the show.

Once more the torturing whip was swung,
 Once more keen lashes the bare flesh stung.
 "Oh, spare! they are bleeding!" a little maid cried,
 And covered her face the sight to hide.

A murmur ran round the crowd:
 "Good folks,"
 Quoth the constable, busy counting the strokes, 50
 "No pity to wretches like these is due,
 They have beaten the gospel black and blue!"

Then a pallid woman, in wild-eyed fear,
 With her wooden noggin of milk drew near.
 "Drink, poor hearts!" a rude hand smote
 Her draught away from a parching throat.

"Take heed," one whispered, "they'll take your cow
 For fines, as they took your horse and plough,
 And the bed from under you." "Even so,"
 She said; "they are cruel as death, I know." 60

Then on they passed, in the waning day,
 Through Seabrook woods, a weariful way;
 By great salt meadows and sand-hills bare,
 And glimpses of blue sea here and there.

By the meeting-house in Salisbury town,
 The sufferers stood, in the red sun-down,
 Bare for the lash! O pitying Night,
 Drop swift thy curtain and hide the sight!

With shame in his eye and wrath on his lip
 The Salisbury constable dropped his whip. 70
 "This warrant means murder foul and red;
 Cursed is he who serves it," he said.

"Show me the order, and meanwhile strike
 A blow at your peril!" said Justice Pike.
 Of all the rulers the land possessed,
 Wisest and boldest was he and best.

He scoffed at witchcraft; the priest he met
 As man meets man; his feet he set
 Beyond his dark age, standing upright,
 Soul-free, with his face to the morning light. 80

He read the warrant: "*These convey
From our precincts; at every town on
the way
Give each ten lashes.*" "God judge the
brute!

I tread his order under my foot!

"Cut loose these poor ones and let
them go;

Come what will of it, all men shall
know

No warrant is good, though backed by
the Crown,

For whipping women in Salisbury
town!"

The hearts of the villagers, half re-
leased

From creed of terror and rule of
priest, 90

By a primal instinct owned the right
Of human pity in law's despite.

For ruth and chivalry only slept,
His Saxon manhood the yeoman kept;
Quicker or slower, the same blood ran
In the Cavalier and the Puritan.

The Quakers sank on their knees in
praise

And thanks. A last, low sunset blaze
Flashed out from under a cloud, and
shed

A golden glory on each bowed head. 100

The tale is one of an evil time,
When souls were fettered and thought
was crime,

And heresy's whisper above its breath
Meant shameful scourging and bonds
and death!

What marvel, that hunted and sorely
tried,

Even woman rebuked and prophe-
sied,

And soft words rarely answered back
The grim persuasion of whip and rack!

If her cry from the whipping-post and
jail

Pierced sharp as the Kenite's driven
nail, 110

O woman, at ease in these happier
days,

Forbear to judge of thy sister's ways!

How much thy beautiful life may owe
To her faith and courage thou canst
not know,

Nor how from the paths of thy calm
retreat

She smoothed the thorns with her
bleeding feet.

SAINT GREGORY'S GUEST

A TALE for Roman guides to tell
To careless, sight-worn travellers
still,

Who pause beside the narrow cell
Of Gregory on the Cælian Hill.

One day before the monk's door came
A beggar, stretching empty palms,
Fainting and fast-sick, in the name
Of the Most Holy asking alms.

And the monk answered, "All I have
In this poor cell of mine I give, 10
The silver cup my mother gave;
In Christ's name take thou it, and
live."

Years passed; and, called at last to bear
The pastoral crook and keys of
Rome,

The poor monk, in Saint Peter's chair,
Sat the crowned lord of Christen-
dom.

"Prepare a feast," Saint Gregory
cried,

"And let twelve beggars sit
thereat."

The beggars came, and one beside,
An unknown stranger, with them
sat. 20

"I asked thee not," the Pontiff spake,
"O stranger; but if need be thine,
I bid thee welcome, for the sake
Of Him who is thy Lord and mine."

A grave, calm face the stranger raised,
Like His who on Gennesaret trod,
Or His on whom the Chaldeans gazed,
Whose form was as the Son of God.

"Know'st thou," he said, "thy gift of
old?"

And in the hand he lifted up 30

The Pontiff marvelled to behold
Once more his mother's silver cup.

"Thy prayers and alms have risen,
and bloom
Sweetly among the flowers of hea-
ven.

I am The Wonderful, through whom
Whate'er thou askest shall be
given."

He spake and vanished. Gregory fell
With his twelve guests in mute ac-
cord

Prono on their faces, knowing well
Their eyes of flesh had seen the
Lord. 40

The old-time legend is not vain;
Nor vain thy art, Verona's Paul,
Telling it o'er and o'er again
On gray Vicenza's frescoed wall.

Still wheresoever pity shares
Its bread with sorrow, want, and
sin,

And love the beggar's feast prepares,
The uninvited Guest comes in.

Unheard, because our ears are dull,
Unseen, because our eyes are dim, 50
He walks our earth, The Wonderful,
And all good deeds are done to
Him.

BIRCHBROOK MILL

A NOTELESS stream, the Birchbrook
runs
Beneath its leaning trees;
That low, soft ripple is its own,
That dull roar is the sea's.

Of human signs it sees alone
The distant church spire's tip,
And, ghost-like, on a blank of gray,
The white sail of a ship.

No more a toiler at the wheel,
It wanders at its will; 10
Nor dam nor pond is left to tell
Where once was Birchbrook mill.

The timbers of that mill have fed
Long since a farmer's fires;

His doorsteps are the stones that
ground
The harvest of his sires.

Man trespassed here; but Nature lost
No right of her domain;
She waited, and she brought the old
Wild beauty back again. 20

By day the sunlight through the
leaves
Falls on its moist, green sod,
And wakes the violet bloom of spring
And autumn's golden-rod.

Its birches whisper to the wind,
The swallow dips her wings
In the cool spray, and on its banks
The gray song-sparrow sings.

But from it, when the dark night
falls,
The school-girl shrinks with dread;
The farmer, home-bound from his
fields, 31
Goes by with quickened tread.

They dare not pause to hear the grind
Of shadowy stone on stone;
The plashing of a water-wheel
Where wheel there now is none.

Has not a cry of pain been heard
Above the clattering mill?
The pawing of an unseen horse,
Who waits his mistress still? 40

Yet never to the listener's eye
Has sight confirmed the sound;
A wavering birch line marks alone
The vacant pasture ground.

No ghostly arms fling up to heaven
The agony of prayer;
No spectral steed impatient shakes
His white mane on the air.

The meaning of that common dread
No tongue has fitly told; 50
The secret of the dark surmise
The brook and birches hold.

What nameless horror of the past
Broods here forevermore?
What ghost his unforgiven sin
Is grinding o'er and o'er?

Does, then, immortal memory play
The actor's tragic part,
Rehearsals of a mortal life
And unveiled human heart? 60

God's pity spare a guilty soul
That drama of its ill,
And let the scenic curtain fall
On Birchbrook's haunted mill!

THE TWO ELIZABETHS

A. D. 1207

Read at the unveiling of the bust of
Elizabeth Fry at the Friends' School, Providence, R. I.

AMIDST Thuringia's wooded hills she
dwelt,
A high-born princess, servant of the
poor,
Sweetening with gracious words the
food she dealt
To starving throngs at Wartburg's
blazoned door.

A blinded zealot held her soul in chains,
Cramped the sweet nature that he
could not kill,
Scarred her fair body with his pen-
ance-pains,
And gauged her conscience by his
narrow will.

God gave her gifts of beauty and of
grace,
With fast and vigil she denied
them all; 10
Unquestioning, with sad, pathetic
face,
She followed meekly at her stern
guide's call.

So drooped and died her home-blown
rose of bliss
In the chill rigor of a discipline
That turned her fond lips from her
children's kiss,
And made her joy of motherhood a
sin.

To their sad level by compassion led,
One with the low and vile herself
she made,

While thankless misery mocked the
hand that fed,
And laughed to scorn her piteous
masquerade. 20

But still, with patience that out-
wore hate,
She gave her all while yet she had
to give;
And then her empty hands, impor-
tunate,
In prayer she lifted that the poor
might live.

Sore pressed by grief, and wrongs
more hard to bear,
And dwarfed and stifled by a harsh
control,
She kept life fragrant with good deeds
and prayer,
And fresh and pure the white flower
of her soul.

Death found her busy at her task: one
word
Alone she uttered as she paused to
die, 30
"Silence!" — then listened even as
one who heard
With song and wing the angels
drawing nigh!

Now Fra Angelico's roses fill her hands,
And, on Murillo's canvas, Want and
Pain
Kneel at her feet. Her marble image
stands
Worshipped and crowned in Mar-
burg's holy fane.

Yea, wheresoe'er her Church its cross
uprears,
Wide as the world her story still is
told;
In manhood's reverence, woman's
prayers and tears,
She lives again whose grave is cen-
turies old. 40

And still, despite the weakness or the
blame
Of blind submission to the blind,
she hath
A tender place in hearts of every name,
And more than Rome owns Saint
Elizabeth!

A. D. 1780

Slow ages passed: and lo! another
came,
An English matron, in whose simple
faith
Nor priestly rule nor ritual had
claim,
A plain, uncanonized Elizabeth.

No sackcloth robe, nor ashen-sprinkled
hair,
Nor wasting fast, nor scourge, nor
vigil long,⁵⁰
Marred her calm presence. God had
made her fair,
And she could do His goodly work
no wrong.

Their yoke is easy and their burden
light
Whose sole confessor is the Christ of
God;
Her quiet trust and faith transcending
sight
Smoothed to her feet the difficult
paths she trod.

And there she walked, as duty bade
her go,
Safe and unsullied as a cloistered
nun,
Shamed with her plainness Fashion's
gaudy show,
And overcame the world she did
not shun.⁶⁰

In Earlham's bowers, in Plashet's lib-
eral hall,
In the great city's restless crowd
and din,
Her ear was open to the Master's call,
And knew the summons of His
voice within.

Tender as mother, beautiful as wife,
Amidst the throngs of prisoned
crime she stood
In modest raiment faultless as her life,
The type of England's worthiest
womanhood!

To melt the hearts that harshness
turned to stone
The sweet persuasion of her lips
sufficed,⁷⁰

And guilt, which only hate and fear
had known,
Saw in her own the pitying love of
Christ.

So wheresoe'er the guiding Spirit went
She followed, finding every prison
cell
It opened for her sacred as a tent
Pitched by Gennesaret or by Jacob's
well.

And Pride and Fashion felt her strong
appeal,
And priest and ruler marvelled as
they saw
How hand in hand went wisdom
with her zeal,
And woman's pity kept the bounds
of law.⁸⁰

She rests in God's peace; but her
memory stirs
The air of earth as with an angel's
wings,
And warms and moves the hearts of
men like hers,
The sainted daughter of Hungarian
kings.

United now, the Briton and the Hun,
Each, in her own time, faithful unto
death,
Live sister souls! in name and spirit
one,
Thuringia's saint and our Eliza-
beth!

REQUITAL

As Islam's Prophet, when his last day
drew
Nigh to its close, besought all men
to say
Whom he had wronged, to whom he
then should pay
A debt forgotten, or for pardon sue,
And, through the silence of his weep-
ing friends,
A strange voice cried: "Thou owest
me a debt,"
"Allah be praised!" he answered.
"Even yet
He gives me power to make to thee
amends.

O friend! I thank thee for thy timely
word."

So runs the tale. Its lesson all may
heed,

For all have sinned in thought, or
word, or deed,

Or, like the Prophet, through neglect
have erred.

All need forgiveness, all have debts to
pay

Ere the night cometh, while it still is
day.

THE HOMESTEAD

AGAINST the wooded hills it stands,
Ghost of a dead home, staring
through

Its broken lights on wasted lands
Where old-time harvests grew.

Unploughed, unsown, by scythe un-
shorn,

The poor, forsaken farm-fields lie,
Once rich and rife with golden corn
And pale green breadths of rye.

Of healthful herb and flower bereft,
The garden plot no housewife
keeps;

Through weeds and tangle only left,
The snake, its tenant, creeps.

A lilac spray, still blossom-clad,
Sways slow before the empty rooms;
Beside the roofless porch a sad
Pathetic red rose blooms.

Histrack, in mould and dust of drouth,
On floor and hearth the squirrel
leaves,

And in the fireless chimney's mouth
His web the spider weaves.

The leaning barn, about to fall,
Resounds no more on husking eves;
No cattle low in yard or stall,
No thresher beats his sheaves.

So sad, so drear! It seems almost
Some haunting Presence makes its
sign;

That down yon shadowy lane some
ghost

Might drive his spectral kine!

O home so desolate and lorn!
Did all thy memories die with thee?
Were any wed, were any born,
Beneath this low roof-tree?

Whose axe the wall of forest broke,
And let the waiting sunshine
through?

What goodwife sent the earliest smoke
Up the great chimney flue?

Did rustic lovers hither come?
Did maidens, swaying back and
forth

In rhythmic grace, at wheel and loom,
Make light their toil with mirth?

Did child feet patter on the stair?
Did boyhood frolic in the snow?

Did gray age, in her elbow chair,
Knit, rocking to and fro?

The murmuring brook, the sighing
breeze,

The pine's slow whisper, cannot tell;
Low mounds beneath the hemlock-
trees

Keep the home secrets well.

Cease, mother-land, to fondly boast
Of sons far off who strive and
thrive,

Forgetful that each swarming host
Must leave an emptier hive!

O wanderers from ancestral soil,
Leave noisome mill and chaffering
store:

Gird up your loins for sturdier toil,
And build the home once more!

Come back to bayberry-scented slopes,
And fragrant fern, and ground-nut
vine;

Breathe airs blown over holt and
copse
Sweet with black birch and pine.

What matter if the gains are small
That life's essential wants supply?
Your homestead's title gives you all
That idle wealth can buy.

All that the many-dollar'd crave,
The brick-walled slaves of 'Change
and mart,

Lawns, trees, fresh air, and flowers,
you have,
More dear for lack of art.

Your own sole masters, freedom-willed,
With none to bid you go or stay, 70
Till the old fields your fathers tilled,
As manly men as they!

With skill that spares your toiling
hands,
And chemic aid that science brings,
Reclaim the waste and outworn lands,
And reign thereon as kings!

HOW THE ROBIN CAME

AN ALGONQUIN LEGEND

HAPPY young friends, sit by me,
Under May's blown apple-tree,
While these home-birds in and out
Through the blossoms flit about.
Hear a story, strange and old,
By the wild red Indians told.
How the robin came to be:
Once a great chief left his son, —
Well-beloved, his only one, —
When the boy was well-nigh grown, 10
In the trial-lodge alone.
Left for tortures long and slow
Youths like him must undergo,
Who their pride of manhood test,
Lacking water, food, and rest.

Seven days the fast he kept,
Seven nights he never slept.
Then the young boy, wrung with pain,
Weak from nature's overstrain,
Faltering, moaned a low complaint: 20
"Spare me, father, for I faint!"
But the chieftain, haughty-eyed,
Hid his pity in his pride.
"You shall be a hunter good,
Knowing never lack of food:
You shall be a warrior great,
Wise as fox and strong as bear;
Many scalps your belt shall wear,
If with patient heart you wait
Bravely till your task is done. 30
Better you should starving die
Than that boy and squaw should cry
Shame upon your father's son!"

When next morn the sun's first rays
Glistened on the hemlock sprays,

Straight that lodge the old chief
sought,
And boiled sump and moose meat
brought.

"Rise and eat, my son!" he said.
Lo, he found the poor boy dead!
As with grief his grave they made, 40
And his bow beside him laid,
Pipe, and knife, and wampum-braid,
On the lodge-top overhead,
Preening smooth its breast of red
And the brown coat that it wore,
Sat a bird, unknown before.
And as if with human tongue,
"Mourn me not," it said, or sung;
"I, a bird, am still your son,
Happier than if hunter fleet, 50
Or a brave, before your feet
Laying scalps in battle won.
Friend of man, my song shall cheer
Lodge and corn-land; hovering near,
To each wigwam I shall bring
Tidings of the coming spring;
Every child my voice shall know
In the moon of melting snow,
When the maple's red bud swells,
And the wind-flower lifts its bells. 60
As their fond companion
Men shall henceforth own your son,
And my song shall testify
That of human kin am I."

Thus the Indian legend saith
How, at first, the robin came
With a sweeter life than death,
Bird for boy, and still the same.
If my young friends doubt that this
Is the robin's genesis, 70
Not in vain is still the myth
If a truth be found therewith:
Unto gentleness belong
Gifts unknown to pride and wrong;
Happier far than hate is praise, —
He who sings than he who slays.

BANISHED FROM MASSACHU- SETTS

1660

ON A PAINTING BY E. A. ABBEY

OVER the threshold of his pleasant home
Set in green clearings passed the
exiled Friend,
In simple trust, misdoubting not
the end.

"Dear heart of mine!" he said, "the
 time has come
 To trust the Lord for shelter." One
 long gaze
 The goodwife turned on each fa-
 miliar thing, —
 The lowing kine, the orchard blos-
 soming,
 The open door that showed the hearth-
 fire's blaze, —
 And calmly answered, "Yes, He will
 provide."
 Silent and slow they crossed the
 homestead's bound, ¹⁰
 Lingerings the longest by their
 child's grave-mound.
 "Move on, or stay and hang!" the
 sheriff cried.
 They left behind them more than
 home or land,
 And set sad faces to an alien strand.
 Safer with winds and waves than hu-
 man wrath,
 With ravening wolves than those
 whose zeal for God
 Was cruelty to man, the exiles trod
 Drear leagues of forest without guide
 or path,
 Or launching frail boats on the un-
 charted sea,
 Round storm-vexed capes, whose
 teeth of granite ground ²⁰
 The waves to foam, their perilous
 way they wound,
 Enduring all things so their souls were
 free.
 Oh, true confessors, shaming them
 who did
 Anew the wrong their Pilgrim Fa-
 thers bore!
 For you the Mayflower spread her
 sail once more,
 Freightd with souls, to all that duty bid
 Faithful as they who sought an un-
 known land,
 O'er wintry seas, from Holland's
 Hook of Sand!
 So from his lost home to the darkening
 main,
 Bodeful of storm, stout Macy held
 his way, ³⁰
 And, when the green shore blended
 with the gray,
 His poor wife moaned: "Let us turn
 back again."

"Nay, woman, weak of faith, kneel
 down," said he,
 "And say thy prayers: the Lord
 himself will steer;
 And led by Him, nor man nor devils
 I fear!"
 So the gray Southwicks, from a rainy
 sea,
 Saw, far and faint, the loom of land,
 and gave
 With feeble voices thanks for
 friendly ground
 Whereon to rest their weary feet,
 and found
 A peaceful death-bed and a quiet
 grave ⁴⁰
 Where, ocean-walled, and wiser than
 his age,
 The lord of Shelter scorned the bigot's
 rage.
 Aquidneck's isle, Nantucket's lonely
 shores,
 And Indian-haunted Narragansett
 saw
 The way-worn travellers round
 their camp-fire draw,
 Or heard the plashing of their weary
 oars.
 And every place whereon they rested
 grew
 Happier for pure and gracious wo-
 manhood,
 And men whose names for stainless
 honor stood,
 Founders of States and rulers wise and
 true. ⁵⁰
 The Muse of history yet shall make
 amends
 To those who freedom, peace, and
 justice taught,
 Beyond their dark age led the van
 of thought,
 And left unforfeited the name of
 Friends.
 O mother State, how foiled was thy de-
 sign!
 The gain was theirs, the loss alone
 was thine.

THE BROWN DWARF OF
RÜGEN

THE pleasant isle of Rügen looks the
Baltic water o'er,

To the silver-sanded beaches of the
Pomeranian shore;

And in the town of Rambin a little
boy and maid

Plucked the meadow-flowers together
and in the sea-surf played.

Alike were they in beauty if not in
their degree:

He was the Amptman's first-born, the
miller's child was she.

Now of old the isle of Rügen was full
of Dwarfs and Trolls,

The brown-faced little Earth-men, the
people without souls;

And for every man and woman in
Rügen's island found

Walking in air and sunshine, a Troll
was underground. 10

It chanced the little maiden, one
morning, strolled away

Among the haunted Nine Hills, where
the elves and goblins play.

That day, in barley fields below, the
hovesters had known

Of evil voices in the air, and heard the
small horns blown.

She came not back; the search for her
in field and wood was vain:

They cried her east, they cried her
west, but she came not
again.

"She's down among the Brown
Dwarfs," said the dream-wives
wise and old,

And prayers were made, and masses
said, and Rambin's church bell
tolled.

Five years her father mourned her;
and then John Deitrich said:

"I will find my little playmate, be she
alive or dead." 20

He watched among the Nine Hills, he
heard the Brown Dwarfs
sing,

And saw them dance by moonlight
merrily in a ring.

And when their gay-robed leader
tossed up his cap of red,
Young Deitrich caught it as it fell, and
thrust it on his head.

The Troll came crouching at his feet
and wept for lack of it.

"Oh, give me back my magic cap, for
your great head unfit!"

"Nay," Deitrich said, "the Dwarf who
throws his charm'd cap away,
Must serve its finder at his will, and
for his folly pay.

"You stole my pretty Lisbeth, and
hid her in the earth;

And you shall ope the door of glass
and let me lead her forth." 30

"She will not come; she's one of us;
she's mine!" the Brown Dwarf
said;

"The day is set, the cake is baked, to-
morrow we shall wed."

"The fell fiend fetch thee!" Deitrich
cried, "and keep thy foul
tongue still.

Quick! open, to thy evil world, the
glass door of the hill!"

The Dwarf obeyed; and youth and
Troll down the long stairway
passed,

And saw in dim and sunless light a
country strange and vast.

Weird, rich, and wonderful, he saw
the elfin under-land, —

Its palaces of precious stones, its
streets of golden sand.

He came unto a banquet-hall with
tables richly spread,

Where a young maiden served to him
the red wine and the bread. 40

How fair she seemed among the Trolls
so ugly and so wild!

Yet pale and very sorrowful, like one
who never smiled!

Her low, sweet voice, her gold-brown
hair, her tender blue eyes
seemed

Like something he had seen elsewhere
or something he had dreamed.

He looked; he clasped her in his arms;
he knew the long-lost one;

"O Lisbeth! See thy playmate — I
am the Amptman's son!"

She leaned her fair head on his breast,
and through her sobs she
spoke:

"Oh, take me from this evil place, and
from the elfin folk!

"And let me tread the grass-green
fields and smell the flowers
again,

And feel the soft wind on my cheek
and hear the dropping rain! 50

"And oh, to hear the singing bird, the
rustling of the tree,
The lowing cows, the bleat of sheep,
the voices of the sea;

"And oh, upon my father's knee to sit
beside the door,
And hear the bell of vespers ring in
Rambin church once more!"

He kissed her cheek, he kissed her lips;
the Brown Dwarf groaned to
see,

And tore his tangled hair and ground
his long teeth angrily.

But Deitrich said: "For five long
years this tender Christian
maid

Has served you in your evil world, and
well must she be paid!

"Haste! — hither bring me precious
gems, the richest in your
store;

Then when we pass the gate of glass,
you'll take your cap once
more." 60

No choice was left the baffled Troll,
and, murmuring, he obeyed,
And filled the pockets of the youth
and apron of the maid.

They left the dreadful under-land and
passed the gate of glass;

They felt the sunshine's warm caress,
they trod the soft, green grass.

And when, beneath, they saw the
Dwarf stretch up to them his
brown

And crooked claw-like fingers, they
tossed his red cap down.

Oh, never shone so bright a sun, was
never sky so blue,

As hand in hand they homeward
walked the pleasant meadows
through!

And never sang the birds so sweet in
Rambin's woods before,

And never washed the waves so soft
along the Baltic shore; 70

And when beneath his door-yard trees
the father met his child,
The bells rung out their merriest peal,
the folks with joy ran wild.

And soon from Rambin's holy church
the twain came forth as one,
The Amptman kissed a daughter, the
miller blest a son.

John Deitrich's fame went far and
wide, and nurse and maid
crooned o'er

Their cradle song: "Sleep on, sleep well,
the Trolls shall come no more!"

For in the haunted Nine Hills he set a
cross of stone;

And Elf and Brown Dwarf sought in
vain a door where door was
none.

The tower he built in Rambin, fair
Rügen's pride and boast,

Looked o'er the Baltic water to the
Pomeranian coast; 80

And, for his worth ennobled, and rich
beyond compare,

Count Deitrich and his lovely bride
dwelt long and happy there.



“ He comes, — he comes, — the Frost Spirit comes ! ”

POEMS OF NATURE

THE FROST SPIRIT

HE comes, — he comes, — the Frost
Spirit comes! You may trace
his footsteps now
On the naked woods and the blasted
fields and the brown hill's
withered brow.
He has smitten the leaves of the gray

old trees where their pleasant
green came forth,
And the winds, which follow wherever
he goes, have shaken them
down to earth.
He comes, — he comes, — the Frost
Spirit comes! from the frozen
Labrador,

From the icy bridge of the Northern seas, which the white bear wanders o'er,

Where the fisherman's sail is stiff with ice, and the luckless forms below

In the sunless cold of the lingering night into marble statues grow!

He comes, — he comes, — the Frost Spirit comes! on the rushing Northern blast,

And the dark Norwegian pines have bowed as his fearful breath went past.

With an unscorched wing he has hurried on, where the fires of Hecla glow

On the darkly beautiful sky above and the ancient ice below.

He comes, — he comes, — the Frost Spirit comes! and the quiet lake shall feel

The torpid touch of his glazing breath, and ring to the skater's heel;

And the streams which danced on the broken rocks, or sang to the leaning grass,

Shall bow again to their winter chain, and in mournful silence pass.

He comes, — he comes, — the Frost Spirit comes! Let us meet him as we may,

And turn with the light of the parlor-fire his evil power away;

And gather closer the circle round, when that firelight dances high,

And laugh at the shriek of the baffled Fiend as his sounding wing goes by!

THE MERRIMAC

"The Indians speak of a beautiful river, far to the south, which they call Merrimac." — SIEUR DE MONTS, 1604.

STREAM of my fathers! sweetly still
The sunset rays thy valley fill;
Poured slantwise down the long defile,
Wave, wood, and spire beneath them smile.

I see the winding Powow fold
The green hill in its belt of gold,

And following down its wavy line,
Its sparkling waters blend with thine.
There's not a tree upon thy side,
Nor rock, which thy returning tide¹⁰
As yet hath left abrupt and stark
Above thy evening water-mark;
No calm cove with its rocky hem,
No isle whose emerald swells begem
Thy broad, smooth current; not a²⁰
sail

Bowed to the freshening ocean gale;
No small boat with its busy oars,
Nor gray wall sloping to thy shores;
Nor farm-house with its maple shade,
Or rigid poplar colonnade,²⁰
But lies distinct and full in sight,
Beneath this gush of sunset light.
Centuries ago, that harbor-bar,
Stretching its length of foam afar,
And Salisbury's beach of shining sand,
And yonder island's wave-smoothed³⁰
strand,

Saw the adventurer's tiny sail,
Flit, stooping from the eastern gale;
And o'er these woods and waters broke
The cheer from Britain's hearts of³⁰
oak,

As brightly on the voyager's eye,
Weary of forest, sea, and sky,
Breaking the dull continuous wood,
The Merrimac rolled down his flood;
Mingling that clear pellucid brook,
Which channels vast Agioochook
When spring-time's sun and shower⁴⁰
unlock

The frozen fountains of the rock,
And more abundant waters given
From that pure lake, "The Smile of⁴⁰
Heaven,"

Tributes from vale and mountain-
side, —
With ocean's dark, eternal tide!

On yonder rocky cape, which braves
The stormy challenge of the waves,
Midst tangled vine and dwarfish wood,
The hardy Anglo-Saxon stood,
Planting upon the topmost crag
The staff of England's battle-flag;
And, while from out its heavy fold
Saint George's crimson cross un-⁵⁰
rolled,
Midst roll of drum and trumpet blare,
And weapons brandishing in air,
He gave to that lone promontory
The sweetest name in all his story;

Of her, the flower of Islam's daughters,
Whose harems look on Stamboul's
waters, —

Who, when the chance of war had
bound

The Moslem chain his limbs around,
Wreathed o'er with silk that iron chain,
Soothed with her smiles his hours of
pain, 60

And fondly to her youthful slave
A dearer gift than freedom gave.

But look! the yellow light no more
Streams down on wave and verdant
shore;

And clearly on the calm air swells
The twilight voice of distant bells.
From Ocean's bosom, white and thin,
The mists come slowly rolling in;
Hills, woods, the river's rocky rim,
Amidst the sea-like vapor swim, 70
While yonder lonely coast-light, set
Within its wave-washed minaret,
Half quenched, a beamless star and
pale,
Shines dimly through its cloudy veil!

Home of my fathers! — I have stood
Where Hudson rolled his lordly flood:
Seen sunrise rest and sunset fade
Along his frowning Palisade;
Looked down the Appalachian peak
On Juniata's silver streak; 80
Have seen along his valley gleam
The Mohawk's softly winding stream;
The level light of sunset shine
Through broad Potomac's hem of
pine;

And autumn's rainbow-tinted banner
Hang lightly o'er the Susquehanna;
Yet wheresoe'er his step might be,
Thy wandering child looked back to
thee!

Heard in his dreams thy river's sound
Of murmuring on its pebbly bound, 90
The unforgotten swell and roar
Of waves on thy familiar shore;
And saw, amidst the curtained gloom
And quiet of his lonely room,
Thy sunset scenes before him pass;
As, in Agrippa's magic glass,
The loved and lost arose to view,
Remembered groves in greenness
grew,

Bathed still in childhood's morning
dew, 99

Along whose bowers of beauty swept
Whatever Memory's mourners wept,
Sweet faces, which the charnel kept,
Young, gentle eyes, which long had
slept;

And while the gazer leaned to
trace,

More near, some dear familiar face,
He wept to find the vision flown, —
A phantom and a dream alone!

HAMPTON BEACH

THE sunlight glitters keen and
bright,

Where, miles away,
Lies stretching to my dazzled sight
A luminous belt, a misty light,
Beyond the dark pine bluffs and
wastes of sandy gray.

The tremulous shadow of the Sea!
Against its ground
Of silvery light, rock, hill, and
tree,
Still as a picture, clear and free,
With varying outline mark the coast
for miles around. 10

On — on — we tread with loose-
flung rein
Our seaward way,
Through dark-green fields and blos-
soming grain,
Where the wild brier-rose skirts the
lane,
And bends above our heads the flow-
ering locust spray.

Ha! like a kind hand on my brow
Comes this fresh breeze,
Cooling its dull and feverish glow,
While through my being seems to
flow
The breath of a new life, the healing
of the seas! 20

Now rest we, where this grassy
mound
His feet hath set
In the great waters, which have
bound
His granite ankles greenly round
With long and tangled moss, and
weeds with cool spray wet.



“ Wave after wave
Breaks on the rocks which, stern and gray,
Shoulder the broken tide away ”

Good-by to Pain and Care! I take
 Mine ease to-day:
Here where these sunny waters
 break,
And ripples this keen breeze, I
 shake
All burdens from the heart, all weary
 thoughts away. 30

I draw a freer breath, I seem
 Like all I see —
Waves in the sun, the white-winged
 gleam
Of sea-birds in the slanting beam,
And far-off sails which flit before the
 south-wind free.

So when Time's veil shall fall asun-
 der,
 The soul may know
No fearful change, nor sudden won-
 der,
Nor sink the weight of mystery
 under,
But with the upward rise, and with
 the vastness grow. 40

And all we shrink from now may
 seem
 No new revealing;
Familiar as our childhood's stream,
Or pleasant memory of a dream,
The loved and cherished Past upon
 the new life stealing.

Serene and mild the untried light
 May have its dawning;
And, as in summer's northern
 night
The evening and the dawn unite,
The sunset hues of Time blend with
 the soul's new morning. 50

I sit alone; in foam and spray
 Wave after wave
Breaks on the rocks which, stern
 and gray,
Shoulder the broken tide away,
Or murmurs hoarse and strong through
 mossy cleft and cave.

What heed I of the dusty land
 And noisy town?

I see the mighty deep expand
From its white line of glimmering
sand
To where the blue of heaven on bluer
waves shuts down! 60

In listless quietude of mind,
I yield to all
The change of cloud and wave and
wind;
And passive on the flood reclined,
I wander with the waves, and with
them rise and fall.

But look, thou dreamer! wave and
shore
In shadow lie;
The night-wind warns me back once
more
To where, my native hill-tops o'er,
Bends like an arch of fire the glowing
sunset sky. 70

So then, beach, bluff, and wave,
farewell!
I bear with me
No token stone nor glittering shell,
But long and oft shall Memory tell
Of this brief thoughtful hour of mus-
ing by the Sea.

A DREAM OF SUMMER

BLAND as the morning breath of June
The southwest breezes play;
And, through its haze, the winter noon
Seems warm as summer's day.
The snow-plumed Angel of the North
Has dropped his icy spear;
Again the mossy earth looks forth
Again the streams gush clear.

The fox his hillside cell forsakes,
The muskrat leaves his nook,
The bluebird in the meadow brakes
Is singing with the brook.
"Bear up, O Mother Nature!" cry
Bird, breeze, and streamlet free;
"Our winter voices prophesy
Of summer days to thee!"

So, in those winters of the soul,
By bitter blasts and drear
O'erswept from Memory's frozen pole,
Will sunny days appear.

Reviving Hope and Faith, they show
The soul its living powers,
And how beneath the winter's snow
Lie germs of summer flowers!

The Night is mother of the Day,
The Winter of the Spring,
And ever upon old Decay
The greenest mosses cling.
Behind the cloud the starlight lurks,
Through showers the sunbeams fall;
For God, who loveth all His works,
Has left His hope with all!

THE LAKESIDE

THE shadows round the inland sea
Are deepening into night;
Slow up the slopes of Ossipee
They chase the lessening light.
Tired of the long day's blinding heat,
I rest my languid eye,
Lake of the Hills! where, cool and
sweet,
Thy sunset waters lie!

Along the sky, in wavy lines,
O'er isle and reach and bay, 10
Green-belted with eternal pines,
The mountains stretch away.
Below, the maple masses sleep
Where shore with water blends,
While midway on the tranquil deep
The evening light descends.

So seemed it when yon hill's red
crown,
Of old, the Indian trod,
And, through the sunset air, looked
down
Upon the Smile of God. 20
To him of light and shade the laws
No forest skeptic taught;
Their living and eternal Cause
His truer instinct sought.

He saw these mountains in the light
Which now across them shines;
This lake, in summer sunset bright,
Walled round with sombering pines.
God near him seemed; from earth and
skies
His loving voice he heard, 30
As, face to face, in Paradise,
Man stood before the Lord.

Thanks, O our Father! that, like
 him,
 Thy tender love I see,
 In radiant hill and woodland dim,
 And tinted sunset sea.
 For not in mockery dost Thou fill
 Our earth with light and grace;
 Thou hid'st no dark and cruel
 will
 Behind Thy smiling face! 40

But thou, from whom the Spring hath
 gone,
 For whom the flowers no longer blow,
 Who standest blighted and forlorn,
 Like Autumn waiting for the snow;
 No hope is thine of sunnier hours,
 Thy Winter shall no more depart;
 No Spring revive thy wasted flowers,
 Nor Summer warm thy frozen heart.



Lake Superior

AUTUMN THOUGHTS

GONE hath the Spring, with all its
 flowers,
 And gone the Summer's pomp and
 show,
 And Autumn, in his leafless bowers,
 Is waiting for the Winter's snow.

I said to Earth, so cold and gray,
 "An emblem of myself thou art."
 "Not so," the Earth did seem to say,
 "For Spring shall warm my frozen
 heart."

I soothe my wintry sleep with dreams
 Of warmer sun and softer rain,
 And wait to hear the sound of streams
 And songs of merry birds again.

ON RECEIVING AN EAGLE'S
 QUILL FROM LAKE SUPERIOR

ALL day the darkness and the cold
 Upon my heart have lain,
 Like shadows on the winter sky,
 Like frost upon the pane;

But now my torpid fancy wakes,
 And, on thy Eagle's plume,
 Rides forth, like Sindbad on his
 bird,
 Or witch upon her broom!

Below me roar the rocking pines,
 Before me spreads the lake 10
 Whose long and solemn-sounding
 waves
 Against the sunset break.

I hear the wild Rice-Eater thresh
 The grain he has not sown;
 I see, with flashing scythe of fire,
 The prairie harvest mown!

I hear the far-off voyager's horn;
 I see the Yankee's trail, —
 His foot on every mountain-pass,
 On every stream his sail. 20

By forest, lake, and waterfall,
 I see his pedler show;
 The mighty mingling with the mean,
 The lofty with the low.

He's whittling by St. Mary's Falls,
 Upon his loaded wain;
 He's measuring o'er the Pictured
 Rocks,
 With eager eyes of gain.

I hear the mattock in the mine,
 The axe-stroke in the dell, 30
 The clamor from the Indian lodge,
 The Jesuit chapel bell!

I see the swarthy trappers come
 From Mississippi's springs;
 And war-chiefs with their painted
 brows,
 And crests of eagle wings.

Behind the scared squaw's birch
 canoe,
 The steamer smokes and raves;
 And city lots are staked for sale
 Above old Indian graves. 40

I hear the tread of pioneers
 Of nations yet to be;
 The first low wash of waves, where soon
 Shall roll a human sea.

The rudiments of empire here
 Are plastic yet and warm;
 The chaos of a mighty world
 Is rounding into form!

Each rude and jostling fragment soon
 Its fitting place shall find, — 50
 The raw material of a State,
 Its muscle and its mind!

And, westering still, the star which
 leads
 The New World in its train

Has tipped with fire the icy spears
 Of many a mountain chain.

The snowy cones of Oregon
 Are kindling on its way;
 And California's golden sands
 Gleam brighter in its ray! 60

Then blessings on thy eagle quill,
 As, wandering far and wide,
 I thank thee for this twilight dream
 And Fancy's airy ride!

Yet, welcomer than regal plumes,
 Which Western trappers find,
 Thy free and pleasant thoughts,
 chance sown,
 Like feathers on the wind.

Thy symbol be the mountain-bird,
 Whose glistening quill I hold; 70
 Thy home the ample air of hope,
 And memory's sunset gold!

In thee, let joy with duty join,
 And strength unite with love,
 The eagle's pinions folding round
 The warm heart of the dove!

So, when in darkness sleeps the vale
 Where still the blind bird clings,
 The sunshine of the upper sky
 Shall glitter on thy wings! 80

APRIL

"The spring comes slowly up this way."
Christabel.

'T is the noon of the spring-time, yet
 never a bird
 In the wind-shaken elm or the maple
 is heard;
 For green meadow-grasses wide levels
 of snow,
 And blowing of drifts where the crocus
 should blow;
 Where wind-flower and violet, amber
 and white,
 On south-sloping brooksides should
 smile in the light,
 O'er the cold winter-beds of their late-
 waking roots
 The frosty flake eddies, the ice-crystal
 shoots;

And, longing for light, under wind-
 driven heaps,
 Round the boles of the pine-wood the
 ground-laurel creeps,
 Unkissed of the sunshine, unbaptized
 of showers,
 With buds scarcely swelled, which
 should burst into flowers!
 We wait for thy coming, sweet wind of
 the south!
 For the touch of thy light wings, the
 kiss of thy mouth;
 For the yearly evangel thou bearest
 from God,
 Resurrection and life to the graves of
 the sod!
 Up our long river-valley, for days,
 have not ceased
 The wail and the shriek of the bitter
 northeast,
 Raw and chill, as if winnowed through
 ices and snow,
 All the way from the land of the wild
 Esquimau,
 Until all our dreams of the land of the
 blest,
 Like that red hunter's, turn to the
 sunny southwest.
 O soul of the spring-time, its light and
 its breath,
 Bring warmth to this coldness, bring
 life to this death;
 Renew the great miracle; let us behold
 The stone from the mouth of the
 sepulchre rolled,
 And Nature, like Lazarus, rise, as of old!
 Let our faith, which in darkness and
 coldness has lain,
 Revive with the warmth and the
 brightness again,
 And in blooming of flower and bud-
 ding of tree
 The symbols and types of our destiny
 see;
 The life of the spring-time, the life of
 the whole,
 And, as sun to the sleeping earth, love
 to the soul!

PICTURES

I

LIGHT, warmth, and sprouting green-
 ness, and o'er all

Blue, stainless, steel-bright ether,
 raining down
 Tranquillity upon the deep-hushed
 town,
 The freshening meadows, and the
 hillsides brown;
 Voice of the west-wind from the
 hills of pine,
 And the brimmed river from its dis-
 tant fall,
 Low hum of bees, and joyous inter-
 lude
 Of bird-songs in the streamlet-skirt-
 ing wood, —
 Heralds and prophecies of sound
 and sight,
 Blessed forerunners of the warmth
 and light,
 Attendant angels to the house of
 prayer,
 With reverent footsteps keeping
 pace with mine, —
 Once more, through God's great love,
 with you I share
 A morn of resurrection sweet and fair
 As that which saw, of old, in Pal-
 estine,
 Immortal Love uprising in fresh
 bloom
 From the dark night and winter of
 the tomb!

II

White with its sun-bleached dust, the
 pathway winds
 Before me; dust is on the shrunken
 grass,
 And on the trees beneath whose
 boughs I pass;
 Frail screen against the Hunter of
 the sky,
 Who, glaring on me with his lidless
 eye,
 While mounting with his dog-star
 high and higher
 Ambushed in light intolerable, un-
 binds
 The burnished quiver of his shafts
 of fire.
 Between me and the hot fields of his
 South
 A tremulous glow, as from a fur-
 nace-mouth,
 Glimmers and swims before my daz-
 zled sight,

As if the burning arrows of his
 ire
 Broke as they fell, and shattered
 into light; ³⁰
 Yet on my cheek I feel the western
 wind,
 And hear it telling to the orchard
 trees,
 And to the faint and flower-for-
 saken bees,
 Tales of fair meadows, green with
 constant streams,
 And mountains rising blue and cool
 behind,
 Where in moist dells the purple
 orchis gleams,
 And starred with white the virgin's
 bower is twined.
 So the o'erwearied pilgrim, as he
 fares
 Along life's summer waste, at times
 is fanned,
 Even at noontide, by the cool, sweet
 airs ⁴⁰
 Of a serener and a holier land,
 Fresh as the morn, and as the dew-
 fall bland.
 Breath of the blessed Heaven for which
 we pray,
 Blow from the eternal hills! make glad
 our earthly way!

SUMMER BY THE LAKESIDE

LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE

I. NOON

WHITE clouds, whose shadows haunt
 the deep,
 Light mists, whose soft embraces keep
 The sunshine on the hills asleep!
 O isles of calm! O dark, still wood!
 And stiller skies that overbrood
 Your rest with deeper quietude!
 O shapes and hues, dim beckoning,
 through
 Yon mountain gaps, my longing view
 Beyond the purple and the blue,
 To stiller sea and greener land, ¹⁰
 And softer lights and airs more bland,
 And skies, — the hollow of God's hand!

Transfused through you, O mountain
 friends!
 With mine your solemn spirit blends,
 And life no more hath separate ends.

I read each misty mountain sign,
 I know the voice of wave and pine,
 And I am yours, and ye are mine.

Life's burdens fall, its discords cease,
 I lapse into the glad release ²⁰
 Of Nature's own exceeding peace.

O welcome calm of heart and mind!
 As falls yon fir-tree's loosened rind
 To leave a tenderer growth behind,

So fall the weary years away;
 A child again, my head I lay
 Upon the lap of this sweet day.

This western wind hath Lethæan powers,
 Yon noonday cloud nepenthe showers,
 The lake is white with lotus-flowers! ³⁰

Even Duty's voice is faint and low,
 And slumberous Conscience, waking
 slow,
 Forgets her blotted scroll to show.

The Shadow which pursues us all,
 Whose ever-nearing steps appall,
 Whose voice we hear behind us call, —

That Shadow blends with mountain
 gray,
 It speaks but what the light waves
 say, —
 Death walks apart from Fear to-day!

Rocked on her breast, these pines
 and I ⁴⁰
 Alike on Nature's love rely;
 And equal seems to live or die.

Assured that He whose presence fills
 With light the spaces of these hills
 No evil to His creatures wills,

The simple faith remains, that He
 Will do, whatever that may be,
 The best alike for man and tree.

What mosses over one shall grow,
 What light and life the other know, ⁵⁰
 Unanxious, leaving Him to show.

II. EVENING

Yon mountain's side is black with
 night,
 While, broad-orbed, o'er its gleam-
 ing crown
 The moon, slow-rounding into sight,
 On the hushed inland sea looks
 down.

What time before the eastern light 70
 The pale ghost of the setting moon

Shall hide behind yon rocky spines,
 And the young archer, Morn, shall
 break
 His arrows on the mountain pines,
 And, golden-sandalled, walk the
 lake!



“O isles of calm! O dark, still wood!”

How start to light the clustering isles,
 Each silver-hemmed! How sharply
 show
 The shadows of their rocky piles,
 And tree-tops in the wave below!

How far and strange the mountains
 seem,
 Dim-looming through the pale, still
 light!

The vague, vast grouping of a dream,
 They stretch into the solemn night.

Beneath, lake, wood, and peopled vale,
 Hushed by that presence grand and
 grave,
 Are silent, save the cricket's wail,
 And low response of leaf and wave.

Fair scenes! whereto the Day and
 Night
 Make rival love, I leave ye soon,

Farewell! around this smiling bay
 Gay-hearted Health, and Life in
 bloom,
 With lighter steps than mine, may
 stray
 In radiant summers yet to come.

But none shall more regretful leave 80
 These waters and these hills than
 I:

Or, distant, fonder dream how eve
 Or dawn is painting wave and sky;

How rising moons shine sad and
 mild
 On wooded isle and silvering bay;
 Or setting suns beyond the piled
 And purple mountains lead the day;

Nor laughing girl, nor bearding boy,
 Nor full-pulsed manhood, lingering
 here,

Shall add, to life's abounding joy, 90
The charmed repose to suffering dear,

Still waits kind Nature to impart
Her choicest gifts to such as gain
An entrance to her loving heart
Through the sharp discipline of pain.

Forever from the Hand that takes
One blessing from us others fall;
And, soon or late, our Father makes
His perfect recompense to all!

Oh, watched by Silence and the
Night, 100
And folded in the strong embrace
Of the great mountains, with the light
Of the sweet heavens upon thy face,

Lake of the Northland! keep thy dower
Of beauty still, and while above
Thy solemn mountains speak of power,
Be thou the mirror of God's love.

THE FRUIT-GIFT

LAST night, just as the tints of au-
tumn's sky
Of sunset faded from our hills and
streams,

I sat, vague listening, lapped in twi-
light dreams,
To the leaf's rustle, and the cricket's
cry.

Then, like that basket, flush with sum-
mer fruit,

Dropped by the angels at the Pro-
phet's foot,
Came, unannounced, a gift of clus-
tered sweetness,

Full-orbed, and glowing with the
prisoned beams
Of summery suns, and rounded to
completeness

By kisses of the south-wind and the
dew.

Thrilled with a glad surprise, me-
thought I knew

The pleasure of the homeward-turning
Jew,

When Eshcol's clusters on his shoul-
ders lay,

Dropping their sweetness on his desert
way.

I said, "This fruit beseems no world of
sin.

Its parent vine, rooted in Paradise,
O'ercrept the wall, and never paid
the price

Of the great mischief, — an ambrosi-
al tree,

Eden's exotic, somehow smuggled in,
To keep the thorns and thistles com-
pany."

Perchance our frail, sad mother
plucked in haste

A single vine-slip as she passed the
gate,

Where the dread sword alternate
paled and burned,

And the stern angel, pitying her
fate,

Forgave the lovely trespasser, and
turned

Aside his face of fire; and thus the
waste

And fallen world hath yet its annual
taste

Of primal good, to prove of sin the
cost,

And show by one gleaned ear the
mighty harvest lost.

FLOWERS IN WINTER

PAINTED UPON A PORTE LIVRE

How strange to greet, this frosty morn,
In graceful counterfeit of flowers,
These children of the meadows, born
Of sunshine and of showers!

How well the conscious wood retains
The pictures of its flower-sown
home,

The lights and shades, the purple
stains,

And golden hues of bloom!

It was a happy thought to bring
To the dark season's frost and
rime 10

This painted memory of spring,
This dream of summer-time.

Our hearts are lighter for its sake,
Our fancy's age renews its youth,
And dim-remembered fictions take
The guise of present truth.

A wizard of the Merrimac, —
So old ancestral legends say, —
Could call green leaf and blossom back
To frosted stem and spray. 20

The dry logs of the cottage wall,
Beneath his touch, put out their
leaves;

The clay-bound swallow, at his call,
Played round the icy eaves.

The settler saw his oaken flail
Take bud, and bloom before his
eyes;

From frozen pools he saw the pale,
Sweet summer lilies rise.

To their old homes, by man profaned,
Came the sad dryads, exiled long, 30
And through their leafy tongues com-
plained

Of household use and wrong.

The beechen platter sprouted wild,
The pipkin wore its old-time green,
The cradle o'er the sleeping child
Became a leafy screen.

Haply our gentle friend hath met,
While wandering in her sylvan
quest,
Haunting his native woodlands yet,
That Druid of the West; 40

And, while the dew on leaf and flower
Glistened in moonlight clear and
still,
Learned the dusk wizard's spell of
power,
And caught his trick of skill.

But welcome, be it new or old,
The gift which makes the day more
bright,
And paints, upon the ground of cold
And darkness, warmth and light!

Without is neither gold nor green;
Within, for birds, the birch-logs
sing; 50
Yet, summer-like, we sit between
The autumn and the spring.

The one, with bridal blush of rose,
And sweetest breath of woodland
balm,

And one whose matron lips unclose
In smiles of saintly calm.

Fill soft and deep, O winter snow!
The sweet azalea's oaken dells,
And hide the bank where roses blow,
And swing the azure bells! 60

O'erlay the amber violet's leaves,
The purple aster's brookside home,
Guard all the flowers her pencil gives
A life beyond their bloom.

And she, when spring comes round
again,
By greening slope and singing flood
Shall wander, seeking, not in vain,
Her darlings of the wood.

THE MAYFLOWERS

The trailing arbutus, or mayflower, grows abundantly in the vicinity of Plymouth, and was the first flower that greeted the Pilgrims after their fearful winter.

SAD Mayflower! watched by winter
stars,
And nursed by winter gales,
With petals of the sleeted spars,
And leaves of frozen sails!

What had she in those dreary hours,
Within her ice-rimmed bay,
In common with the wild-wood
flowers,
The first sweet smiles of May?

Yet, "God be praised!" the Pilgrim
said,
Who saw the blossoms peer
Above the brown leaves, dry and
dead,
"Behold our Mayflower here!

"God wills it: here our rest shall
be,
Our years of wandering o'er;
For us the Mayflower of the sea
Shall spread her sails no more."

O sacred flowers of faith and hope,
As sweetly now as then
Ye bloom on many a birchen slope,
In many a pine-dark glen.

Behind the sea-wall's rugged length,
 Unchanged, your leaves unfold,
 Like love behind the manly strength
 Of the brave hearts of old.

So live the fathers in their sons,
 Their sturdy faith be ours,
 And ours the love that overruns
 Its rocky strength with flowers.

The Pilgrim's wild and wintry day
 Its shadow round us draws;
 The Mayflower of his stormy bay,
 Our Freedom's struggling cause.

But warmer suns erelong shall bring
 To life the frozen sod;
 And through dead leaves of hope shall
 spring
 Afresh the flowers of God!

THE LAST WALK IN AUTUMN

I

O'ER the bare woods, whose out-
 stretched hands
 Plead with the leaden heavens in
 vain,
 I see, beyond the valley lands,
 The sea's long level dim with
 rain.
 Around me all things, stark and
 dumb,
 Seem praying for the snows to
 come,
 And, for the summer bloom and green-
 ness gone,
 With winter's sunset lights and daz-
 zling morn atone.

II

Along the river's summer walk,
 The withered tufts of asters
 nod;
 And trembles on its arid stalk ¹⁰
 The hoar plume of the golden-
 rod.
 And on a ground of sombre fir,
 And azure-studded juniper,
 The silver birch its buds of purple
 shows,
 And scarlet berries tell where bloomed
 the sweet wild-rose!

III

With mingled sound of horns and
 bells,
 A far-heard clang, the wild geese
 fly,
 Storm-sent, from Arctic moors and
 fells,
 Like a great arrow through the
 sky,
 Two dusky lines converged in ²⁰
 one,
 Chasing the southward-flying sun;
 While the brave snow-bird and the
 hardy jay
 Call to them from the pines, as if to
 bid them stay.

IV

I passed this way a year ago:
 The wind blew south; the noon of
 day
 Was warm as June's; and save that
 snow
 Flecked the low mountains far
 away,
 And that the vernal-seeming breeze
 Mocked faded grass and leafless
 trees, ³⁰
 I might have dreamed of summer as I
 lay,
 Watching the fallen leaves with the
 soft wind at play.

V

Since then, the winter blasts have
 piled
 The white pagodas of the snow
 On these rough slopes, and, strong
 and wild,
 Yon river, in its overflow
 Of spring-time rain and sun, set
 free,
 Crashed with its ices to the sea;
 And over these gray fields, then green
 and gold,
 The summer corn has waved, the
 thunder's organ rolled. ⁴⁰

VI

Rich gift of God! A year of time!
 What pomp of rise and shut of
 day,



“ Around me all things, stark and dumb,
Seem praying for the snows to come ”

What hues wherewith our Northern
clime
Makes autumn's dropping wood-
lands gay,
What airs outblown from ferny dells,
And clover-bloom and sweetbrier
smells,
What songs of hrooks and birds, what
fruits and flowers,
Green woods and moonlit snows, have
in its round been ours!

VII

I know not how, in other lands,
The changing seasons come and
go;
What splendors fall on Syrian
sands,
What purple lights on Alpine
snow!
Nor how the pomp of sunrise waits
On Venice at her watery gates;
A dream alone to me is Arno's vale,
And the Alhambra's halls are but a
traveller's tale.

VIII

Yet, on life's current, he who drifts
Is one with him who rows or sails;
And he who wanders widest lifts ⁵⁰
No more of beauty's jealous veils
Than he who from his doorway sees
The miracle of flowers and trees,
Feels the warm Orient in the noonday
air,
And from cloud minarets hears the
sunset call to prayer!

IX

The eye may well be glad that looks
Where Pharpar's fountains rise
and fall;
But he who sees his native brooks
Laugh in the sun, has seen them all.
The marble palaces of Ind
Rise round him in the snow and
wind;
From his lone sweetbrier Persian Ha-
fiz smiles, ⁷⁰
And Rome's cathedral awe is in his
woodland aisles.

x

And thus it is my fancy blends
 The near at hand and far and
 rare;
 And while the same horizon bends
 Above the silver-sprinkled hair
 Which flashed the light of morning
 skies
 On childhood's wonder-lifted eyes,
 Within its round of sea and sky and
 field,
 Earth wheels with all her zones, the
 Kosmos stands revealed. 80

xi

And thus the sick man on his bed,
 The toiler to his task-work bound,
 Behold their prison-walls outspread,
 Their clipped horizon widen
 round!
 While freedom-giving fancy waits,
 Like Peter's angel at the gates,
 The power is theirs to baffle care and
 pain,
 To bring the lost world back, and
 make it theirs again!

xii

What lack of goodly company,
 When masters of the ancient
 lyre 90
 Obey my call, and trace for me
 Their words of mingled tears and
 fire!
 I talk with Bacon, grave and wise,
 I read the world with Pascal's eyes;
 And priest and sage, with solemn
 brows austere,
 And poets, garland-bound, the Lords
 of Thought, draw near.

xiii

Methinks, O friend, I hear thee say,
 "In vain the human heart we
 mock;
 Bring living guests who love the
 day,
 Not ghosts who fly at crow of
 cock! 100
 The herbs we share with flesh and
 blood
 Are better than ambrosial food,

With laurelled shades." I grant it, no-
 thing loath,
 But doubly blest is he who can par-
 take of both.

xiv

He who might Plato's banquet
 grace,
 Have I not seen before me sit,
 And watched his puritanic face,
 With more than Eastern wisdom
 lit?
 Shrewd mystic! who, upon the back
 Of his Poor Richard's Almanac 110
 Writing the Sufi's song, the Gentoo's
 dream,
 Links Manu's age of thought to Ful-
 ton's age of steam!

xv

Here too, of answering love secure,
 Have I not welcomed to my hearth
 The gentle pilgrim troubadour,
 Whose songs have girdled half the
 earth;
 Whose pages, like the magic mat
 Whereon the Eastern lover sat,
 Have borne me over Rhine-land's pur-
 ple vines,
 And Nubia's tawny sands, and Phry-
 gia's mountain pines? 120

xvi

And he, who to the lettered wealth
 Of ages adds the lore unpriced,
 The wisdom and the moral health,
 The ethics of the school of Christ;
 The statesman to his holy trust,
 As the Athenian archon, just,
 Struck down, exiled like him for truth
 alone,
 Has he not graced my home with
 beauty all his own?

xvii

What greetings smile, what fare-
 wells wave,
 What loved ones enter and de-
 part! 130
 The good, the beautiful, the brave,
 The Heaven-lent treasures of the
 heart!

How conscious seems the frozen sod
 And heecheen slope whereon they
 trod!
 The oak-leaves rustle, and the dry
 grass bends
 Beneath the shadowy feet of lost or
 absent friends.

XVIII

Then ask not why to these bleak
 hills
 I cling, as'clings the tufted moss,
 To bear the winter's lingering chills
 The mocking spring's perpetual
 loss. ¹⁴⁰
 I dream of lands where summer
 smiles,
 And soft winds blow from spicy isles,
 But scarce would Ceylon's breath of
 flowers be sweet,
 Could I not feel thy soil, New Eng-
 land, at my feet!

XIX

At times I long for gentler skies,
 And bathe in dreams of softer air,
 But homesick tears would fill the eyes
 That saw the Cross without the
 Bear.
 The pine must whisper to the palm,
 The north-wind break the tropic
 calm; ¹⁵⁰
 And with the dreamy languor of the
 Line,
 The North's keen virtue blend, and
 strength to beauty join.

XX

Better to stem with heart and hand
 The roaring tide of life, than lie,
 Unmindful, on its flowery strand,
 Of God's occasions drifting by!
 Better with naked nerve to bear
 The needles of this goading air,
 Than, in the lap of sensual ease, forego
 The godlike power to do, the godlike
 aim to know. ¹⁶⁰

XXI

Home of my heart! to me more fair
 Than gay Versailles or Windsor's
 halls,

The painted, shingly town-house
 where
 The freeman's vote for Freedom
 falls!
 The simple roof where prayer is
 made,
 Than Gothic groin and colonnade;
 The living temple of the heart of
 man,
 Than Rome's sky-mocking vault, or
 many-spired Milan!

XXII

More dear thy equal village schools,
 Where rich and poor the Bible
 read, ¹⁷⁰
 Than classic halls where Priestcraft
 rules,
 And Learning wears the chains of
 Creed;
 Thy glad Thanksgiving, gathering
 in
 The scattered sheaves of home and
 kin,
 Than the mad license ushering Lenten
 pains,
 Or holidays of slaves who laugh and
 dance in chains.

XXIII

And sweet homes nestle in these
 dales,
 And perch along these wooded
 swells;
 And, blest beyond Arcadian vales,
 They hear the sound of Sabbath
 bells! ¹⁸⁰
 Here dwells no perfect man sublime,
 Nor woman winged before her time,
 But with the faults and follies of the
 race,
 Old home-bred virtues hold their not
 unhonored place.

XXIV

Here manhood struggles for the
 sake
 Of mother, sister, daughter, wife,
 The graces and the loves which
 make
 The music of the march of life;
 And woman, in her daily round
 Of duty, walks on holy ground. ¹⁹⁰

No unpaid menial tills the soil, nor here
Is the bad lesson learned at human
rights to sneer.

XXV

Then let the icy north-wind blow
The trumpets of the coming
storm,
To arrowy sleet and blinding snow
Yon slanting lines of rain trans-
form.
Young hearts shall hail the drifted
cold,
As gayly as I did of old;
And I, who watch them through the
frosty pane,
Unenvious, live in them my boyhood
o'er again. 200

XXVI

And I will trust that He who heeds
The life that hides in mead and
wold,
Who hangs yon alder's crimson
beads,
And stains these mosses green and
gold,
Will still, as He hath done, incline
His gracious care to me and mine;
Grant what we ask aright, from wrong
debar,
And, as the earth grows dark, make
brighter every star!

XXVII

I have not seen, I may not see,
My hopes for man take form in
fact, 210
But God will give the victory
In due time; in that faith I act.
And he who sees the future sure,
The baffling present may endure,
And bless, meanwhile, the unseen
Hand that leads
The heart's desires beyond the halting
step of deeds.

XXVIII

And thou, my song, I send thee
forth,
Where harsher songs of mine have
flown;

Go, find a place at home and hearth
Where'er thy singer's name is
known; 220
Revive for him the kindly thought
Of friends; and they who love him
not,
Touched by some strain of thine, per-
chance may take
The hand he proffers all, and thank
him for thy sake.

THE FIRST FLOWERS

FOR ages, on our river borders,
These tassels in their tawny bloom,
And willowy studs of downy silver,
Have prophesied of Spring to come.

For ages have the unbound waters
Smiled on them from their pebbly
hem,
And the clear carol of the robin
And song of bluebird welcomed
them.

But never yet from smiling river,
Or song of early bird, have they 10
Been greeted with a gladder welcome
Than whispers from my heart to-
day.

They break the spell of cold and dark-
ness,
The weary watch of sleepless pain;
And from my heart, as from the
river,
The ice of winter melts again.

Thanks, Mary! for this wild-wood
token
Of Freya's footsteps drawing near;
Almost, as in the rune of Asgard,
The growing of the grass I hear. 20

It is as if the pine-trees called me
From ceiled room and silent books,
To see the dance of woodland shad-
ows,
And hear the song of April brooks!

As in the old Teutonic ballad
Of Odenwald live bird and tree,
Together live in bloom and music,
I blend in song thy flowers and
thee.

Earth's rocky tablets bear forever
The dint of rain and small bird's
track: 30

Who knows but that my idle verses
May leave some trace by Merrimac!

The bird that trod the mellow layers
Of the young earth is sought in
vain;

The cloud is gone that wove the sand-
stone,
From God's design, with threads of
rain!

So, when this fluid age we live in
Shall stiffen round my careless
rhyme,

Who made the vagrant tracks may
puzzle
The savants of the coming time; 40

And, following out their dim sugges-
tions,

Some idly-curious hand may draw
My doubtful portraiture, as Cuvier
Drew fish and bird from fin and
claw.

And maidens in the far-off twilights,
Singing my words to breeze and
stream,

Shall wonder if the old-time Mary
Were real, or the rhymer's dream!

THE OLD BURYING-GROUND

OUR vales are sweet with fern and
rose,

Our hills are maple-crowned;
But not from them our fathers chose
The village burying-ground.

The dreariest spot in all the land
To Death they set apart;
With scanty grace from Nature's
hand,
And none from that of art.

A winding wall of mossy stone,
Frost-flung and broken, lines 10
A lonesome acre thinly grown
With grass and wandering vines.

Without the wall a birch-tree shows
Its drooped and tasselled head;

Within, a stag-horn sumach grows,
Fern-leaved, with spikes of red.

There, sheep that graze the neighbor-
ing plain

Like white ghosts come and go,
The farm-horse drags his fetlock
chain,
The cow-bell tinkles slow. 20

Low moans the river from its bed,
The distant pines reply;
Like mourners shrinking from the
dead,
They stand apart and sigh.

Unshaded smites the summer sun,
Unchecked the winter blast;
The school-girl learns the place to
shun,
With glances backward cast.

For thus our fathers testified,
That he might read who ran, 30
The emptiness of human pride,
The nothingness of man.

They dared not plant the grave with
flowers,
Nor dress the funeral sod,
Where, with a love as deep as ours,
They left their dead with God.

The hard and thorny path they kept
From beauty turned aside;
Nor missed they over those who slept
The grace to life denied. 40

Yet still the wilding flowers would
blow,
The golden leaves would fall,
The seasons come, the seasons go,
And God be good to all.

Above the graves the blackberry hung
In bloom and green its wreath,
And harebells swung as if they rung
The chimes of peace beneath.

The beauty Nature loves to share,
The gifts she hath for all, 50
The common light, the common air,
O'ercept the graveyard's wall.

It knew the glow of eventide,
The sunrise and the noon,



" A lonesome acre thinly grown
With grass and wandering vines "

And glorified and sanctified
It slept beneath the moon.

With flowers or snow-flakes for its
sod,

Around the seasons ran,
And evermore the love of God
Rebuked the fear of man. 60

We dwell with fears on either hand,
Within a daily strife,
And spectral problems waiting stand
Before the gates of life.

The doubts we vainly seek to solve,
The truths we know, are one;
The known and nameless stars revolve
Around the Central Sun.

And if we reap as we have sown,
And take the dole we deal, 70
The law of pain is love alone,
The wounding is to heal.

Unharm'd from change to change we
glide,
We fall as in our dreams;

The far-off terror at our side
A smiling angel seems.

Secure on God's all-tender heart
Alike rest great and small;
Why fear to lose our little part,
When He is pledged for all? 80

O fearful heart and troubled brain!
Take hope and strength from
this, —
That Nature never hints in vain,
Nor prophesies amiss.

Her wild birds sing the same sweet
stave,
Her lights and airs are given
Alike to playground and the grave;
And over both is Heaven.

THE PALM-TREE

Is it the palm, the cocoa-palm,
On the Indian Sea, by the isles of
balm?

Or is it a ship in the breezeless calm?

A ship whose keel is of palm beneath,
Whose ribs of palm have a palm-bark
sheath,
And a rudder of palm it steereth with.

Branches of palm are its spars and
rails,
Fibres of palm are its woven sails,
And the rope is of palm that idly
trails!

What does the good ship bear so
well?

The cocoa-nut with its stony shell,
And the milky sap of its inner cell.

What are its jars, so smooth and fine,
But hollowed nuts, filled with oil and
wine,
And the cabbage that ripens under the
Line?

Who smokes his nargileh, cool and
calm?

The master, whose cunning and skill
could charm

Cargo and ship from the bounteous
palm.

In the cabin he sits on a palm-mat
soft,
From a beaker of palm his drink is
quaffed,
And a palm-thatch shields from the
sun aloft!

His dress is woven of palmy strands,
And he holds a palm-leaf scroll in his
hands,
Traced with the Prophet's wise com-
mands!

The turban folded about his head
Was daintily wrought of the palm-leaf
braid,
And the fan that cools him of palm
was made.

Of threads of palm was the carpet
spun
Whereon he kneels when the day is
done,
And the foreheads of Islam are bowed
as one!

To him the palm is a gift divine,
Wherein all uses of man combine, —
House, and raiment, and food, and
wine!

And, in the hour of his great release,
His need of the palm shall only cease
With the shroud wherein he lieth in
peace.

"Allah il Allah!" he sings his psalm,
On the Indian Sea, by the isles of
balm;
"Thanks to Allah who gives the
palm!"

THE RIVER PATH

No bird-song floated down the hill,
The tangled bank below was still;

No rustle from the birchen stem,
No ripple from the water's hem.

The dusk of twilight round us grew,
We felt the falling of the dew;

For, from us, ere the day was done,
The wooded hills shut out the sun.

But on the river's farther side
We saw the hill-tops glorified, — 10

A tender glow, exceeding fair,
A dream of day without its glare.

With us the damp, the chill, the
gloom:
With them the sunset's rosy bloom;

While dark, through willowy vistas
seen,
The river rolled in shade between.

From out the darkness where we
trod,
We gazed upon those hills of God,

Whose light seemed not of moon or
sun.
We spake not, but our thought was
one. 20

We paused, as if from that bright
shore
Beckoned our dear ones gone before;

Through their green gates the sun-
shine showed,
A long, slant splendor downward
flowed.

Down glade and glen and bank it
rolled;
It bridged the shaded stream with
gold; 30

And, borne on piers of mist, al-
lied
The shadowy with the sunlit side!

"So," prayed we, "when our feet
draw near
The river dark, with mortal fear,

"And the night cometh chill with
dew,
O Father! let Thy light break
through!"

"So let the hills of doubt divide,
So bridge with faith the sunless
tide!"



"While dark, through willowy vistas seen,
The river rolled in shade between"

And stilled our beating hearts to hear
The voices lost to mortal ear!

Sudden our pathway turned from
night;
The hills swung open to the light;

"So let the eyes that fail on earth
On Thy eternal hills look forth; 40

"And in Thy beckoning angels know
The dear ones whom we loved be-
low!"



“Uplift against the blue walls of the sky
Your mighty shapes, and let the sunshine weave
Its golden net-work in your belting woods”

MOUNTAIN PICTURES

I. FRANCONIA FROM THE PEMIGEWAS-
SET

ONCE more, O Mountains of the
North, unveil
Your brows, and lay your cloudy
mantles by!
And once more, ere the eyes that seek
ye fail,
Uplift against the blue walls of the
sky
Your mighty shapes, and let the sun-
shine weave
Its golden net-work in your belting
woods,
Smile down in rainbows from your
falling floods,
And on your kingly brows at morn and
eve
Set crowns of fire! So shall my soul
receive

Haply the secret of your calm and
strength,
Your unforgotten beauty interfuse¹⁰
My common life, your glorious
shapes and hues
And sun-dropped splendors at my
bidding come,
Loom vast through dreams, and
stretch in billowy length
From the sea-level of my lowland home!
They rise before me! Last night's
thunder-gust
Roared not in vain: for where its
lightnings thrust
Their tongues of fire, the great peaks
seem so near,
Burned clean of mist, so starkly bold
and clear,
I almost pause the wind in the pines to
hear,²⁰
The loose rock's fall, the steps of brows-
ing deer.

The clouds that shattered on yon
 slide-worn walls
 And splintered on the rocks their
 spears of rain
 Have set in play a thousand waterfalls,
 Making the dusk and silence of the
 woods
 Glad with the laughter of the chasing
 floods,
 And luminous with blown spray and
 silver gleams,
 While, in the vales below, the dry-
 lipped streams
 Sing to the freshened meadow-
 lands again.
 So, let me hope, the battle-storm that
 beats ³⁰
 The land with hail and fire may pass
 away
 With its spent thunders at the
 break of day,
 Like last night's clouds, and leave, as
 it retreats,
 A greener earth and fairer sky behind,
 Blown crystal-clear by Freedom's
 Northern wind!

II. MONADNOCK FROM WACHUSET

I would I were a painter, for the sake
 Of a sweet picture, and of her who
 led,
 A fitting guide, with reverential
 tread,
 Into that mountain mystery. First a
 lake
 Tinted with sunset; next the wavy
 lines ⁴⁰
 Of far receding hills; and yet
 more far,
 Monadnock lifting from his night of
 pines
 His rosy forehead to the evening
 star.
 Beside us, purple-zoned, Wachuset
 laid
 His head against the West, whose
 warm light made
 His aureole; and o'er him, sharp
 and clear,
 Like a shaft of lightning in mid-
 launching stayed,
 A single level cloud-line, shone upon
 By the fierce glances of the sunken
 sun,
 Menaced the darkness with its
 golden spear! ⁵⁰

So twilight deepened round us. Still
 and black
 The great woods climbed the moun-
 tain at our back;
 And on their skirts, where yet the lin-
 gering day
 On the shorn greenness of the clearing
 lay,
 The brown old farm-house like a
 bird's-nest hung.
 With home-life sounds the desert air
 was stirred:
 The bleat of sheep along the hill we
 heard,
 The bucket plashing in the cool, sweet
 well,
 The pasture-bars that clattered as
 they fell;
 Dogs barked, fowls fluttered, cattle
 lowed; the gate ⁶⁰
 Of the barn-yard creaked beneath the
 merry weight
 Of sun-brown children, listening,
 while they swung,
 The welcome sound of supper-call
 to hear;
 And down the shadowy lane, in
 tinklings clear,
 The pastoral curfew of the cow-bell
 rung.
 Thus soothed and pleased, our back-
 ward path we took,
 Praising the farmer's home. He
 only spake,
 Looking into the sunset o'er the lake,
 Like one to whom the far-off is
 most near:
 "Yes, most folks think it has a plea-
 sant look; ⁷⁰
 I love it for my good old mother's
 sake,
 Who lived and died here in the
 peace of God!"
 The lesson of his words we pondered
 o'er,
 As silently we turned the eastern flank
 Of the mountain, where its shadow
 deepest sank,
 Doubling the night along our rugged
 road:
 We felt that man was more than his
 abode,—
 The inward life than Nature's rai-
 ment more;
 And the warm sky, the sundown-
 tinted hill,

The forest and the lake, seemed
 dwarfed and dim ³⁰
 Before the saintly soul, whose human
 will
 Meekly in the Eternal footsteps
 trod,
 Making her homely toil and household
 ways
 An earthly echo of the song of praise
 Swelling from angel lips and harps
 of seraphim.

THE VANISHERS

SWEETEST of all childlike dreams
 In the simple Indian lore,
 Still to me the legend seems
 Of the shapes who flit before.

Flitting, passing, seen and gone,
 Never reached nor found at rest,
 Baffling search, but beckoning on
 To the Sunset of the Blest.

From the clefts of mountain rocks,
 Through the dark of lowland
 firs, ¹⁰
 Flash the eyes and flow the locks
 Of the mystic Vanishers!

And the fisher in his skiff,
 And the hunter on the moss,
 Hear their call from cape and cliff,
 See their hands the birch-leaves
 toss.

Wistful, longing, through the green
 Twilight of the clustered pines,
 In their faces rarely seen
 Beauty more than mortal shines. ²⁰

Fringed with gold their mantles flow
 On the slopes of westerling knolls;
 In the wind they whisper low
 Of the Sunset Land of Souls.

Doubt who may, O friend of mine!
 Thou and I have seen them too;
 On before with beck and sign
 Still they glide, and we pursue.

More than clouds of purple trail
 In the gold of setting day; ³⁰
 More than gleams of wing or sail
 Beckon from the sea-mist gray.

Glimpses of immortal youth,
 Gleams and glories seen and flown,
 Far-heard voices sweet with truth,
 Airs from viewless Eden blown;

Beauty that eludes our grasp,
 Sweetness that transcends our taste,
 Loving hands we may not clasp,
 Shining feet that mock our haste; ⁴⁰

Gentle eyes we closed below,
 Tender voices heard once more,
 Smile and call us, as they go
 On and onward, still before.

Guided thus, O friend of mine!
 Let us walk our little way,
 Knowing by each beckoning sign
 That we are not quite astray.

Chase we still, with baffled feet,
 Smiling eye and waving hand, ⁵⁰
 Sought and seeker soon shall meet,
 Lost and found, in Sunset Land!

THE PAGEANT

A SOUND as if from bells of silver,
 Or elfin cymbals smitten clear,
 Through the frost-pictured panes
 I hear.

A brightness which outshines the
 morning,
 A splendor brooking no delay,
 Beckons and tempts my feet
 away.

I leave the trodden village highway
 For virgin snow-paths glimmering
 through
 A jewelled elm-tree avenue;

Where, keen against the walls of sap-
 phire, ¹⁰
 The gleaming tree-bolls, ice-em-
 bossed,
 Hold up their chandeliers of
 frost.

I tread in Orient halls enchanted,
 I dream the Saga's dream of
 caves
 Gem-lit beneath the North Sea
 waves!

I walk the land of Eldorado,
I touch its mimic garden bowers,
Its silver leaves and diamond
flowers!

The flora of the mystic mine-world 19
Around me lifts on crystal stems
The petals of its clustered gems!

What miracle of weird transforming
In this wild work of frost and
light,
This glimpse of glory infinite!

This foregleam of the Holy City
Like that to him of Patmos given,
The white bride coming down
from heaven!

How flash the ranked and mail-clad
alders,
Through what sharp-glancing
spears of reeds
The brook its muffled water
leads! 30

Yon maple, like the bush of Horeb,
Burns unconsumed: a white, cold
fire
Rays out from every grassy spire.

Each slender rush and spike of mullein,
Low laurel shrub and drooping
fern,
Transfigured, blaze where'er I
turn.

How yonder Ethiopian hemlock
Crowned with his glistening cir-
clet stands!
What jewels light his swarthy
hands!

Here, where the forest opens south-
ward, 40
Between its hospitable pines,
As through a door, the warm sun
shines.

The jewels loosen on the branches,
And lightly, as the soft winds
blow,
Fall, tinkling, on the ice below.

And through the clashing of their
cymbals

I hear the old familiar fall
Of water down the rocky wall,

Where, from its wintry prison break-
ing, 49
In dark and silence hidden long,
The brook repeats its summer
song.

One instant flashing in the sun-
shine,
Keen as a sabre from its sheath,
Then lost again the ice beneath.

I hear the rabbit lightly leaping,
The foolish screaming of the jay,
The chopper's axe-stroke far
away;

The clamor of some neighboring barn-
yard,
The lazy cock's belated crow, 59
Or cattle-tramp in crispy snow.

And, as in some enchanted forest
The lost knight hears his comrades
sing,
And, near at hand, their bridles
ring, —

So welcome I these sounds and voices,
These airs from far-off summer
blown,
This life that leaves me not alone.

For the white glory overawes me;
The crystal terror of the seer
Of Chebar's vision blinds me
here.

Rebuke me not, O sapphire heaven! 70
Thou stainless earth, lay not on
me
Thy keen reproach of purity,

If, in this august presence-chamber,
I sigh for summer's leaf-green
gloom
And warm airs thick with odor-
ous bloom!

Let the strange frost-work sink and
crumble,
And let the loosened tree-boughs
swing,
Till all their bells of silver ring.

Shine warmly down, thou sun of noon-
time,
On this chill pageant, melt and
move 80
The winter's frozen heart with
love.

And, soft and low, thou wind south-
blowing,
Breathe through a veil of tender-
est haze
Thy prophecy of summer days.

Come with thy green relief of promise,
And to this dead, cold splendor
bring
The living jewels of the spring!

THE PRESSED GENTIAN

THE time of gifts has come again,
And, on my northern window-pane,
Outlined against the day's brief light,
A Christmas token hangs in sight.
The wayside travellers, as they pass,
Mark the gray disk of clouded glass;
And the dull blankness seems, per-
chance,
Folly to their wise ignorance.

They cannot from their outlook see
The perfect grace it hath for me;
For there the flower, whose fringes
through
The frosty breath of autumn blew,
Turns from without its face of bloom
To the warm tropic of my room,
As fair as when beside its brook
The hue of bending skies it took.

So from the trodden ways of earth,
Seem some sweet souls who veil their
worth,
And offer to the careless glance
The clouding gray of circumstance.
They blossom best where hearth-fires
burn,

To loving eyes alone they turn
The flowers of inward grace, that hide
Their beauty from the world outside.

But deeper meanings come to me,
My half-immortal flower, from thee!
Man judges from a partial view,
None ever yet his brother knew;

The Eternal Eye that sees the whole
May better read the darkened soul,
And find, to outward sense denied,
The flower upon its inmost side!

A MYSTERY

THE river hemmed with leaning trees
Wound through its meadows green;
A low, blue line of mountains showed
The open pines between.

One sharp, tall peak above them all
Clear into sunlight sprang:
I saw the river of my dreams,
The mountains that I sang!

No clue of memory led me on,
But well the ways I knew; 10
A feeling of familiar things
With every footstep grew.

Not otherwise above its crag
Could lean the blasted pine;
Not otherwise the maple hold
Aloft its red ensign.

So up the long and shorn foot-hills
The mountain road should creep;
So, green and low, the meadow fold
Its red-haired kine asleep. 20

The river wound as it should wind;
Their place the mountains took;
The white torn fringes of their clouds
Wore no unwonted look.

Yet ne'er before that river's rim
Was pressed by feet of mine,
Never before mine eyes had crossed
That broken mountain line.

A presence, strange at once and
known,
Walked with me as my guide; 30
The skirts of some forgotten life
Trailed noiseless at my side.

Was it a dim-remembered dream?
Or glimpse through æons old?
The secret which the mountains kept
The river never told.

But from the vision ere it passed
A tender hope I drew,

And, pleasant as a dawn of spring,
The thought within me grew, 40

That love would temper every change,
And soften all surprise,
And, misty with the dreams of earth,
The hills of Heaven arise.

A SEA DREAM

WE saw the slow tides go and come,
The curving surf-lines lightly drawn,
The gray rocks touched with tender bloom
Beneath the fresh-blown rose of dawn.

We saw in richer sunsets lost
The sombre pomp of showery noons;
And signalled spectral sails that crossed
The weird, low light of rising moons.

On stormy eves from cliff and head
We saw the white spray tossed and spurned; 10
While over all, in gold and red,
Its face of fire the lighthouse turned.

The rail-car brought its daily crowds,
Half curious, half indifferent,
Like passing sails or floating clouds,
We saw them as they came and went,

But, one calm morning, as we lay
And watched the mirage-lifted wall
Of coast, across the dreamy bay,
And heard afar the curlew call, 20

And nearer voices, wild or tame,
Of airy flock and childish throng,
Up from the water's edge there came
Faint snatches of familiar song.

Careless we heard the singer's choice
Of old and common airs; at last
The tender pathos of his voice
In one low chanson held us fast.

A song that mingled joy and pain,
And memories old and sadly sweet;
While, timing to its minor strain, 31
The waves in lapsing cadence beat.

The waves are glad in breeze and sun,

The rocks are fringed with foam;
I walk once more a haunted shore,
A stranger, yet at home,
A land of dreams I roam.

Is this the wind, the soft sea-wind
That stirred thy locks of brown?
Are these the rocks whose mosses
knew 40

The trail of thy light gown,
Where boy and girl sat down?

I see the gray fort's broken wall,
The boats that rock below;
And, out at sea, the passing sails
We saw so long ago
Rose-red in morning's glow.

The freshness of the early time
On every breeze is blown;
As glad the sea, as blue the sky, — 50
The change is ours alone;
The saddest is my own.

A stranger now, a world-worn man,
Is he who bears my name;
But thou, methinks, whose mortal life
Immortal youth became,
Art evermore the same.

Thou art not here, thou art not there,
Thy place I cannot see;
I only know that where thou art 60
The blessed angels be,
And heaven is glad for thee.

Forgive me if the evil years
Have left on me their sign;
Wash out, O soul so beautiful,
The many stains of mine
In tears of love divine!

I could not look on thee and live,
If thou wert by my side;
The vision of a shining one, 70
The white and heavenly bride,
Is well to me denied.

But turn to me thy dear girl-face
Without the angel's crown,
The wedded roses of thy lips,
Thy loose hair rippling down
In waves of golden brown.

Look forth once more through space
and time,

And let thy sweet shade fall 79

In tenderest grace of soul and form
On memory's frescoed wall,
A shadow, and yet all!

Draw near, more near, forever dear!

Where'er I rest or roam,
Or in the city's crowded streets,
Or by the blown sea foam,
The thought of thee is home!

At breakfast hour the singer read

The city news, with comment wise,
Like one who felt the pulse of trade
Beneath his finger fall and rise. 91

His look, his air, his curt speech, told
The man of action, not of books,
To whom the corners made in gold
And stocks were more than seaside
nooks.

Of life beneath the life confessed
His song had hinted unawares;
Of flowers in traffic's ledgers pressed,
Of human hearts in bulls and
bears.

But eyes in vain were turned to watch
That face so hard and shrewd and
strong; 101
And ears in vain grew sharp to catch
The meaning of that morning song.

In vain some sweet-voiced querist
sought
To sound him, leaving as she came;
Her baited album only caught
A common, unromantic name.

No word betrayed the mystery fine,
That trembled on the singer's
tongue; 109

He came and went, and left no sign
Behind him save the song he sung.

HAZEL BLOSSOMS

THE summer warmth has left the sky,
The summer songs have died away;
And, withered, in the footpaths lie

The fallen leaves, but yesterday
With ruby and with topaz gay.

The grass is browning on the hills;
No pale, belated flowers recall
The astral fringes of the rills,
And drearily the dead vines fall,
Frost-blackened, from the roadside
wall. 10

Yet through the gray and sombre
wood,
Against the dusk of fir and pine,
Last of their floral sisterhood,
The hazel's yellow blossoms shine,
The tawny gold of Afric's mine!

Small beauty hath my' unsung flower,
For spring to own or summer hail;
But, in the season's saddest hour,
To skies that weep and winds that
wail
Its glad surprisals never fail. 20

O days grown cold! O life grown old!
No rose of June may bloom again;
But, like the hazel's twisted gold,
Through early frost and latter rain
Shall hints of summer-time remain.

And as within the hazel's bough
A gift of mystic virtue dwells,
That points to golden ores below,
And in dry desert places tells
Where flow unseen the cool, sweet
wells, — 30

So, in the wise Diviner's hand,
Be mine the hazel's grateful part,
To feel, beneath a thirsty land,
The living waters thrill and start,
The beating of the rivulet's heart!

Sufficeth me the gift to light
With latest bloom the dark, cold
days;
To call some hidden spring to sight
That, in these dry and dusty ways,
Shall sing its pleasant song of
praise. 40

O Love! the hazel-wand may fail,
But thou canst lend the surer spell,
That, passing over Baca's vale,
Repeats the old-time miracle,
And makes the desert-land a well.



"A gold fringe on the purpling hem
Of hills the river runs"

SUNSET ON THE BEARCAMP

A gold fringe on the purpling hem
Of hills the river runs,
As down its long, green valley falls
The last of summer's suns.
Along its tawny gravel-bed
Broad-flowing, swift, and still,
As if its meadow levels felt
The hurry of the hill,
Noiseless between its banks of green
From curve to curve it slips; ¹⁰
The drowsy maple-shadows rest
Like fingers on its lips.
A waif from Carroll's wildest hills,
Unstoried and unknown;

The ursine legend of its name
Prowls on its banks alone.
Yet flowers as fair its slopes adorn
As ever Yarrow knew,
Or, under rainy Irish skies,
By Spenser's Mulla grew; ²⁰
And through the gaps of leaning
trees
Its mountain cradle shows:
The gold against the amethyst,
The green against the rose.
Touched by a light that hath no
name,
A glory never sung,
Aloft on sky and mountain wall
Are God's great pictures hung.

How changed the summits vast and old!
 No longer granite-browed, 30
 They melt in rosy mist; the rock
 Is softer than the cloud;
 The valley holds its breath; no leaf
 Of all its elms is twirled:
 The silence of eternity
 Seems falling on the world.

The pause before the breaking seals
 Of mystery is this;
 Yon miracle-play of night and day
 Makes dumb its witnesses. 40
 What unseen altar crowns the hills
 That reach up stair on stair?
 What eyes look through, what white
 wings fan
 These purple veils of air?
 What Presence from the heavenly
 heights
 To those of earth stoops down?
 Not vainly Hellas dreamed of Gods
 On Ida's snowy crown!

Slow fades the vision of the sky,
 The golden water pales, 50
 And over all the valley-land
 A gray-winged vapor sails.
 I go the common way of all;
 The sunset fires will burn,
 The flowers will blow, the river flow,
 When I no more return.
 No whisper from the mountain pine
 Nor lapsing stream shall tell
 The stranger, treading where I tread,
 Of him who loved them well. 60

But beauty seen is never lost,
 God's colors all are fast;
 The glory of this sunset heaven
 Into my soul has passed,
 A sense of gladness unconfined
 To mortal date or clime;
 As the soul liveth, it shall live
 Beyond the years of time.
 Beside the mystic asphodels
 Shall bloom the home-born flowers,
 And new horizons flush and glow 71
 With sunset hues of ours.

Farewell! these smiling hills must
 wear
 Too soon their wintry frown,
 And snow-cold winds from off them
 shake
 The maple's red leaves down.

But I shall see a summer sun
 Still setting broad and low;
 The mountain slopes shall blush and
 bloom,
 The golden water flow. 80
 A lover's claim is mine on all
 I see to have and hold, —
 The rose-light of perpetual hills,
 And sunsets never cold!

THE SEEKING OF THE WATER- FALL

THEY left their home of summer ease
 Beneath the lowland's sheltering trees,
 To seek, by ways unknown to all,
 The promise of the waterfall.

Some vague, faint rumor to the vale
 Had crept — perchance a hunter's
 tale —
 Of its wild mirth of waters lost
 On the dark woods through which it
 tossed.

Somewhere it laughed and sang;
 somewhere 9
 Whirled in mad dance its misty hair;
 But who had raised its veil, or seen
 The rainbow skirts of that Undine?

They sought it where the mountain
 brook
 Its swift way to the valley took;
 Along the rugged slope they clomb,
 Their guide a thread of sound and
 foam.

Height after height they slowly won;
 The fiery javelins of the sun
 Smote the bare ledge; the tangled shade
 With rock and vine their steps de-
 layed. 20

But, through leaf-openings, now and
 then
 They saw the cheerful homes of men,
 And the great mountains with their wall
 Of misty purple girdling all.

The leaves through which the glad
 winds blew
 Shared the wild dance the waters knew;
 And where the shadows deepest fell
 The Wood-thrush rang his silver bell.

Fringing the stream, at every turn
Swung low the waving fronds of fern;
From stony cleft and mossy sod 31
Pale asters sprang, and golden-rod.

And still the water sang the sweet,
Glad song that stirred its gliding feet,
And found in rock and root the keys
Of its beguiling melodies.

Beyond, above, its signals flew
Of tossing foam the birch-tree through;
Now seen, now lost, but baffling still
The weary seekers' slackening will. 40

Each called to each: "Lo here! Lo
there!
Its white scarf flutters in the air!"
They climbed anew; the vision fled,
To beckon higher overhead.

So toiled they up the mountain-slope
With faint and ever fainter hope;
With faint and fainter voice the brook
Still bade them listen, pause, and
look.

Meanwhile below the day was done;
Above the tall peaks saw the sun 50
Sink, beam-shorn, to its misty set
Behind the hills of violet.

"Here ends our quest!" the seekers
cried,
"The brook and rumor both have lied!
The phantom of a waterfall
Has led us at its beck and call."

But one, with years grown wiser, said:
"So, always baffled, not misled,
We follow where before us runs
The vision of the shining ones. 60

"Not where they seem their signals fly,
Their voices while we listen die;
We cannot keep, however fleet,
The quick time of their winged feet.

"From youth to age unresting stray
These kindly mockers in our way;
Yet lead they not, the baffling elves,
To something better than themselves?"

"Here, though unreached the goal we
sought,
Its own reward our toil has brought: 70

The winding water's sounding rush,
The long note of the hermit thrush,

"The turquoise lakes, the glimpse of
pond
And river track, and, vast, beyond
Broad meadows belted round with
pines,
The grand uplift of mountain lines!

"What matter though we seek with pain
The garden of the gods in vain,
If lured thereby we climb to greet
Some wayside blossom Eden-sweet? 80

"To seek is better than to gain,
The fond hope dies as we attain;
Life's fairest things are those which
seem,
The best is that of which we dream.

"Then let us trust our waterfall
Still flashes down its rocky wall,
With rainbow crescent curved across
Its sunlit spray from moss to moss.

"And we, forgetful of our pain,
In thought shall seek it oft again; 90
Shall see this aster-blossomed sod,
This sunshine of the golden-rod,

"And haply gain, through parting
boughs,
Grand glimpses of great mountain
brows
Cloud-turbaned, and the sharp steel
sheen
Of lakes deep set in valleys green.

"So failure wins; the consequence
Of loss becomes its recompense;
And evermore the end shall tell
The unreached ideal guided well. 100

"Our sweet illusions only die
Fulfilling love's sure prophecy;
And every wish for better things
An undreamed beauty nearer brings.

"For fate is servitor of love;
Desire and hope and longing prove
The secret of immortal youth,
And Nature cheats us into truth.

"O kind allurers, wisely sent,
Beguiling with benign intent, 110



“And still the water sang the sweet,
Glad song that stirred its gliding feet.”

Still move us, through divine unrest,
To seek the loveliest and the best!

“Go with us when our souls go free,
And, in the clear, white light to be,
Add unto Heaven’s beatitude
The old delight of seeking good!”

THE TRAILING ARBUTUS

I WANDERED lonely where the pine-
trees made
Against the bitter East their barri-
cade,
And, guided by its sweet

Perfume, I found, within a narrow dell,
 The trailing spring flower tinted like a
 shell
 Amid dry leaves and mosses at my
 feet.

From under dead boughs, for whose
 loss the pines
 Moaned ceaseless overhead, the blos-
 soming vines

ST. MARTIN'S SUMMER

THOUGH flowers have perished at the
 touch
 Of Frost, the early comer,
 I hail the season loved so much,
 The good St. Martin's summer.

O gracious morn, with rose-red dawn,
 And thin moon curving o'er it!



"The trailing spring flower tinted like a shell"

Lifted their glad surprise,
 While yet the bluebird smoothed in
 leafless trees
 His feathers ruffled by the chill sea-
 breeze,
 And snow-drifts lingered under
 April skies.

As, pausing, o'er the lonely flower I
 bent,
 I thought of lives thus lowly, clogged
 and pent,
 Which yet find room,
 Through care and cumber, coldness
 and decay,
 To lend a sweetness to the ungenial
 day,
 And make the sad earth happier for
 their bloom.

The old year's darling, latest born,
 More loved than all before it!

How flamed the sunrise through the
 pines!
 How stretched the birchen shad-
 ows,
 Braiding in long, wind-wavered lines
 The westward sloping meadows!

The sweet day, opening as a flower
 Unfolds its petals tender,
 Renews for us at noontide's hour
 The summer's tempered splendor.

The birds are hushed; alone the wind,
 That through the woodland searches,
 The red-oak's lingering leaves can find,
 And yellow plumes of larches. 20

But still the balsam-breathing pine
 Invites no thought of sorrow,
 No hint of loss from air like wine
 The earth's content can borrow.

The summer and the winter here
 Midway a truce are holding,
 A soft, consenting atmosphere
 Their tents of peace enfolding.

The silent woods, the lonely hills,
 Rise solemn in their gladness; 30
 On whirling winds from skies of gray
 Is scarcely joy or sadness.

How strange! The autumn yester-
 day
 In winter's grasp seemed dying;
 On whirling winds from skies of gray
 The early snow was flying.

And now, while over Nature's mood
 There steals a soft relenting,
 I will not mar the present good,
 Forecasting or lamenting. 40

My autumn time and Nature's hold
 A dreamy tryst together,
 And, both grown old, about us fold
 The golden-tissued weather.

I lean my heart against the day
 To feel its bland caressing;
 I will not let it pass away
 Before it leaves its blessing.

God's angels come not as of old
 The Syrian shepherds knew them; 50
 In reddening dawns, in sunset gold,
 And warm noon lights I view them.

Nor need there is, in times like this
 When heaven to earth draws nearer,
 Of wing or song as witnesses
 To make their presence clearer.

O stream of life, whose swifter flow
 Is of the end forewarning,
 Methinks thy sundown afterglow
 Seems less of night than morning! 60

Old cares grow light; aside I lay
 The doubts and fears that trou-
 bled;
 The quiet of the happy day
 Within my soul is doubled.

That clouds must veil this fair sun-
 shine
 Not less a joy I find it;
 Nor less yon warm horizon line
 That winter lurks behind it.

The mystery of the untried days
 I close my eyes from reading; 70
 His will be done whose darkest ways
 To light and life are leading!

Less drear the winter night shall be,
 If memory cheer and hearten
 Its heavy hours with thoughts of
 thee,
 Sweet summer of St. Martin!

STORM ON LAKE ASQUAM

A CLOUD, like that the old-time He-
 brew saw
 On Carmel prophesying rain, began
 To lift itself o'er wooded Cardigan,
 Growing and blackening. Suddenly, a
 flaw

Of chill wind menaced; then a strong
 blast beat
 Down the long valley's murmuring
 pines, and woke
 The noon-dream of the sleeping
 lake, and broke
 Its smooth steel mirror at the moun-
 tains' feet.

Thunderous and vast, a fire-veined
 darkness swept
 Over the rough pine-bearded As-
 quam range;
 A wraith of tempest, wonderful and
 strange,
 From peak to peak the cloudy giant
 stepped.

One moment, as if challenging the
 storm,
 Chocorua's tall, defiant sentinel
 Looked from his watch-tower; then
 the shadow fell,
 And the wild rain-drift blotted out his
 form.

And over all the still unhidden sun,
 Weaving its light through slant-
 blown veils of rain,

Smiled on the trouble, as hope
smiles on pain;
And, when the tumult and the strife
were done,

With one foot on the lake, and one on
land,
Framing within his crescent's tinted
streak
A far-off picture of the Melvin peak,
Spent broken clouds the rainbow's
angel spanned.

A SUMMER PILGRIMAGE

To kneel before some saintly shrine,
To breathe the health of airs divine,
Or bathe where sacred rivers flow,
The cowed and turbaned pilgrims go.
I too, a palmer, take, as they
With staff and scallop-shell, my way
To feel, from burdening cares and ills,
The strong uplifting of the hills.

The years are many since, at first,
For dreamed-of wonders all athirst, 10
I saw on Winnepesaukee fall
The shadow of the mountain wall.
Ah! Where are they who sailed with
me

The beautiful island-studded sea?
And am I he whose keen surprise
Flashed out from such unclouded eyes?

Still, when the sun of summer burns,
My longing for the hills returns;
And northward, leaving at my back
The warm vale of the Merrimac, 20
I go to meet the winds of morn,
Blown down the hill-gaps, mountain-
born,

Breathe the scent of pines, and satisfy
The hunger of a lowland eye.

Again I see the day decline
Along a ridged horizon line;
Touching the hill-tops, as a nun
Her beaded rosary, sinks the sun.
One lake lies golden, which shall soon
Be silver in the rising moon; 30
And one, the crimson of the skies
And mountain purple multiplies.

With the untroubled quiet blends
The distance-softened voice of friends;

The girl's light laugh no discord brings
To the low song the pine-tree sings;
And, not unwelcome, comes the hail
Of boyhood from his nearing sail.
The human presence breaks no spell,
And sunset still is miracle! 40

Calm as the hour, methinks I feel
A sense of worship o'er me steal;
Not that of satyr-charming Pan,
No cult of Nature shaming man,
Not Beauty's self, but that which lives
And shines through all the veils it
weaves, —
Soul of the mountain, lake, and wood,
Their witness to the Eternal Good!

And if, by fond illusion, here
The earth to heaven seems drawing
near, 50

And yon outlying range invites
To other and serener heights,
Scarce hid behind its topmost swell,
The shining Mounts Delectable!
A dream may hint of truth no less
Than the sharp light of wakefulness.

As through her veil of incense smoke
Of old the spell-rapt priestess spoke,
More than her heathen oracle,
May not this trance of sunset tell 60
That Nature's forms of loveliness
Their heavenly archetypes confess,
Fashioned like Israel's ark alone
From patterns in the Mount made
known?

A holier beauty overbroods
These fair and faint similitudes;
Yet not unblest is he who sees
Shadows of God's realities,
And knows beyond this masquerade
Of shape and color, light and shade, 70
And dawn and set, and wax and
wane,
Eternal verities remain.

O gems of sapphire, granite set!
O hills that charmed horizons fret!
I know how fair your morns can
break,
In rosy light on isle and lake;
How over wooded slopes can run
The noonday play of cloud and sun,
And evening droop her oriflamme
Of gold and red in still Asquam. 80

The summer moons may round again,
 And careless feet these hills profane;
 These sunsets waste on vacant eyes
 The lavish splendor of the skies;
 Fashion and folly, misplaced here,
 Sigh for their natural atmosphere,
 And travelled pride the outlook scorn
 Of lesser heights than Matterhorn:

But let me dream that hill and sky
 Of unseen beauty prophesy; °°
 And in these tinted lakes behold
 The trailing of the raiment fold
 Of that which, still eluding gaze,
 Allures to upward-tending ways,
 Whose footprints make, wherever
 found,
 Our common earth a holy ground.

SWEET FERN

THE subtle power in perfume found
 Nor priest nor sibyl vainly learned;
 On Grecian shrine or Aztec mound
 No censer idly burned.

That power the old-time worships
 knew,
 The Corybantes' frenzied dance,
 The Pythian priestess swooning
 through
 The wonderland of trance.

And Nature holds, in wood and field,
 Her thousand sunlit censers still;
 To spells of flower and shrub we
 yield
 Against or with our will.

I climbed a hill path strange and new
 With slow feet, pausing at each
 turn;
 A sudden waft of west wind blew
 The breath of the sweet fern.

That fragrance from my vision swept
 The alien landscape; in its stead,
 Up fairer hills of youth I stepped,
 As light of heart as tread.

I saw my boyhood's lakelet shine
 Once more through rifts of wood-
 land shade;
 I knew my river's winding line
 By morning mist betrayed.

With me June's freshness, lapsing
 brook,

Murmurs of leaf and bee, the call
 Of birds, and one in voice and look
 In keeping with them all.

A fern beside the way we went
 She plucked, and, smiling, held it
 up,
 While from her hand the wild, sweet
 scent
 I drank as from a cup.

O potent witchery of smell!
 The dust-dry leaves to life return,
 And she who plucked them owns the
 spell
 And lifts her ghostly fern.

Or sense or spirit? Who shall say
 What touch the chord of memory
 thrills?
 It passed, and left the August day
 Ablaze on lonely hills.

THE WOOD GIANT

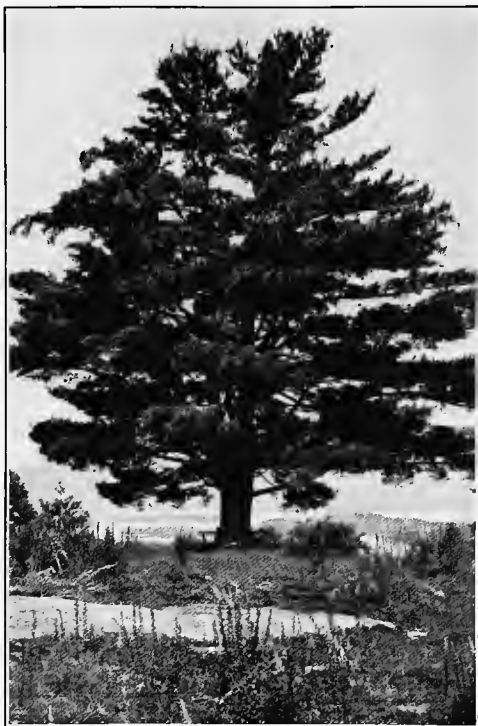
FROM Alton Bay to Sandwich Dome,
 From Mad to Saco river,
 For patriarchs of the primal wood
 We sought with vain endeavor.

And then we said: "The giants old
 Are lost beyond retrieval;
 This pygmy growth the axe has spared
 Is not the wood primeval.

"Look where we will o'er vale and hill,
 How idle are our searches °°
 For broad-girthed maples, wide-
 limbed oaks,
 Centennial pines and birches!

"Their tortured limbs the axe and
 saw
 Have changed to beams and tres-
 tles;
 They rest in walls, they float on seas,
 They rot in sunken vessels.

"This shorn and wasted mountain
 land
 Of underbrush and boulder, —
 Who thinks to see its full-grown tree
 Must live a century older. °°



“How dwarfed the common woodland seemed,
Before the old-time giant!”

At last to us a woodland path,
To open sunset leading,
Revealed the Anakim of pines
Our wildest wish exceeding.

Alone, the level sun before;
Below, the lake's green islands;
Beyond, in misty distance dim,
The rugged Northern Highlands.

Dark Titan on his Sunset Hill
Of time and change defiant! ³⁰
How dwarfed the common woodland
seemed,
Before the old-time giant!

What marvel that, in simpler days
Of the world's early childhood,

Men crowned with garlands, gifts, and
praise
Such monarchs of the wild-wood?

That Tyrian maids with flower and
song
Danced through the hill grove's
spaces,
And hoary-bearded Druids found
In woods their holy places? ⁴⁰

With somewhat of that Pagan awe
With Christian reverence blending,
We saw our pine-tree's mighty arms
Above our heads extending.

We heard his needles' mystic rune,
Now rising, and now dying,

As erst Dodona's priestess heard
The oak leaves prophesying.

Was it the half-unconscious moan
Of one apart and mateless, 50
The weariness of unshared power,
The loneliness of greatness?

O dawns and sunsets, lend to him
Your beauty and your wonder!
Blithe sparrow, sing your summer
song
His solemn shadow under!

Play lightly on his slender keys,
O wind of summer, waking
For hills like these the sound of
seas
On far-off beaches breaking! 60

And let the eagle and the crow
Find shelter in his branches,
When winds shake down his winter
snow
In silver avalanches.

The brave are braver for their
cheer,
The strongest need assurance,
The sigh of longing makes not less
The lesson of endurance.

A DAY

TALK not of sad November, when a
day
Of warm, glad sunshine fills the sky
of noon,
And a wind, borrowed from some
morn of June,
Stirs the brown grasses and the leaf-
less spray.

On the unfrosted pool the pillared pines
Lay their long shafts of shadow: the
small rill,
Singing a pleasant song of summer
still,
A line of silver, down the hill-slope
shines.

Hushed the bird-voices and the hum
of bees,
In the thin grass the crickets pipe no
more;
But still the squirrel hoards his win-
ter store,
And drops his nut-shells from the
shag-bark trees.

Softly the dark green hemlocks whis-
per: high
Above, the spires of yellowing
larches show,
Where the woodpecker and home-
loving crow
And jay and nut-hatch winter's threat
defy.

O gracious beauty, ever new and
old!
O sights and sounds of nature,
doubly dear
When the low sunshine warns the
closing year
Of snow-blown fields and waves of
Arctic cold!

Close to my heart I fold each lovely
thing
The sweet day yields; and, not dis-
consolate,
With the calm patience of the
woods I wait
For leaf and blossom when God gives
us Spring!



Charles Sumner (see p. 241)

PERSONAL POEMS

A LAMENT

“The parted spirit
Knoweth it not our sorrow? Answereth not
Its blessing to our tears?”

THE circle is broken, one seat is forsaken,
One bud from the tree of our friendship is shaken;
One heart from among us no longer shall thrill
With joy in our gladness, or grief in our ill.

Weep! lonely and lowly are slumbering now
The light of her glances, the pride of her brow;
Weep! sadly and long shall we listen in vain
To hear the soft tones of her welcome again.
Give our tears to the dead! For humanity's claim
From its silence and darkness is ever the same;

The hope of that world whose existence is bliss
 May not stifle the tears of the mourners of this.

For, oh! if one glance the freed spirit can throw
 On the scene of its troubled probation below,
 Than the pride of the marble, the pomp of the dead,
 To that glance will be dearer the tears which we shed.

Oh, who can forget the mild light of her smile,
 Over lips moved with music and feeling the while,
 The eye's deep enchantment, dark, dream-like, and clear,
 In the glow of its gladness, the shade of its tear, 20

And the charm of her features, while over the whole
 Played the hues of the heart and the sunshine of soul;
 And the tones of her voice; like the music which seems
 Murmured low in our ears by the Angel of dreams!

But holier and dearer our memories hold
 Those treasures of feeling, more precious than gold,
 The love and the kindness and pity which gave
 Fresh flowers for the bridal, green wreaths for the grave!

The heart ever open to Charity's claim,
 Unmoved from its purpose by censure and blame, 30
 While vainly alike on her eye and herear
 Fell the scorn of the heartless, the jesting and jeer.

How true to our hearts was that beautiful sleeper!
 With smiles for the joyful, with tears for the weeper!
 Yet, evermore prompt, whether mournful or gay,
 With warnings in love to the passing astray.

For, though spotless herself, she could sorrow for them
 Who sullied with evil the spirit's pure gem;
 And a sigh or a tear could the erring reprove,
 And the sting of reproof was still tempered by love. 40

As a cloud of the sunset, slow melting in heaven,
 As a star that is lost when the daylight is given,
 As a glad dream of slumber, which wakens in bliss,
 She hath passed to the world of the holy from this.

TO THE MEMORY OF CHARLES B. STORRS

LATE PRESIDENT OF WESTERN RESERVE COLLEGE

THOU hast fallen in thine armor,
 Thou martyr of the Lord!
 With thy last breath crying, "Onward!"

And thy hand upon the sword.
 The haughty heart derideth,
 And the sinful lip reviles,
 But the blessing of the perishing
 Around thy pillow smiles!

When to our cup of trembling
 The added drop is given, 10
 And the long-suspended thunder
 Falls terribly from Heaven, —
 When a new and fearful freedom
 Is proffered of the Lord
 To the slow-consuming Famine,
 The Pestilence and Sword!

When the refuges of Falsehood
 Shall be swept away in wrath,
 And the temple shall be shaken, 20
 With its idol, to the earth,
 Shall not thy words of warning
 Be all remembered then?
 And thy now unheeded message
 Burn in the hearts of men?

Oppression's hand may scatter
 Its nettles on thy tomb,

And even Christian bosoms
 Deny thy memory room;
 For lying lips shall torture
 Thy mercy into crime, 30
 And the slanderer shall flourish
 As the bay-tree for a time.

But where the south-wind lingers
 On Carolina's pines,
 Or falls the careless sunbeam
 Down Georgia's golden mines;
 Where now beneath his burthen
 The toiling slave is driven;
 Where now a tyrant's mockery
 Is offered unto Heaven; 40

Where Mammon hath its altars
 Wet o'er with human blood,
 And pride and lust debases
 The workmanship of God, —
 There shall thy praise be spoken,
 Redeemed from Falsehood's ban,
 When the fetters shall be broken,
 And the slave shall be a man!

Joy to thy spirit, brother!
 A thousand hearts are warm, 50
 A thousand kindred bosoms
 Are baring to the storm.
 What though red-handed Violence
 With secret Fraud combine?
 The wall of fire is round us,
 Our Present Help was thine.

Lo, the waking up of nations,
 From Slavery's fatal sleep;
 The murmur of a Universe,
 Deep calling unto Deep! 60
 Joy to thy spirit, brother!
 On every wind of heaven
 The onward cheer and summons
 Of Freedom's voice is given!

Glory to God forever!
 Beyond the despot's will
 The soul of Freedom liveth
 Imperishable still.
 The words which thou hast uttered
 Are of that soul a part, 70
 And the good seed thou hast scattered
 Is springing from the heart.

In the evil days before us,
 And the trials yet to come,
 In the shadow of the prison,
 Or the cruel martyrdom, —

We will think of thee, O brother!
 And thy sainted name shall be
 In the blessing of the captive,
 And the anthem of the free. 80
 1834

LINES

ON THE DEATH OF S. OLIVER TORREY,
 SECRETARY OF THE BOSTON YOUNG
 MEN'S ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY

GONE before us, O our brother,
 To the spirit-land!
 Vainly look we for another
 In thy place to stand.
 Who shall offer youth and beauty
 On the wasting shrine
 Of a stern and lofty duty,
 With a faith like thine?

Oh, thy gentle smile of greeting
 Who again shall see? 10
 Who amidst the solemn meeting
 Gaze again on thee?
 Who, when peril gathers o'er us,
 Wear so calm a brow?
 Who, with evil men before us,
 So serene as thou?

Early hath the spoiler found thee,
 Brother of our love!
 Autumn's faded earth around thee,
 And its storms above! 20
 Evermore that turf lie lightly,
 And, with future showers,
 O'er thy slumbers fresh and brightly
 Blow the summer flowers!

In the locks thy forehead gracing,
 Not a silvery streak;
 Nor a line of sorrow's tracing
 On thy fair young cheek;
 Eyes of light and lips of roses,
 Such as Hylas wore, —
 Over all that curtain closes,
 Which shall rise no more!

Will the vigil Love is keeping
 Round that grave of thine,
 Mournfully, like Jazer weeping
 Over Sibmah's vine;
 Will the pleasant memories, swelling
 Gentle hearts, of thee,
 In the spirit's distant dwelling
 All unheeded be?

If the spirit ever gazes,
 From its journeyings, back;
 If the immortal ever traces
 O'er its mortal track;
 Wilt thou not, O brother, meet us
 Sometimes on our way,
 And, in hours of sadness, greet us
 As a spirit may?

Peace be with thee, O our brother,
 In the spirit-land! 50
 Vainly look we for another
 In thy place to stand.
 Unto Truth and Freedom giving
 All thy early powers,
 Be thy virtues with the living,
 And thy spirit ours!

TO ———

WITH A COPY OF WOOLMAN'S JOURNAL

"Get the writings of John Woolman by
 heart." — *Essays of Elia*.

MAIDEN! with the fair brown tresses
 Shading o'er thy dreamy eye,
 Floating on thy thoughtful fore-
 head
 Cloud wreaths of its sky.

Youthful years and maiden beauty,
 Joy with them should still abide, —
 Instinct take the place of Duty,
 Love, not Reason, guide.

Ever in the New rejoicing,
 Kindly beckoning back the Old, 10
 Turning, with the gift of Midas,
 All things into gold.

And the passing shades of sadness
 Wearing even a welcome guise,
 As, when some bright lake lies open
 To the sunny skies,

Every wing of bird above it,
 Every light cloud floating on,
 Glitters like that flashing mirror
 In the self-same sun. 20

But upon thy youthful forehead
 Something like a shadow lies;
 And a serious soul is looking
 From thy earnest eyes.

With an early introversion,
 Through the forms of outward
 things,
 Seeking for the subtle essence,
 And the hidden springs.

Deeper than the gilded surface
 Hath thy wakeful vision seen, 30
 Farther than the narrow present
 Have thy journeyings been.

Thou hast midst Life's empty noises
 Heard the solemn steps of Time,
 And the low mysterious voices
 Of another clime.

All the mystery of Being
 Hath upon thy spirit pressed, —
 Thoughts which, like the Deluge wanderer,
 Find no place of rest: 40

That which mystic Plato pondered,
 That which Zeno heard with awe,
 And the star-rapt Zoroaster
 In his night watch saw.

From the doubt and darkness spring-
 ing
 Of the dim, uncertain Past,
 Moving to the dark still shadows
 O'er the Future cast,

Early hath Life's mighty question 40
 Thrilled within thy heart of youth,
 With a deep and strong beseeching:
 What and where is Truth?

Hollow creed and ceremonial,
 Whence the ancient life hath fled,
 Idle faith unknown to action,
 Dull and cold and dead,

Oracles, whose wire-worked mean-
 ings
 Only wake a quiet scorn, —
 Not from these thy seeking spirit
 Hath its answer drawn. 60

But, like some tired child at even,
 On thy mother Nature's breast,
 Thou, methinks, art vainly seeking
 Truth, and peace, and rest.

O'er that mother's rugged features
 Thou art throwing Fancy's veil,

- Light and soft as woven moonbeams,
Beautiful and frail!
- O'er the rough chart of Existence,
Rocks of sin and wastes of woe, 70
Soft airs breathe, and green leaves
tremble,
And cool fountains flow.
- And to thee an answer cometh
From the earth and from the sky,
And to thee the hills and waters
And the stars reply.
- But a soul-sufficing answer
Hath no outward origin;
More than Nature's many voices
May be heard within. 80
- Even as the great Augustine
Questioned earth and sea and sky,
And the dusty tomes of learning
And old poesy.
- But his earnest spirit needed
More than outward Nature taught;
More than blest the poet's vision
Or the sage's thought.
- Only in the gathered silence
Of a calm and waiting frame, 90
Light and wisdom as from Heaven
To the seeker came.
- Not to ease and aimless quiet
Doth that inward answer tend,
But to works of love and duty
As our being's end;
- Not to idle dreams and trances,
Length of face, and solemn tone,
But to Faith, in daily striving
And performance shown. 100
- Earnest toil and strong endeavor
Of a spirit which within
Wrestles with familiar evil
And besetting sin;
- And without, with tireless vigor,
Steady heart, and weapon strong,
In the power of truth assailing
Every form of wrong.
- Guided thus, how passing lovely
Is the track of Woolman's feet! 110
- And his brief and simple record
How serenely sweet!
- O'er life's humblest duties throwing
Light the earthling never knew,
Freshening all its dark waste places
As with Hermon's dew.
- All which glows in Pascal's pages,
All which sainted Guion sought,
Or the blue-eyed German Rahel
Half-unconscious taught: 120
- Beauty, such as Goethe pictured,
Such as Shelley dreamed of, shed
Living warmth and starry bright-
ness
Round that poor man's head.
- Not a vain and cold ideal,
Not a poet's dream alone,
But a presence warm and real,
Seen and felt and known.
- When the red right-hand of slaughter
Moulders with the steel it swung, 130
When the name of seer and poet
Dies on Memory's tongue,
- All bright thoughts and pure shall
gather
Round that meek and suffering
one, —
Glorious, like the seer-seen angel
Standing in the sun!
- Take the good man's book and ponder
What its pages say to thee;
Blessed as the hand of healing
May its lesson be. 140
- If it only serves to strengthen
Yearnings for a higher good,
For the fount of living waters
And diviner food;
- If the pride of human reason
Feels its meek and still rebuke,
Quailing like the eye of Peter
From the Just One's look!
- If with readier ear thou heedest
What the Inward Teacher saith, 150
Listening with a willing spirit
And a childlike faith, —



William Leggett

Thou mayst live to bless the giver,
 Who, himself but frail and weak,
 Would at least the highest welfare
 Of another seek;

And his gift, though poor and lowly
 It may seem to other eyes,
 Yet may prove an angel holy
 In a pilgrim's guise.

160

LEGGETT'S MONUMENT

"Ye build the tombs of the prophets." —
Holy Writ.

YES, pile the marble o'er him! It is
 well
 That ye who mocked him in his long
 stern strife,

And planted in the pathway of his
 life
 The ploughshares of your hatred hot
 from hell,
 Who clamored down the bold re-
 former when
 He pleaded for his captive fellow-
 men,
 Who spurned him in the market-place,
 and sought
 Within thy walls, St. Tammany, to
 bind
 In party chains the free and honest
 thought,
 The angel utterance of an upright
 mind,
 Well is it now that o'er his grave ye
 raise
 The stony tribute of your tardy
 praise,

For not alone that pile shall tell to Fame
Of the brave heart beneath, but of the
builders' shame!

TO A FRIEND

ON HER RETURN FROM EUROPE

How smiled the land of France
Under thy blue eye's glance,
Light-hearted rover!
Old walls of chateaux gray,
Towers of an early day,
Which the Three Colors play
Flauntingly over.

Now midst the brilliant train
Thronging the banks of Seine 10
Now midst the splendor
Of the wild Alpine range,
Waking with change on change
Thoughts in thy young heart strange,
Lovely, and tender.

Vales, soft Elysian,
Like those in the vision
Of Mirza, when, dreaming,
He saw the long hollow dell,
Touched by the prophet's spell,
Into an ocean swell 20
With its isles teeming.

Cliffs wrapped in snows of years,
Splintering with icy spears
Autumn's blue heaven:
Loose rock and frozen slide,
Hung on the mountain-side,
Waiting their hour to glide
Downward, storm-driven!

Rhine-stream, by castle old,
Baron's and robber's hold, 30
Peacefully flowing;
Sweeping through vineyards green,
Or where the cliffs are seen
O'er the broad wave between
Grim shadows throwing.

Or, where St. Peter's dome
Swells o'er eternal Rome,
Vast, dim, and solemn;
Hymns ever chanting low,
Censers swung to and fro, 40
Sable stoles sweeping slow,
Cornice and column!

Oh, as from each and all
Will there not voices call
Evermore back again?
In the mind's gallery
Wilt thou not always see
Dim phantoms beckon thee
O'er that old track again?

New forms thy presence haunt, 50
New voices softly chant,
New faces greet thee!
Pilgrims from many a shrine
Hallowed by poet's line,
At memory's magic sign,
Rising to meet thee.

And when such visions come
Unto thy olden home,
Will they not waken
Deep thoughts of Him whose hand 60
Led thee o'er sea and land
Back to the household band
Whence thou wast taken?

While, at the sunset time,
Swells the cathedral's chime,
Yet, in thy dreaming,
While to thy spirit's eye
Yet the vast mountains lie
Piled in the Switzer's sky, 70
Icy and gleaming:

Prompter of silent prayer,
Be the wild picture there
In the mind's chamber,
And, through each coming day
Him who, as staff and stay,
Watched o'er thy wandering way,
Freshly remember.

So, when the call shall be
Soon or late unto thee, 80
As to all given,
Still may that picture live,
All its fair forms survive,
And to thy spirit give
Gladness in Heaven!

LUCY HOOPER

THEY tell me, Lucy, thou art dead,
That all of thee we loved and cher-
ished 40
Has with thy summer roses per-
ished;

And left, as its young beauty fled,
 An ashen memory in its stead,
 The twilight of a parted day
 Whose fading light is cold and
 vain,

The heart's faint echo of a strain
 Of low, sweet music passed away.
 That true and loving heart, that gift ¹⁰
 Of a mind, earnest, clear, profound,
 Bestowing, with a glad unthrift,
 Its sunny light on all around,
 Affinities which only could
 Cleave to the pure, the true, and good;
 And sympathies which found no
 rest,

Save with the loveliest and best.
 Of them — of thee — remains there
 naught

But sorrow in the mourner's breast?
 A shadow in the land of thought? ²⁰
 No! Even my weak and trembling
 faith

Can lift for thee the veil which
 doubt

And human fear have drawn about
 The all-awaiting scene of death.

Even as thou wast I see thee still;
 And, save the absence of all ill
 And pain and weariness, which here
 Summoned the sigh or wrung the tear,
 The same as when, two summers back,
 Beside our childhood's Merrimac, ³⁰
 I saw thy dark eye wander o'er
 Stream, sunny upland, rocky shore,
 And heard thy low, soft voice alone
 Midst lapse of waters, and the tone
 Of pine-leaves by the west-wind
 blown.

There's not a charm of soul or brow,
 Of all we knew and loved in thee,
 But lives in holier beauty now,
 Baptized in immortality!

Not mine the sad and freezing dream
 Of souls that, with their earthly
 mould, ⁴¹

Cast off the loves and joys of old,
 Unbodied, like a pale moonbeam,
 As pure, as passionless, and cold;
 Nor mine the hope of Indra's son,
 Of slumbering in oblivion's rest,
 Life's myriads blending into one,
 In blank annihilation blest;
 Dust-atoms of the infinite,
 Sparks scattered from the central
 light, ⁵⁰

And winning back through mortal pain
 Their old unconsciousness again.
 No! I have friends in Spirit Land,
 Not shadows in a shadowy band,
 Not others, but themselves are
 they.

And still I think of them the same
 As when the Master's summons came;
 Their change, — the holy morn-light
 breaking

Upon the dream-worn sleeper, wak-
 ing, —

A change from twilight into day. ⁶⁰

They've laid thee midst the household
 graves,

Where father, brother, sister lie;
 Below thee sweep the dark blue waves,
 Above thee bends the summer sky.

Thy own loved church in sadness read
 Her solemn ritual o'er thy head,
 And blessed and hallowed with her
 prayer

The turf laid lightly o'er thee there.
 That church, whose rites and liturgy,
 Sublime and old, were truth to thee, ⁷⁰
 Undoubted to thy bosom taken,
 As symbols of a faith unshaken.

Even I, of simpler views, could feel
 The beauty of thy trust and zeal;
 And, owning not thy creed, could see
 How deep a truth it seemed to thee,
 And how thy fervent heart had
 thrown

O'er all, a coloring of its own,
 And kindled up, intense and warm,
 A life in every rite and form, ⁸⁰
 As, when on Chebar's banks of old,
 The Hebrew's gorgeous vision rolled,
 A spirit filled the vast machine,
 A life "within the wheels" was seen.

Farewell! A little time, and we
 Who knew thee well, and loved
 thee here,

One after one shall follow thee
 As pilgrims through the gate of fear,
 Which opens on eternity.

Yet shall we cherish not the less ⁹⁰
 All that is left our hearts mean-
 while;

The memory of thy loveliness
 Shall round our weary pathway
 smile,

Like moonlight when the sun has set,
 A sweet and tender radiance yet.

Thoughts of thy clear-eyed sense of
duty,
Thy generous scorn of all things
wrong,
The truth, the strength, the graceful
beauty
Which blended in thy song.
All lovely things, by thee beloved, ¹⁰⁰
Shall whisper to our hearts of thee;
These green hills, where thy childhood
roved,
Yon river winding to the sea,
The sunset light of autumn eves
Reflecting on the deep, still floods,
Cloud, crimson sky, and trembling
leaves
Of rainbow-tinted woods,
These, in our view, shall henceforth
take
A tenderer meaning for thy sake;
And all thou lovedst of earth and
sky ¹¹⁰
Seem sacred to thy memory.

FOLLEN

ON READING HIS ESSAY ON THE "FU-
TURE STATE"

FRIEND of my soul! as with moist eye
I look up from this page of thine,
Is it a dream that thou art nigh,
Thy mild face-gazing into mine?

That presence seems before me now,
A placid heaven of sweet moonrise,
When, dew-like, on the earth below
Descends the quiet of the skies.

The calm brow through the parted
hair,
The gentle lips which know no
guile, ¹⁰
Softening the blue eye's thoughtful care
With the bland beauty of their
smile.

Ah me! at times that last dread scene
Of Frost and Fire and moaning Sea
Will cast its shade of doubt between
The failing eyes of Faith and thee.

Yet, lingering o'er thy charmed page,
Where through the twilight air of
earth,

Alike enthusiast and sage,
Prophet and bard, thou gazest
forth, ²⁰

Lifting the Future's solemn veil;
The reaching of a mortal hand
To put aside the cold and pale
Cloud-curtains of the Unseen Land;

In thoughts which answer to my own,
In words which reach my inward
ear,
Like whispers from the void Un-
known,
I feel thy living presence here.

The waves which lull thy body's rest,
The dust thy pilgrim footsteps
trod, ³⁰
Unwasted, through each change, attest
The fixed economy of God.

Shall these poor elements outlive
The mind whose kingly will they
wrought?
Their gross unconsciousness survive
Thy godlike energy of thought?

Thou livest, Follen! not in vain
Hath thy fine spirit meekly borne
The burthen of Life's cross of pain,
And the thorned crown of suffering
worn. ⁴⁰

Oh, while Life's solemn mystery
glooms
Around us like a dungeon's wall,
Silent earth's pale and crowded
tombs,
Silent the heaven which bends o'er
all!

While day by day our loved ones glide
In spectral silence, hushed and lone,
To the cold shadows which divide
The living from the dread Un-
known;

While even on the closing eye,
And on the lip which moves in vain,
The seals of that stern mystery
Their undiscovered trust retain;

And only midst the gloom of death,
Its mournful doubts and haunting
fears,

Two pale, sweet angels, Hope and
Faith,
Smile dimly on us through their
tears;

'T is something to a heart like mine
To think of thee as living yet;
To feel that such a light as thine
Could not in utter darkness set. 60

Less dreary seems the untried way
Since thou hast left thy footprints
there,
And beams of mournful beauty play
Round the sad Angel's sable hair.

Oh! at this hour when half the sky
Is glorious with its evening light,
And fair broad fields of summer lie
Hung o'er with greenness in my
sight;

While through these elm-boughs wet
with rain
The sunset's golden walls are seen, 70
With clover-bloom and yellow grain
And wood-draped hill and stream
between;

I long to know if scenes like this
Are hidden from an angel's eyes;
If earth's familiar loveliness
Haunts not thy heaven's serenest
skies.

For sweetly here upon thee grew
The lesson which that beauty gave,
The ideal of the pure and true
In earth and sky and gliding
wave.

And it may be that all which lends
The soul an upward impulse here,
With a diviner beauty blends,
And greets us in a holier sphere.

Through groves where blighting never
fell
The humbler flowers of earth may
twine;
And simple draughts from childhood's
well
Blend with the angel-tasted wine.

But be the prying vision veiled,
And let the seeking lips be dumb, 80

Where even seraph eyes have failed
Shall mortal blindness seek to
come?

We only know that thou hast gone,
And that the same returnless tide
Which bore thee from us still glides
on,
And we who mourn thee with it
glide.

On all thou lookest we shall look,
And to our gaze ere long shall turn
That page of God's mysterious book
We so much wish yet dread to
learn. 100

With Him, before whose awful power
Thy spirit bent its trembling knee;
Who, in the silent greeting flower,
And forest leaf, looked out on thee,

We leave thee, with a trust serene,
Which Time, nor Change, nor
Death can move,
While with thy childlike faith we lean
On Him whose dearest name is
Love!

TO J. P.

John Pierpont, the eloquent preacher and
poet of Boston.

Nor as a poor requital of the joy
With which my childhood heard
that lay of thine,
Which, like an echo of the song
divine

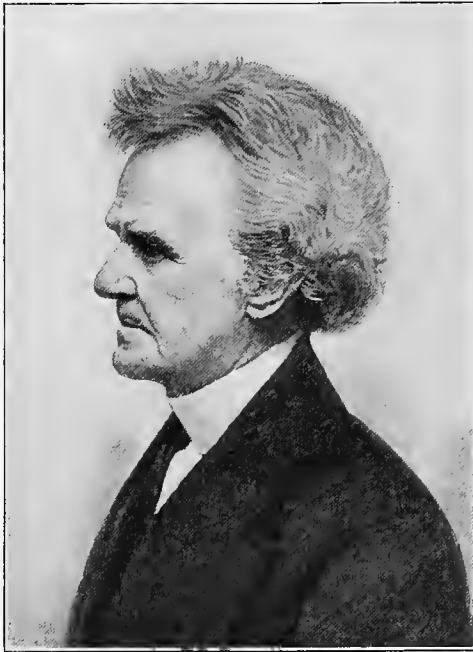
At Bethlehem breathed above the
Holy Boy,
Bore to my ear the Airs of Pales-
tine, —

Not to the poet, but the man I
bring
In friendship's fearless trust my offer-
ing;

How much it lacks I feel, and thou
wilt see,

Yet well I know that thou hast
deemed with me
Life all too earnest, and its time too
short

For dreamy ease and Fancy's graceful
sport;



John Pierpont

And girded for thy constant strife
 with wrong,
 Like Nehemiah fighting while he
 wrought
 The broken walls of Zion, even thy
 song
 Hath a rude martial tone, a blow in
 every thought!

CHALKLEY HALL

How bland and sweet the greeting of
 this breeze
 To him who flies
 From crowded street and red wall's
 weary gleam,
 Till far behind him like a hideous
 dream
 The close dark city lies!

Here, while the market murmurs,
 while men throng
 The marble floor
 Of Mammon's altar, from the crush
 and din
 Of the world's madness let me gather in
 My better thoughts once more. 10

Oh, once again revive, while on my
 ear
 The cry of Gain
 And low hoarse hum of Traffic die
 away,
 Ye blessed memories of my early day,
 Like sere grass wet with rain!

Once more let God's green earth and
 sunset air
 Old feelings waken;
 Through weary years of toil and strife
 and ill,

- Oh, let me feel that my good angel
still
Hath not his trust forsaken. 20
- And well do time and place befit my
mood:
Beneath the arms
Of this embracing wood, a good man
made
His home, like Abraham resting in the
shade
Of Mamre's lonely palms.
- Here, rich with autumn gifts of count-
less years,
The virgin soil
Turned from the share he guided, and
in rain
And summer sunshine throve the
fruits and grain
Which blessed his honest toil. 30
- Here, from his voyages on the stormy
seas,
Weary and worn,
He came to meet his children and to
bless
The Giver of all good in thankfulness
And praise for his return.
- And here his neighbors gathered in to
greet
Their friend again,
Safe from the wave and the destroy-
ing gales,
Which reap untimely green Ber-
muda's vales,
And vex the Carib main. 40
- To hear the good man tell of simple
truth,
Sown in an hour
Of weakness in some far-off Indian
isle,
From the parched bosom of a barren
soil,
Raised up in life and power:
- How at those gatherings in Barbadian
vales,
A tendering love
Came o'er him, like the gentle rain
from heaven,
And words of fitness to his lips were
given,
And strength as from above: 50
- How the sad captive listened to the
Word,
Until his chain
Grew lighter, and his wounded spirit
felt
The healing balm of consolation melt
Upon its life-long pain:
- How the armed warrior sat him down
to hear
Of Peace and Truth,
And the proud ruler and his Creole
dame,
Jewelled and gorgeous in her beauty
came,
And fair and bright-eyed youth. 60
- Oh, far away beneath New England's
sky,
Even when a boy,
Following my plough by Merrimac's
green shore,
His simple record I have pondered
o'er
With deep and quiet joy.
- And hence this scene, in sunset glory
warm, —
Its woods around,
Its still stream winding on in light and
shade,
Its soft, green meadows and its upland
glade, —
To me is holy ground. 70
- And dearer far than haunts where
Genius keeps
His vigils still;
Than that where Avon's son of song is
laid,
Or Vaucluse hallowed by its Petrarch's
shade,
Or Virgil's laurelled hill.
- To the gray walls of fallen Para-
clete,
To Juliet's urn,
Fair Arno and Sorrento's orange-
grove,
Where Tasso sang, let young Romance
and Love
Like brother pilgrims turn. 80
- But here a deeper and serener
charm
To all is given;

And blessed memories of the faithful
 dead
 O'er wood and vale and meadow-
 stream have shed
 The holy hues of Heaven!

GONE

ANOTHER hand is beckoning us,
 Another call is given;
 And glows once more with Angel-steps
 The path which reaches Heaven.

Our young and gentle friend, whose
 smile
 Made brighter summer hours,
 Amid the frosts of autumn time
 Has left us with the flowers.

No paling of the cheek of bloom
 Forewarned us of decay; 10
 No shadow from the Silent Land
 Fell round our sister's way.

The light of her young life went
 down,
 As sinks behind the hill
 The glory of a setting star,
 Clear, suddenly, and still.

As pure and sweet, her fair brow
 seemed
 Eternal as the sky;
 And like the brook's low song, her
 voice, —
 A sound which could not die. 20

And half we deemed she needed not
 The changing of her sphere,
 To give to Heaven a Shining One,
 Who walked an Angel here.

The blessing of her quiet life
 Fell on us like the dew;
 And good thoughts where her foot-
 steps pressed
 Like fairy blossoms grew.

Sweet promptings unto kindest deeds
 Were in her very look; 30
 We read her face, as one who reads
 A true and holy book:

The measure of a blessed hymn,
 To which our hearts could move;

The breathing of an inward psalm,
 A canticle of love.

We miss her in the place of prayer,
 And by the hearth-fire's light;
 We pause beside her door to hear
 Once more her sweet "Good-
 night!" 40

There seems a shadow on the day,
 Her smile no longer cheers;
 A dimness on the stars of night,
 Like eyes that look through tears.

Alone unto our Father's will
 One thought hath reconciled;
 That He whose love exceedeth ours
 Hath taken home His child.

Fold her, O Father! in Thine arms,
 And let her henceforth be 50
 A messenger of love between
 Our human hearts and Thee.

Still let her mild rebuking stand
 Between us and the wrong,
 And her dear memory serve to make
 Our faith in Goodness strong.

And grant that she who, trembling,
 here
 Distrusted all her powers,
 May welcome to her holier home
 The well-beloved of ours. 60

TO RONGE

STRIKE home, strong-hearted man!
 Down to the root
 Of old oppression sink the Saxon steel.
 Thy work is to hew down. In God's
 name then
 Put nerve into thy task. Let other
 men
 Plant, as they may, that better tree
 whose fruit
 The wounded bosom of the Church
 shall heal.
 Be thou the image-breaker. Let thy
 blows
 Fall heavy as the Suabian's iron hand,
 On crown or crosier, which shall inter-
 pose
 Between thee and the weal of Father-
 land.

Leave creeds to closet idlers. First of
 all,
 Shake thou all German dreamland
 with the fall
 Of that accursed tree, whose evil
 trunk
 Was spared of old by Erfurt's stal-
 wart monk.
 Fight not with ghosts and shadows.
 Let us hear
 The snap of chain-links. Let our glad-
 dened ear
 Catch the pale prisoner's welcome, as
 the light
 Follows thy axe-stroke, through his
 cell of night.
 Be faithful to both worlds; nor think
 to feed
 Earth's starving millions with the
 husks of creed.
 Servant of Him whose mission high
 and holy
 Was to the wronged, the sorrowing,
 and the lowly,
 Thrust not his Eden promise from our
 sphere,
 Distant and dim beyond the blue sky's
 span;
 Like him of Patmos, see it, now and
 here,
 The New Jerusalem comes down to
 man!
 Be warned by Luther's error. Nor like
 him,
 When the roused Teuton dashes from
 his limb
 The rusted chain of ages, help to bind
 His hands for whom thou claim'st the
 freedom of the mind!

CHANNING

Nor vainly did old poets tell,
 Nor vainly did old genius paint
 God's great and crowning miracle,
 The hero and the saint!
 For even in a faithless day
 Can we our sainted ones discern;
 And feel, while with them on the way,
 Our hearts within us burn.
 And thus the common tongue and pen
 Which, world-wide, echo Chan-
 ning's fame, 10

As one of Heaven's anointed men,
 Have sanctified his name.
 In vain shall Rome her portals bar,
 And shut from him her saintly prize,
 Whom, in the world's great calendar,
 All men shall canonize.
 By Narragansett's sunny bay,
 Beneath his green embowering
 wood,
 To me it seems but yesterday
 Since at his side I stood. 20
 The slopes lay green with summer
 rains,
 The western wind blew fresh and
 free,
 And glimmered down the orchard
 lanes
 The white surf of the sea.
 With us was one, who, calm and true,
 Life's highest purpose understood,
 And, like his blessed Master, knew
 The joy of doing good.
 Unlearned, unknown to lettered fame,
 Yet on the lips of England's poor 30
 And toiling millions dwelt his name,
 With blessings evermore.
 Unknown to power or place, yet where
 The sun looks o'er the Carib sea,
 It blended with the freeman's prayer
 And song of jubilee.
 He told of England's sin and wrong,
 The ills her suffering children know,
 The squalor of the city's throng,
 The green field's want and woe. 40
 O'er Channing's face the tenderness
 Of sympathetic sorrow stole,
 Like a still shadow, passionless,
 The sorrow of the soul.
 But when the generous Briton told
 How hearts were answering to his
 own,
 And freedom's rising murmur rolled
 Up to the dull-eared throne,
 I saw, methought, a glad surprise
 Thrill through that frail and pain-
 worn frame, 50

And, kindling in those deep, calm
eyes,
A still and earnest flame.

His few, brief words were such as
move
The human heart, — the Faith-
sown seeds
Which ripen in the soil of love
To high heroic deeds.

No bars of sect or clime were felt,
The Babel strife of tongues had
ceased,
And at one common altar knelt
The Quaker and the priest. 60

And not in vain: with strength re-
newed,
And zeal refreshed, and hope less
dim,
For that brief meeting, each pursued
The path allotted him.

How echoes yet each Western hill
And vale with Channing's dying
word!
How are the hearts of freemen still
By that great warning stirred!

The stranger treads his native soil,
And pleads, with zeal unfelt be-
fore, 70
The honest right of British toil,
The claim of England's poor.

Before him time-wrought barriers fall,
Old fears subside, old hatreds melt,
And, stretching o'er the sea's blue
wall,
The Saxon greets the Celt.

The yeoman on the Scottish lines,
The Sheffield grinder, worn and
grim,
The delver in the Cornwall mines,
Look up with hope to him. 80

Swart smiters of the glowing steel,
Dark feeders of the forge's flame,
Pale watchers at the loom and wheel,
Repeat his honored name.

And thus the influence of that hour
Of converse on Rhode Island's
strand

Lives in the calm, resistless power
Which moves our fatherland.

God blesses still the generous thought,
And still the fitting word He
speeds, 90
And Truth, at His requiring taught,
He quickens into deeds.

Where is the victory of the grave?
What dust upon the spirit lies?
God keeps the sacred life he gave, —
The prophet never dies!

TO MY FRIEND ON THE DEATH OF HIS SISTER

THINE is a grief, the depth of which
another
May never know;
Yet, o'er the waters, O my stricken
brother!
To thee I go.

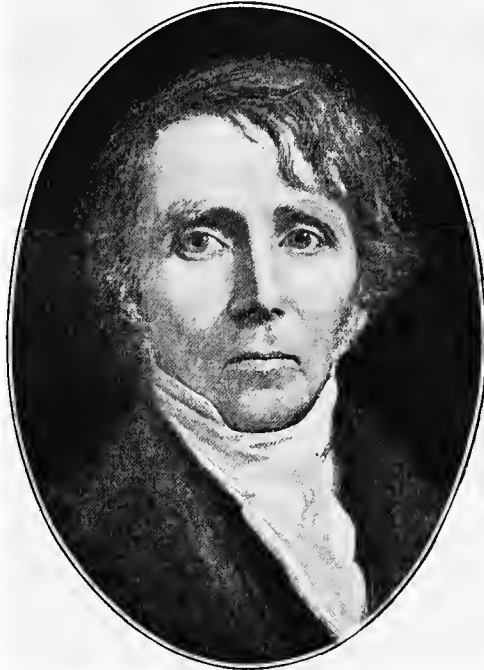
I lean my heart unto thee, sadly fold-
ing
Thy hand in mine;
With even the weakness of my soul
upholding
The strength of thine.

I never knew, like thee, the dear de-
parted;
I stood not by 10
When, in calm trust, the pure and
tranquil-hearted
Lay down to die.

And on thy ears my words of weak
condoling
Must vainly fall:
The funeral bell which in thy heart is
tolling,
Sounds over all!

I will not mock thee with the poor
world's common
And heartless phrase,
Nor wrong the memory of a sainted
woman
With idle praise. 20

With silence only as their benedic-
tion,
God's angels come



William Ellery Channing

Where, in the shadow of a great affliction,
The soul sits dumb!

Yet, would I say what thy own heart
approveth:
Our Father's will,
Calling to Him the dear one whom He
loveth,
Is mercy still.

Not upon thee or thine the solemn
angel
Hath evil wrought: ³⁰
Her funeral anthem is a glad evangel,—
The good die not!

God calls our loved ones, but we lose
not wholly
What He hath given;

They live on earth, in thought and
deed, as truly
As in His heaven.

And she is with thee; in thy path of
trial
She walketh yet;
Still with the baptism of thy self-
denial
Her locks are wet. ⁴⁰

Up, then, my brother! Lo, the fields
of harvest
Lie white in view!
She lives and loves thee, and the God
thou servest
To both is true.

Thrust in thy sickle! England's toil-
worn peasants
Thy call abide;

And she thou mourn'st, a pure and
holy presence,
Shall glean beside!

DANIEL WHEELER

Daniel Wheeler, a minister of the Society of Friends, who had labored in the cause of his Divine Master in Great Britain, Russia, and the islands of the Pacific, died in New York in the spring of 1840, while on a religious visit to this country.

O DEARLY loved!
And worthy of our love! No more
Thy aged form shall rise before
The hushed and waiting worshipper,
In meek obedience utterance giving
To words of truth, so fresh and living,
That, even to the inward sense,
They bore unquestioned evidence
Of an anointed Messenger!
Or, bowing down thy silver hair 10
In reverent awfulness of prayer,
The world, its time and sense, shut

out,
The brightness of Faith's holy trance
Gathered upon thy countenance,
As if each lingering cloud of doubt,
The cold, dark shadows resting here
In Time's unluminous atmosphere,
Were lifted by an angel's hand,
And through them on thy spiritual eye
Shone down the blessedness on high, 20
The glory of the Better Land!

The oak has fallen!
While, meet for no good work, the
vine
May yet its worthless branches twine,
Who knoweth not that with thee fell
A great man in our Israel?
Fallen, while thy loins were girded
still,

Thy feet with Zion's dews still wet,
And in thy hand retaining yet
The pilgrim's staff and scallop-shell! 30
Unharm'd and safe, where, wild and
free,

Across the Neva's cold morass
The breezes from the Frozen Sea
With winter's arrowy keenness pass;
Or where the unwarming tropic gale
Smote to the waves thy tattered sail,
Or where the noon-hour's fervid heat
Against Tahiti's mountains beat;

The same mysterious Hand which
gave
Deliverance upon land and wave, 40
Tempered for thee the blasts which
blew
Ladaga's frozen surface o'er,
And blessed for thee the balful dew
Of evening upon Eimeo's shore,
Beneath this sunny heaven of ours,
Midst our soft airs and opening flowers
Hath given thee a grave!

His will be done,
Who seeth not as man, whose way
Is not as ours! 'T is well with
thee! 50
Nor anxious doubt nor dark dismay
Disquieted thy closing day,
But, evermore, thy soul could say,
"My Father careth still for me!"
Called from thy hearth and home, —
from her,
The last bud on thy household tree,
The last dear one to minister
In duty and in love to thee,
From all which nature holdeth dear,
Feeble with years and worn with
pain, 60
To seek our distant land again,
Bound in the spirit, yet unknowing
The things which should befall thee
here,
Whether for labor or for death,
In childlike trust serenely going
To that last trial of thy faith!

Oh, far away,
Where never shines our Northern star
On that dark waste which Balboa saw
From Darien's mountains stretching
far, 70
So strange, heaven-broad, and lone,
that there,
With forehead to its damp wind bare,
He bent his mail'd knee in awe;
In many an isle whose coral feet
The surges of that ocean beat,
In thy palm shadows, Oahu,
And Honolulu's silver bay,
Amidst Owyhee's hills of blue,
And taro-plains of Tooboonaui,
Are gentle hearts, which long shall
be 80
Sad as our own at thought of thee,
Worn sowers of Truth's holy seed,
Whose souls in weariness and need

Were strengthened and refreshed by
thine.
For blessed by our Father's hand
Was thy deep love and tender care,
Thy ministry and fervent prayer, —
Grateful as Eshcol's clustered vine
To Israel in a weary land!

And they who drew 90
By thousands round thee, in the hour
Of prayerful waiting, hushed and
deep,
That He who bade the islands keep
Silence before Him, might renew
Their strength with His unslumber-
ing power,
They too shall mourn that thou art
gone,

That nevermore thy aged lip
Shall soothe the weak, the erring
warn,
Of those who first, rejoicing, heard
Through thee the Gospel's glorious
word, — 100

Seals of thy true apostleship.
And, if the brightest diadem,
Whose gems of glory purely burn
Around the ransomed ones in bliss,
Be evermore reserved for them
Who here, through toil and sorrow,
turn

Many to righteousness,
May we not think of thee as wearing
That star-like crown of light, and
bearing,
Amidst Heaven's white and blissful
band, 110
Th' unfading palm-branch in thy hand;
And joining with a seraph's tongue
In that new song the elders sung,
Ascribing to its blessed Giver
Thanksgiving, love, and praise for-
ever!

Farewell!

And though the ways of Zion mourn
When her strong ones are called away,
Who like thyself have calmly borne
The heat and burden of the day, 120
Yet He who slumbereth not nor sleep-
eth

His ancient watch around us keepeth;
Still, sent from His creating hand,
New witnesses for Truth shall stand,
New instruments to sound abroad
The Gospel of a risen Lord;

To gather to the fold once more
The desolate and gone astray,
The scattered of a cloudy day,
And Zion's broken walls restore; 130
And, through the travail and the toil
Of true obedience, minister
Beauty for ashes, and the oil
Of joy for mourning, unto her!
So shall her holy bounds increase
With walls of praise and gates of
peace;
So shall the Vine, which martyr tears
And blood sustained in other years,
With fresher life be clothed upon;
And to the world in beauty show 140
Like the rose-plant of Jericho,
And glorious as Lebanon!

TO FREDRIKA BREMER

SEERESS of the misty Norland,
Daughter of the Vikings bold,
Welcome to the sunny Vineland,
Which thy fathers sought of old!

Soft as flow of Silja's waters,
When the moon of summer shines,
Strong as Winter from his mountains
Roaring through the sleeted pines.

Heart and ear, we long have listened
To thy saga, rune, and song;
As a household joy and presence
We have known and loved thee long.

By the mansion's marble mantel,
Round the log-walled cabin's hearth,
Thy sweet thoughts and northern fan-
cies
Meet and mingle with our mirth.

And o'er weary spirits keeping
Sorrow's night-watch, long and still,
Shine they like thy sun of summer
Over midnight vale and hill.

We alone to thee are strangers,
Thou our friend and teacher art;
Come, and know us as we know thee;
Let us meet thee heart to heart!

To our homes and household altars
We, in turn, thy steps would lead,
As thy loving hand has led us
O'er the threshold of the Swede.

TO AVIS KEENE

ON RECEIVING A BASKET OF SEA-
MOSSES

THANKS for thy gift
 Of ocean flowers,
 Born where the golden drift
 Of the slant sunshine falls
 Down the green, tremulous walls
 Of water, to the cool, still coral
 bowers,
 Where, under rainbows of perpetual
 showers,
 God's gardens of the deep
 His patient angels keep;
 Gladdening the dim, strange soli-
 tude ¹⁰
 With fairest forms and hues, and
 thus
 Forever teaching us
 The lesson which the many-colored
 skies,
 The flowers, and leaves, and painted
 butterflies,
 The deer's branched antlers, the gay
 bird that flings
 The tropic sunshine from its golden
 wings,
 The brightness of the human counte-
 nance,
 Its play of smiles, the magic of a
 glance,
 Forevermore repeat,
 In varied tones and sweet, ²⁰
 That beauty, in and of itself, is
 good.

O kind and generous friend, o'er
 whom
 The sunset hues of Time are cast,
 Painting, upon the overpast
 And scattered clouds of noonday
 sorrow,
 The promise of a fairer morrow,
 An earnest of the better life to come;
 The binding of the spirit broken,
 The warning to the erring spoken,
 The comfort of the sad, ³⁰
 The eye to see, the hand to cull
 Of common things the beautiful,
 The absent heart made glad
 By simple gift or graceful token
 Of love it needs as daily food,
 All own one Source, and all are
 good!

Hence, tracking sunny cove and
 reach,
 Where spent waves glimmer up the
 beach,
 And toss their gifts of weed and shell
 From foamy curve and combing
 swell, ⁴⁰
 No unbecfitting task was thine
 To weave these flowers so soft and
 fair
 In union with His design
 Who loveth beauty everywhere;
 And makes in every zone and clime
 In ocean and in upper air,
 "All things beautiful in their time."

For not alone in tones of awe and
 power
 He speaks to man;
 The cloudy horror of the thunder-
 shower ⁵⁰
 His rainbows span;
 And where the caravan
 Winds o'er the desert, leaving, as in
 air
 The crane-flock leaves, no trace of
 passage there,
 He gives the weary eye
 The palm-leaf shadow for the hot noon
 hours,
 And on its branches dry
 Calls out the acacia's flowers;
 And where the dark shaft pierces
 down
 Beneath the mountain roots, ⁶⁰
 Seen by the miner's lamp alone,
 The star-like crystal shoots;
 So, where, the winds and waves
 below,
 The coral-branched gardens grow,
 His climbing weeds and mosses
 show,
 Like foliage, on each stony bough,
 Of varied hues more strangely
 gay
 Than forest leaves in autumn's
 day;—
 Thus evermore,
 On sky, and wave, and shore,
 An all-pervading beauty seems to
 say: ⁷¹
 God's love and power are one;
 and they,
 Who, like the thunder of a sultry
 day,
 Smite to restore,

And they, who, like the gentle wind,
 uplift
 The petals of the dew-wet flowers, and
 drift
 Their perfume on the air,
 Alike may serve Him, each, with their
 own gift,
 Making their lives a prayer!

THE HILL-TOP

THE burly driver at my side,
 We slowly climbed the hill,
 Whose summit, in the hot noontide,
 Seemed rising, rising still.
 At last, our short noon-shadows hid
 The top-stone, bare and brown,
 From whence, like Gizeh's pyramid,
 The rough mass slanted down.

I felt the cool breath of the North;
 Between me and the sun, 10
 O'er deep, still lake, and ridgy earth,
 I saw the cloud-shades run.
 Before me, stretched for glistening
 miles,
 Lay mountain-girdled Squam;
 Like green-winged birds, the leafy
 isles
 Upon its bosom swam.

And, glimmering through the sun-haze
 warm,
 Far as the eye could roam,
 Dark billows of an earthquake storm
 Befecked with clouds like foam, 20
 Their vales in misty shadow deep,
 Their rugged peaks in shine,
 I saw the mountain ranges sweep
 The horizon's northern line.

There towered Chocorua's peak; and
 west,
 Moosehillock's woods were seen,
 With many a nameless slide-scarred
 crest
 And pine-dark gorge between.
 Beyond them, like a sun-rimmed
 cloud,
 The great Notch mountains shone, 30
 Watched over by the solemn-browed
 And awful face of stone!

"A good look-off!" the driver spake:
 "About this time last year,

I drove a party to the Lake,
 And stopped, at evening, here.
 'T was duskish down below; but all
 These hills stood in the sun,
 Till, dipped behind yon purple wall,
 He left them, one by one. 40

"A lady, who, from Thornton hill,
 Had held her place outside,
 And, as a pleasant woman will,
 Had cheered the long, dull ride,
 Besought me, with so sweet a smile,
 That — though I hate delays —
 I could not choose but rest awhile, —
 (These women have such ways!)

"On yonder mossy ledge she sat,
 Her sketch upon her knees, 50
 A stray brown lock beneath her
 hat
 Unrolling in the breeze;
 Her sweet face, in the sunset light
 Upraised and glorified, —
 I never saw a prettier sight
 In all my mountain ride.

"As good as fair; it seemed her joy
 To comfort and to give;
 My poor, sick wife, and cripple
 boy,
 Will bless her while they live!" 60
 The tremor in the driver's tone
 His manhood did not shame:
 "I dare say, sir, you may have
 known" —
 He named a well-known name.

Then sank the pyramidal mounds,
 The blue lake fled away;
 For mountain-scope a parlor's bounds,
 A lighted hearth for day!
 From lonely years and weary miles
 The shadows fell apart; 70
 Kind voices cheered, sweet human
 smiles
 Shone warm into my heart.

We journeyed on; but earth and sky
 Had power to charm no more;
 Still dreamed my inward-turning
 eye
 The dream of memory o'er.
 Ah! human kindness, human love, —
 To few who seek denied;
 Too late we learn to prize above
 The whole round world beside! 80

ELLIOTT

HANDS off! thou tithe-fat plunderer!
play

No trick of priestcraft here!
Back, puny lordling! darest thou lay
A hand on Elliott's bier?
Alive, your rank and pomp, as dust,
Beneath his feet he trod:
He knew the locust swarm that cursed
The harvest-fields of God.

On these pale lips, the smothered
thought

Which England's millions feel, 10
A fierce and fearful splendor caught,
As from his forge the steel.
Strong-armed as Thor, a shower of fire
His smitten anvil flung;
God's curse, Earth's wrong, dumb
Hunger's ire,
He gave them all a tongue!

Then let the poor man's horny hands
Bear up the mighty dead,
And labor's swart and stalwart bands
Behind as mourners tread. 20

Leave cant and craft their baptized
bounds,
Leave rank its minster floor;
Give England's green and daisied
grounds
The poet of the poor!

Lay down upon his Sheaf's green verge
That brave old heart of oak,
With fitting dirge from sounding
forge,

And pall of furnace smoke!
Where whirls the stone its dizzy
rounds,
And axe and sledge are swung, 30
And, timing to their stormy sounds,
His stormy lays are sung.

There let the peasant's step be heard,
The grinder chant his rhyme;
Nor patron's praise nor dainty word
Befits the man or time.

No soft lament nor dreamer's sigh
For him whose words were bread;
The Runic rhyme and spell whereby
The foodless poor were fed! 40

Pile up the tombs of rank and pride,
O England, as thou wilt!

With pomp to nameless worth denied,
Emblazoned titled guilt!
No part or lot in these we claim;
But, o'er the sounding wave,
A common right to Elliott's name,
A freehold in his grave!

ICHABOD

So fallen! so lost! the light with-
drawn

Which once he wore!
The glory from his gray hairs gone
Forevermore!

Revile him not, the Tempter hath
A snare for all;
And pitying tears, not scorn and
wrath,
Befit his fall!

Oh, dumb be passion's stormy rage,
When he who might
Have lighted up and led his age,
Falls back in night.

Scorn! would the angels laugh, to
mark
A bright soul driven,
Fiend-goaded, down the endless dark,
From hope and heaven!

Let not the land once proud of him
Insult him now,
Nor brand with deeper shame his dim,
Dishonored brow.

But let its humbled sons, instead,
From sea to lake,
A long lament, as for the dead,
In sadness make.

Of all we loved and honored, naught
Save power remains;
A fallen angel's pride of thought,
Still strong in chains.

All else is gone; from those great eyes
The soul has fled:
When faith is lost, when honor dies,
The man is dead!

Then, pay the reverence of old days
To his dead fame;
Walk backward, with averted gaze,
And hide the shame!



THE LOST OCCASION

SOME die too late and some too soon,
At early morning, heat of noon,
Or the chill evening twilight. Thou,
Whom the rich heavens did so endow
With eyes of power and Jove's own
brow,

With all the massive strength that fills
Thy home-horizon's granite hills,
With rarest gifts of heart and head
From manliest stock inherited,
New England's stateliest type of
man, 10

In port and speech Olympian;
Whom no one met, at first, but took
A second awed and wondering look
(As turned, perchance, the eyes of
Greece

On Phidias' unveiled masterpiece);
Whose words in simplest homespun
clad,

The Saxon strength of Cædmon's had,
With power reserved at need to reach
The Roman forum's loftiest speech,
Sweet with persuasion, eloquent 20
In passion, cool in argument,

Or, ponderous, falling on thy foes
As fell the Norse god's hammer blows,
Crushing as if with Talus' flail
Through Error's logic-woven mail,
And falling only when they tried
The adamant of the righteous side, —
Thou, foiled in aim and hope, bereaved
Of old friends, by the new deceived,
Too soon for us, too soon for thee, 30
Beside thy lonely Northern sea,
Where long and low the marsh-lands
spread,

Laid wearily down thy august head.

Thou shouldst have lived to feel below
Thy feet Disunion's fierce upthrow;
The late-sprung mine that underlaid
Thy sad concessions vainly made.
Thou shouldst have seen from Sum-
ter's wall

The star-flag of the Union fall,
And armed rebellion pressing on 40
The broken lines of Washington!
No stronger voice than thine had then
Called out the utmost might of men,
To make the Union's charter free
And strengthen law by liberty.
How had that stern arbitrament
To thy gray age youth's vigor lent,

Shaming ambition's paltry prize
Before thy disillusioned eyes;
Breaking the spell about thee wound
Like the green withes that Samson
bound; 51

Redeeming in one effort grand,
Thyself and thy imperilled land!
Ah, cruel fate, that closed to thee,
O sleeper by the Northern sea,
The gates of opportunity!
God fills the gaps of human need,
Each crisis brings its word and deed.
Wise men and strong we did not lack;
But still, with memory turning back, 60
In the dark hours we thought of thee,
And thy lone grave beside the sea.

Above that grave the east winds blow,
And from the marsh-lands drifting
slow

The sea-fog comes, with evermore
The wave-wash of a lonely shore,
And sea-bird's melancholy cry,
As Nature fain would typify
The sadness of a closing scene,
The loss of that which should have
been. 70

But, where thy native mountains bare
Their foreheads to diviner air,
Fit emblem of enduring fame,
One lofty summit keeps thy name.
For thee the cosmic forces did
The rearing of that pyramid,
The prescient ages shaping with
Fire, flood, and frost thy monolith.
Sunrise and sunset lay thereon
With hands of light their benison, 80
The stars of midnight pause to set
Their jewels in its coronet.
And evermore that mountain mass
Seems climbing from the shadowy
pass

To light, as if to manifest
Thy nobler self, thy life at best!

WORDSWORTH

WRITTEN ON A BLANK LEAF OF HIS
MEMOIRS

DEAR friends, who read the world
aright,

And in its common forms discern
A beauty and a harmony
The many never learn!

Kindred in soul of him who found
 In simple flower and leaf and stone
 The impulse of the sweetest lays
 Our Saxon tongue has known, —

Accept this record of a life
 As sweet and pure, as calm and
 good,
 As a long day of blandest June
 In green field and in wood.

How welcome to our ears, long pained
 By strife of sect and party noise,
 The brook-like murmur of his song
 Of nature's simple joys!

The violet by its mossy stone,
 The primrose by the river's brim,
 And chance-sown daffodil, have found
 Immortal life through him.

The sunrise on his breezy lake,
 The rosy tints his sunset brought,
 World-seen, are gladdening all the
 vales
 And mountain-peaks of thought.

Art builds on sand; the works of pride
 And human passion change and fall;
 But that which shares the life of God
 With Him surviveth all.

TO —

LINES WRITTEN AFTER A SUMMER DAY'S EXCURSION

FAIR Nature's priestesses! to whom,
 In hieroglyph of bud and bloom,
 Her mysteries are told;
 Who, wise in lore of wood and mead,
 The seasons' pictured scrolls can read,
 In lessons manifold!

Thanks for the courtesy, and gay
 Good-humor, which on Washing Day
 Our ill-timed visit bore;
 Thanks for your graceful oars, which
 broke
 The morning dreams of Artichoke,
 Along his wooded shore!

Varied as varying Nature's ways,
 Sprites of the river, woodland fays,
 Or mountain nymphs, ye seem;

Free-limbed Dianas on the green,
 Loch Katrine's Ellen, or Undine,
 Upon your favorite stream.

The forms of which the poets told,
 The fair benignities of old,
 Were doubtless such as you;
 What more than Artichoke the rill
 Of Helicon? Than Pipe-stave hill
 Arcadia's mountain-view?

No sweeter bowers the bee delayed,
 In wild Hymettus' scented shade,
 Than those you dwell among;
 Snow-flowered azaleas, intertwined
 With roses, over banks inclined
 With trembling harebells hung!

A charmed life unknown to death,
 Immortal freshness Nature hath;
 Her fabled fount and glen
 Are now and here: Dodona's shrine
 Still murmurs in the wind-swept
 pine, —
 All is that e'er hath been.

The Beauty which old Greece or Rome
 Sung, painted, wrought, lies close at
 home;
 We need but eye and ear
 In all our daily walks to trace
 The outlines of incarnate grace,
 The hymns of gods to hear!

IN PEACE

A TRACK of moonlight on a quiet
 lake,
 Whose small waves on a silver-
 sanded shore
 Whisper of peace, and with the low
 winds make
 Such harmonies as keep the woods
 awake,
 And listening all night long for their
 sweet sake;
 A green-waved slope of meadow,
 hovered o'er
 By angel-troops of lilies, swaying light
 On viewless stems, with folded wings
 of white;
 A slumberous stretch of mountain-
 land, far seen
 Where the low westering day, with
 gold and green,

Purple and amber, softly blended, fills
The wooded vales, and melts among
the hills;

A vine-fringed river, winding to its
rest

On the calm bosom of a stormless
sea,

Bearing alike upon its placid breast,
With earthly flowers and heavenly
stars impressed,

The hues of time and of eternity:

Such are the pictures which the
thought of thee,

O friend, awakeneth, — charming the
keen pain

Of thy departure, and our sense of
loss

Requiting with the fullness of thy
gain.

Lo! on the quiet grave thy life-
borne cross,

Dropped only at its side, methinks
doth shine,

Of thy beatitude the radiant sign!

No sob of grief, no wild lament be
there,

To break the Sabbath of the holy
air;

But, in their stead, the silent-breath-
ing prayer

Of hearts still waiting for a rest like
thine,

O spirit redeemed! Forgive us, if
henceforth,

With sweet and pure similitudes of
earth,

We keep thy pleasant memory
freshly green,

Of love's inheritance a priceless part,
Which Fancy's self, in reverent awe,
is seen

To paint, forgetful of the tricks of
art,

With pencil dipped alone in colors
of the heart.

BENEDICITE

God's love and peace be with thee,
where

Soe'er this soft autumnal air
Lifts the dark tresses of thy hair!

Whether through city casements
comes

Its kiss to thee, in crowded rooms,
Or, out among the woodland blooms,
It freshens o'er thy thoughtful face,
Imparting, in its glad embrace,
Beauty to beauty, grace to grace!

Fair Nature's book together read,
The old wood-paths that knew our
tread,

The maple shadows overhead, —

The hills we climbed, the river seen
By gleams along its deep ravine, —
All keep thy memory fresh and green.

Where'er I look, where'er I stray,
Thy thought goes with me on my
way,

And hence the prayer I breathe to
day;

O'er lapse of time and change of scene,
The weary waste which lies between
Thyself and me, my heart I lean.

Thou lack'st not Friendship's spell-
word, nor

The half-unconscious power to draw
All hearts to thine by Love's sweet
law.

With these good gifts of God is cast
Thy lot, and many a charm thou
hast

To hold the blessed angels fast.

If, then, a fervent wish for thee
The gracious heavens will heed from
me,

What should, dear heart, its burden
be?

The sighing of a shaken reed, —
What can I more than meekly plead
The greatness of our common need?

God's love, — unchanging, pure, and
true, —

The Paraclete white-shining through
His peace, — the fall of Hermon's
dew!

With such a prayer, on this sweet
day,

As thou mayst hear and I may say,
I greet thee, dearest, far away!

KOSSUTH

TYPE of two mighty continents! —
 combining
 The strength of Europe with the
 warmth and glow
 Of Asian song and prophecy, — the
 shining
 Of Orient splendors over Northern
 snow!
 Who shall receive him? Who, un-
 blushing, speak
 Welcome to him, who, while he strove
 to break
 The Austrian yoke from Magyar necks,
 smote off
 At the same blow the fetters of the serf,
 Rearing the altar of his Fatherland
 On the firm base of freedom, and
 thereby
 Lifting to Heaven a patriot's stainless
 hand,
 Mocked not the God of Justice with
 a lie!
 Who shall be Freedom's mouthpiece?
 Who shall give
 Her welcoming cheer to the great fugi-
 tive?
 Not he who, all her sacred trusts be-
 traying,
 Is scourging back to slavery's hell of
 pain
 The swarthy Kossuths of our land
 again!
 Not he whose utterance now from lips
 designed
 The bugle-march of Liberty to wind,
 And call her hosts beneath the break-
 ing light,
 The keen reveille of her morn of fight,
 Is but the hoarse note of the blood-
 hound's baying,
 The wolf's long howl behind the bond-
 man's flight!
 Oh for the tongue of him who lies at
 rest
 In Quincy's shade of patrimonial
 trees,
 Last of the Puritan tribunes and the
 best,
 To lend a voice to Freedom's sympa-
 thies,
 And hail the coming of the noblest
 guest
 The Old World's wrong has given the
 New World of the West!

TO MY OLD SCHOOLMASTER

AN EPISTLE NOT AFTER THE MANNER
OF HORACE

OLD friend, kind friend! lightly down
 Drop time's snow-flakes on thy crown!
 Never be thy shadow less,
 Never fail thy cheerfulness;
 Care, that kills the cat, may plough
 Wrinkles in the miser's brow,
 Deepen envy's spiteful frown,
 Draw the mouths of bigots down,
 Plague ambition's dream, and sit
 Heavy on the hypocrite, ¹⁰
 Haunt the rich man's door, and ride
 In the gilded coach of pride; —
 Let the fiend pass! — what can he
 Find to do with such as thee?
 Seldom comes that evil guest
 Where the conscience lies at rest,
 And brown health and quiet wit
 Smiling on the threshold sit.

I, the urchin unto whom,
 In that smoked and dingy room, ²⁰
 Where the district gave thee rule
 O'er its ragged winter school,
 Thou didst teach the mysteries
 Of those weary A B C's, —
 Where, to fill the every pause
 Of thy wise and learned saws,
 Through the cracked and crazy wall
 Came the cradle-rock and squall,
 And the goodman's voice, at strife
 With his shrill and tipsy wife, — ³⁰
 Luring us by stories old,
 With a comic unctio told,
 More than by the eloquence
 Of terse birchen arguments
 (Doubtful gain, I fear), to look
 With complacence on a book! —
 Where the genial pedagogue
 Half forgot his rogues to flog,
 Citing tale or apologue,
 Wise and merry in its drift ⁴⁰
 As was Phædrus' twofold gift,
 Had the little rebels known it,
Risum et prudentiam monet!
 I, — the man of middle years,
 In whose sable locks appears
 Many a warning fleck of gray, —
 Looking back to that far day,
 And thy primal lessons, feel
 Grateful smiles my lips unseal,
 As, remembering thee, I blend ⁵⁰



Kossuth

Olden teacher, present friend,
 Wise with antiquarian search,
 In the scrolls of State and Church:
 Named on history's title-page,
 Parish-clerk and justice sage;
 For the ferule's wholesome awe
 Wielding now the sword of law.
 Threshing Time's neglected sheaves,
 Gathering up the scattered leaves
 Which the wrinkled sibyl cast 60
 Careless from her as she passed, —
 Twofold citizen art thou,
 Freeman of the past and now.
 He who bore thy name of old
 Midway in the heavens did hold
 Over Gibeon moon and sun;
 Thou hast bidden them backward
 run;
 Of to-day the present ray
 Flinging over yesterday!

Let the busy ones deride 70
 What I deem of right thy pride:
 Let the fools their treadmills grind,
 Look not forward nor behind,
 Shuffle in and wriggle out,
 Veer with every breeze about,
 Turning like a windmill sail
 Or a dog that seeks his tail;
 Let them laugh to see thee fast
 Tabernacled in the Past,
 Working out with eye and lip 80
 Riddles of old penmanship,
 Patient as Belzoni there
 Sorting out, with loving care,
 Mummies of dead questions stripped
 From their sevenfold manuscript!

Dabbling, in their noisy way,
 In the puddles of to-day,
 Little know they of that vast

Solemn ocean of the past,
 On whose margin, wreck-bespread, 90
 Thou art walking with the dead,
 Questioning the stranded years,
 Waking smiles by turns, and
 tears,
 As thou callest up again
 Shapes the dust has long o'erlain, —
 Fair-haired woman, bearded man,
 Cavalier and Puritan;
 In an age whose eager view
 Seeks but present things, and new,
 Mad for party, sect and gold, 100
 Teaching reverence for the old.

On that shore, with fowler's tact,
 Coolly bagging fact on fact,
 Naught amiss to thee can float,
 Tale, or song, or anecdote;
 Village gossip, centuries old,
 Scandals by our grandams told,
 What the pilgrim's table spread,
 Where he lived, and whom he wed, 110
 Long-drawn bill of wine and beer
 For his ordination cheer,
 Or the flip that wellnigh made
 Glad his funeral cavalcade;
 Weary prose, and poet's lines,
 Flavored by their age, like wines,
 Eulogistic of some quaint,
 Doubtful, Puritanic saint;
 Lays that quickened husking jigs,
 Jest that shook grave periwigs,
 When the parson had his jokes, 120
 And his glass, like other folks;
 Sermons that, for mortal hours,
 Taxed our fathers' vital powers,
 As the long nineteenth poured
 Downward from the sounding-board,
 And, for fire of Pentecost,
 Touched their beards December's
 frost.

Time is hastening on, and we
 What our fathers are shall be, —
 Shadow-shapes of memory! 130
 Joined to that vast multitude
 Where the great are but the good,
 And the mind of strength shall prove
 Weaker than the heart of love;
 Pride of graybeard wisdom less
 Than the infant's guilelessness,
 And his song of sorrow more
 Than the crown the Psalmist wore!
 Who shall then, with pious zeal,
 At our moss-grown thresholds kneel,

From a stained and stony page 141
 Reading to a careless age,
 With a patient eye like thine,
 Prosing tale and limping line,
 Names and words the hoary rime
 Of the Past has made sublime?
 Who shall work for us as well
 The antiquarian's miracle?
 Who to seeming life recall
 Teacher grave and pupil small? 150
 Who shall give to thee and me
 Freeholds in futurity?

Well, whatever lot be mine,
 Long and happy days be thine,
 Ere thy full and honored age
 Dates of time its latest page!
 Squire for master, State for school,
 Wisely lenient, live and rule;
 Over grown-up knave and rogue
 Play the watchful pedagogue; 160
 Or, while pleasure smiles on duty,
 At the call of youth and beauty,
 Speak for them the spell of law
 Which shall bar and bolt withdraw,
 And the flaming sword remove
 From the Paradise of Love.
 Still, with undimmed eyesight, pore
 Ancient tome and record o'er;
 Still thy week-day lyrics croon,
 Pitch in church the Sunday tune, 170
 Showing something, in thy part,
 Of the old Puritanic art,
 Singer after Sternhold's heart!
 In thy pew, for many a year,
 Homilies from Oldbug hear,
 Who to wit like that of South,
 And the Syrian's golden mouth,
 Doth the homely pathos add
 Which the pilgrim preachers had;
 Breaking, like a child at play 180
 Gilded idols of the day,
 Cant of knave and pomp of fool
 Tossing with his ridicule,
 Yet, in earnest or in jest,
 Ever keeping truth abreast.
 And, when thou art called, at last,
 To thy townsmen of the past,
 Not as stranger shalt thou come;
 Thou shalt find thyself at home
 With the little and the big, 190
 Woollen cap and perwig,
 Madam in her high-laced ruff,
 Goody in her home-made stuff, —
 Wise and simple, rich and poor,
 Thou hast known them all before!

THE CROSS

Richard Dillingham, a young member of the Society of Friends, died in the Nashville penitentiary, where he was confined for aiding the escape of fugitive slaves.

"THE cross, if rightly borne, shall be No burden, but support to thee;" So, moved of old time for our sake, The holy monk of Kempen spake.

Thou brave and true one! upon whom Was laid the cross of martyrdom, How didst thou, in thy generous youth, Bear witness to this blessed truth!

Thy cross of suffering and of shame A staff within thy hands became, In paths where faith alone could see The Master's steps supporting thee.

Thine was the seed-time; God alone Beholds the end of what is sown; Beyond our vision, weak and dim, The harvest-time is hid with Him.

Yet, unforgotten where it lies, That seed of generous sacrifice, Though seeming on the desert cast, Shall rise with bloom and fruit at last.

THE HERO

"Oh for a knight like Bayard,
Without reproach or fear;
My light glove on his casque of steel,
My love-knot on his spear!

"Oh for the white plume floating
Sad Zutphen's field above, —
The lion heart in battle,
The woman's heart in love!

"Oh that man once more were manly,
Woman's pride, and not her scorn:
That once more the pale young
mother ¹¹
Dared to boast, 'a man is born'!

"But now life's slumberous current
No sun-bowed cascade wakes;
No tall, heroic manhood
The level dulness breaks.

"Oh for a knight like Bayard,
Without reproach or fear!
My light glove on his casque of steel,
My love-knot on his spear!" ²⁰

Then I said, my own heart throbbing
To the time her proud pulse beat,
"Life hath its regal natures yet,
True, tender, brave, and sweet!

"Smile not, fair unbeliever!
One man, at least, I know,
Who might wear the crest of Bayard
Or Sidney's plume of snow.

"Once, when over purple mountains
Died away the Grecian sun, ³⁰
And the far Cyllenian ranges
Paled and darkened, one by one,—

"Fell the Turk, a bolt of thunder,
Cleaving all the quiet sky,
And against his sharp steel lightnings
Stood the Suliot but to die.

"Woe for the weak and halting!
The crescent blazed behind
A curving line of sabres,
Like fire before the wind!" ⁴⁰

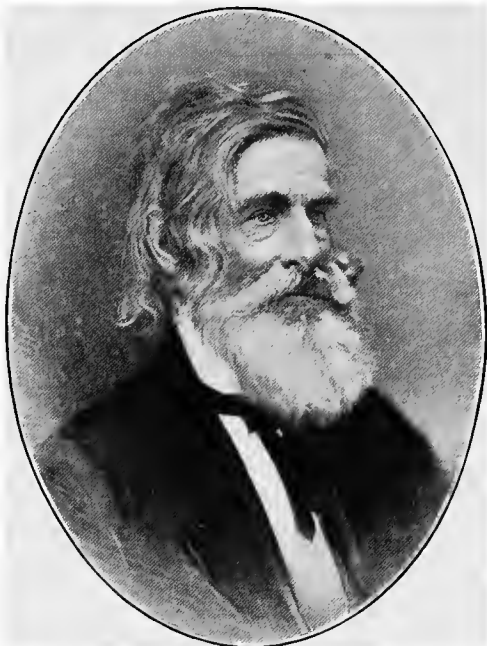
"Last to fly, and first to rally,
Rode he of whom I speak,
When, groaning in his bridle-path,
Sank down a wounded Greek.

"With the rich Albanian costume
Wet with many a ghastly stain,
Gazing on earth and sky as one
Who might not gaze again!

"He looked forward to the mountains,
Back on foes that never spare, ⁵⁰
Then flung him from his saddle,
And placed the stranger there.

"'Allah! hu!' Through flashing
sabres,
Through a stormy hail of lead,
The good Thessalian charger
Up the slopes of olives sped.

"Hot spurred the turbaned riders;
He almost felt their breath,
Where a mountain stream rolled
darkly down
Between the hills and death. ⁶⁰



Samuel Gridley Howe (The Hero)

“One brave and manful struggle, —
He gained the solid land,
And the cover of the mountains,
And the carbines of his band!”

“It was very great and noble,”
Said the moist-eyed listener then,
“But one brave deed makes no hero;
Tell me what he since hath been!”

“Still a brave and generous manhood,
Still an honor without stain, 70
In the prison of the Kaiser,
By the barricades of Seine.

“But dream not helm and harness
The sign of valor true;
Peace hath higher tests of manhood
Than battle ever knew.

“Wouldst know him now? Behold him,
The Cadmus of the blind,

Giving the dumb lip language,
The idiot-clay a mind. 80

“Walking his round of duty
Serenely day by day,
With the strong man’s hand of labor
And childhood’s heart of play.

“True as the knights of story,
Sir Lancelot and his peers,
Brave in his calm endurance
As they in tilt of spears.

“As waves in stillest waters,
As stars in noonday skies, 90
All that wakes to noble action
In his noon of calmness lies.

“Wherever outraged Nature
Asks word or action brave,
Wherever struggles labor,
Wherever groans a slave, —

"Wherever rise the peoples,
Wherever sinks a throne,
The throbbing heart of Freedom finds
An answer in his own. 100

"Knight of a better era,
Without reproach or fear!
Said I not well that Bayards
And Sidneys still are here?"

RANTOUL

ONE day, along the electric wire
His manly word for Freedom sped;
We came next morn: that tongue of
fire
Said only, "He who spake is dead!"

Dead! while his voice was living yet,
In echoes round the pillared dome!
Dead! while his blotted page lay wet
With themes of state and loves of
home!

Dead! in that crowning grace of time,
That triumph of life's zenith hour!
Dead! while we watched his man-
hood's prime
Break from the slow bud into
flower!

Dead! he so great, and strong, and wise,
While the mean thousands yet drew
breath;
How deepened, through that dread
surprise,
The mystery and the awe of death!

From the high place whereon our votes
Had borne him, clear, calm, earnest,
fell

His first words, like the prelude notes
Of some great anthem yet to swell. 20

We seemed to see our flag unfurled,
Our champion waiting in his place
For the last battle of the world,
The Armageddon of the race.

Through him we hoped to speak the
word
Which wins the freedom of a land;
And lift, for human right, the sword
Which dropped from Hampden's
dying hand.

For he had sat at Sidney's feet,
And walked with Pym and Vane
apart; 30
And, through the centuries, felt the
beat
Of Freedom's march in Cromwell's
heart.

He knew the paths the worthies held,
Where England's best and wisest
trod;
And, lingering, drank the springs that
welled
Beneath the touch of Milton's rod.

No wild enthusiast of the right,
Self-poised and clear, he showed
alway
The coolness of his northern night,
The ripe repose of autumn's day. 40

His steps were slow, yet forward still
He pressed where others paused or
failed;
The calm star clomb with constant
will,
The restless meteor flashed and
paled!

Skilled in its subtlest wile, he knew
And owned the higher ends of Law;
Still rose majestic on his view
The awful Shape the schoolman saw.

Her home the heart of God; her voice
The choral harmonies whereby 50
The stars, through all their spheres, re-
joice,
The rhythmic rule of earth and sky!

We saw his great powers misapplied
To poor ambitions; yet, through
all,

We saw him take the weaker side,
And right the wronged, and free the
thrall.

Now, looking o'er the frozen North,
For one like him in word and act,
To call her old, free spirit forth, 50
And give her faith the life of fact, —

To break her party bonds of shame,
And labor with the zeal of him
To make the Democratic name
Of Liberty the synonyme, —

We sweep the land from hill to strand,
 We seek the strong, the wise, the brave,
 And, sad of heart, return to stand
 In silence by a new-made grave!

There, where his breezy hills of home
 Look out upon his sail-white seas, 70
 The sounds of winds and waters come,
 And shape themselves to words like these:

"Why, murmuring, mourn that he,
 whose power
 Was lent to Party over-long,
 Heard the still whisper at the hour
 He set his foot on Party wrong?"

"The human life that closed so well
 No lapse of folly now can stain:
 The lips whence Freedom's protest fell
 No meaner thought can now profane. 80

"Mightier than living voice his grave
 That lofty protest utters o'er;
 Through roaring wind and smiting wave
 It speaks his hate of wrong once more.

"Men of the North! your weak regret
 Is wasted here; arise and pay
 To freedom and to him your debt,
 By following where he led the way!"

WILLIAM FORSTER

THE years are many since his hand
 Was laid upon my head,
 Too weak and young to understand
 The serious words he said.

Yet often now the good man's look
 Before me seems to swim,
 As if some inward feeling took
 The outward guise of him.

As if, in passion's heated war, 10
 Or near temptation's charm,
 Through him the low-voiced monitor
 Forewarned me of the harm.

Stranger and pilgrim! from that day
 Of meeting, first and last,

Wherever Duty's pathway lay,
 His reverent steps have passed.

The poor to feed, the lost to seek,
 To proffer life to death,
 Hope to the erring, — to the weak
 The strength of his own faith. 20

To plead the captive's right; remove
 The sting of hate from Law;
 And soften in the fire of love
 The hardened steel of War.

He walked the dark world in the
 mild,
 Still guidance of the Light;
 In tearful tenderness a child,
 A strong man in the right.

From what great perils, on his way,
 He found, in prayer, release; 30
 Through what abysmal shadows lay
 His pathway unto peace,

God knoweth; we could only see
 The tranquil strength he gained;
 The bondage lost in liberty,
 The fear in love unfeigned.

And I, — my youthful fancies grown
 The habit of the man,
 Whose field of life by angels sown
 The wilding vines o'erran, — 40

Low bowed in silent gratitude,
 My manhood's heart enjoys
 That reverence for the pure and good
 Which blessed the dreaming boy's.

Still shines the light of holy lives
 Like star-beams over doubt;
 Each sainted memory, Christlike,
 drives
 Some dark possession out.

O friend! O brother! not in vain 50
 Thy life so calm and true,
 The silver dropping of the rain,
 The fall of summer dew!

How many burdened hearts have
 prayed
 Their lives like thine might be!
 But more shall pray henceforth for
 aid
 To lay them down like thee.

With weary hand, yet steadfast will,
 In old age as in youth,
 Thy Master found thee sowing still
 The good seed of His truth. 60

As on thy task-field closed the day
 In golden-skied decline,
 His angel met thee on the way,
 And lent his arm to thine.

Thy latest care for man, — thy last
 Of earthly thought a prayer, —
 Oh, who thy mantle, backward cast,
 Is worthy now to wear?

Methinks the mound which marks thy bed
 Might bless our land and save, 70
 As rose, of old, to life the dead
 Who touched the prophet's grave!

TO CHARLES SUMNER

If I have seemed more prompt to censure wrong
 Than praise the right; if seldom to thine ear
 My voice hath mingled with the exultant cheer
 Borne upon all our Northern winds along;
 If I have failed to join the fickle throng
 In wide-eyed wonder, that thou standest strong
 In victory, surprised in thee to find
 Brougham's scathing power with Canning's grace combined;
 That he, for whom the ninefold Muses sang,
 From their twined arms a giant athlete sprang, 10
 Barbing the arrows of his native tongue
 With the spent shafts Latona's archer flung,
 To smite the Python of our land and time,
 Fell as the monster horn of Crissa's slime,
 Like the blind bard who in Castalian springs
 Tempered the steel that clove the crest of kings,
 And on the shrine of England's freedom laid
 The gifts of Cumæ and of Delphi's shade, —

Small need hast thou of words of praise from me.

Thou knowest my heart, dear friend, and well canst guess 20
 That, even though silent, I have not the less

Rejoiced to see thy actual life agree
 With the large future which I shaped for thee,

When, years ago, beside the summer sea,

White in the moon, we saw the long waves fall

Baffled and broken from the rocky wall,

That, to the menace of the brawling flood,

Opposed alone its massive quietude,
 Calm as a fate; with not a leaf nor vine

Nor birch-spray trembling in the still moonshine, 30

Crowning it like God's peace. I sometimes think

That night-scene by the sea propheticall

(For Nature speaks in symbols and in signs,

And through her pictures human fate divines),

That rock, wherefrom we saw the billows sink

In murmuring rout, uprising clear and tall

In the white light of heaven, the type of one

Who, momentarily by Error's host assailed,

Stands strong as Truth, in greaves of granite mailed;

And, tranquil-fronted, listening over all 40

The tumult, hears the angels say,
 Well done!

BURNS

ON RECEIVING A SPRIG OF HEATHER IN BLOSSOM

No more these simple flowers belong

To Scottish maid and lover;
 Sown in the common soil of song,

They bloom the wide world over.

In smiles and tears, in sun and show-
ers,

The minstrel and the heather,
The deathless singer and the flowers
He sang of live together.

Wild heather-bells and Robert Burns!
The moorland flower and peasant!
How, at their mention, memory turns
Her pages old and pleasant!

The gray sky wears again its gold
And purple of adorning,
And manhood's noonday shadows hold
The dews of boyhood's morning.

The dews that washed the dust and
soil
From off the wings of pleasure,
The sky, that flecked the ground of
toil
With golden threads of leisure. 20

I call to mind the summer day,
The early harvest mowing,
The sky with sun and clouds at
play,
And flowers with breezes blowing.

I hear the blackbird in the corn,
The locust in the haying;
And, like the fabled hunter's horn,
Old tunes my heart is playing.

How oft that day, with fond delay,
I sought the maple's shadow, 30
And sang with Burns the hours away,
Forgetful of the meadow!

Bees hummed, birds twittered, over-
head
I heard the squirrels leaping,
The good dog listened while I read,
And wagged his tail in keeping.

I watched him while in sportive mood
I read "*The Two Dogs*" story,
And half believed he understood
The poet's allegory. 40

Sweet day, sweet songs! The golden
hours
Grew brighter for that singing,
From brook and bird and meadow
flowers
A dearer welcome bringing.

New light on home-seen Nature
beamed,

New glory over Woman;
And daily life and duty seemed
No longer poor and common.

I woke to find the simple truth
Of fact and feeling better 50
Than all the dreams that held my
youth
A still repining debtor:

That Nature gives her handmaid, Art,
The themes of sweet discoursing;
The tender idyls of the heart
In every tongue rehearsing.

Why dream of lands of gold and pearl,
Of loving knight and lady,
When farmer boy and barefoot girl
Were wandering there already? 60

I saw through all familiar things
The romance underlying;
The joys and griefs that plume the
wings
Of Fancy skyward flying.

I saw the same blithe day return,
The same sweet fall of even,
That rose on wooded Craigie-burn,
And sank on crystal Devon.

I matched with Scotland's heathery
hills
The sweetbrier and the clover; 70
With Ayr and Doon, my native rills,
Their wood hymns chanting over.

O'er rank and pomp, as he had seen,
I saw the Man uprising;
No longer common or unclean,
The child of God's baptizing!

With clearer eyes I saw the worth
Of life among the lowly;
The Bible at his Cotter's hearth
Had made my own more holy. 80

And if at times an evil strain,
To lawless love appealing,
Broke in upon the sweet refrain
Of pure and healthful feeling,

It died upon the eye and ear,
No inward answer gaining;

No heart had I to see or hear
The discord and the staining.

Let those who never erred forget
His worth, in vain bewailings; 90
Sweet Soul of Song! I own my
debt
Uncancelled by his failings!

Lament who will the ribald line
Which tells his lapse from duty,
How kissed the maddening lips of
wine
Or wanton ones of beauty;

But think, while falls that shade be-
tween
The erring one and Heaven,
That he who loved like Magdalen,
Like her may be forgiven. 100

Not his the song whose thunderous
chime
Eternal echoes render;
The mournful Tuscan's haunted
rhyme,
And Milton's starry splendor!

But who his human heart has laid
To Nature's bosom nearer?
Who sweetened toil like him, or
paid
To love a tribute dearer?

Through all his tuneful art, how
strong
The human feeling gushes! 110
The very moonlight of his song
Is warm with smiles and blushes!

Give lettered pomp to teeth of Time,
So "Bonnie Doon" but tarry;
Blot out the Epic's stately rhyme,
But spare his Highland Mary!

TO GEORGE B. CHEEVER

So spake Esaias: so, in words of
flame,
Tekoa's prophet-herdsman smote with
blame
The traffickers in men, and put to
shame,
All earth and heaven before,
The sacerdotal robbers of the poor.

All the dread Scripture lives for thee
again,
To smite like lightning on the hands
profane
Lifted to bless the slave-whip and the
chain.
Once more the old Hebrew tongue
Bends with the shafts of God a bow
new-strung!

Take up the mantle which the pro-
phets wore;
Warn with their warnings, show the
Christ once more
Bound, scourged, and crucified in His
blameless poor;
And shake above our land
The unquenched bolts that blazed in
Hosea's hand!

Not vainly shalt thou cast upon our
years
The solemn burdens of the Orient
seers,
And smite with truth a guilty nation's
ears.
Mightier was Luther's word
Than Seckingen's mailed arm or Hut-
ton's sword!

TO JAMES T. FIELDS

ON A BLANK LEAF OF "POEMS
PRINTED, NOT PUBLISHED"

WELL thought! who would not rather
hear
The songs to Love and Friendship
sung
Than those which move the stran-
ger's tongue,
And feed his unselected ear?

Our social joys are more than fame;
Life withers in the public look.
Why mount the pillory of a book,
Or barter comfort for a name?

Who in a house of glass would dwell,
With curious eyes at every pane?
To ring him in and out again,
Who wants the public crier's bell?

To see the angel in one's way,
Who wants to play the ass's part, —

Bear on his back the wizard Art,
And in his service speak or bray?

And who his manly locks would shave,
And quench the eyes of common
sense,
To share the noisy recompense
That mocked the shorn and blinded
slave? 20

The heart has needs beyond the head,
And, starving in the plenitude
Of strange gifts, craves its common
food, —
Our human nature's daily bread.

We are but men: no gods are we,
To sit in mid-heaven, cold and
bleak,
Each separate, on his painful peak,
Thin-cloaked in self-complacency!

Better his lot whose axe is swung
In Wartburg's woods, or that poor
girl's 30
Who by the Ilm her spindle whirls
And sings the songs that Luther sung,

Than his who, old, and cold, and vain,
At Weimar sat, a demigod,
And bowed with Jove's imperial nod
His votaries in and out again!

Ply, Vanity, thy winged feet!
Ambition, hew thy rocky stair!
Who envies him who feeds on air
The icy splendor of his seat? 40

I see your Alps, above me, cut
The dark, cold sky; and dim and
lone
I see ye sitting, — stone on stone, —
With human senses dulled and shut.

I could not reach you, if I would,
Nor sit among your cloudy shapes;
And (spare the fable of the grapes
And fox) I would not if I could.

Keep to your lofty pedestals!
The safer plain below I choose: 50
Who never wins can rarely lose,
Who never climbs as rarely falls.

Let such as love the eagle's scream
Divide with him his home of ice:

For me shall gentler notes suffice, —
The valley-song of bird and stream;

The pastoral bleat, the drone of
bees,
The flail-beat chiming far away,
The cattle-low, at shut of day,
The voice of God in leaf and breeze! 60

Then lend thy hand, my wiser friend,
And help me to the vales below,
(In truth, I have not far to go,)
Where sweet with flowers the fields
extend.

THE MEMORY OF BURNS

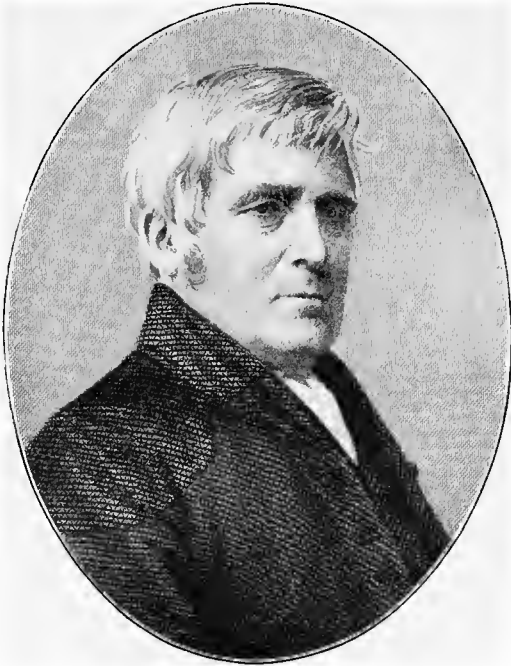
Read at the Boston celebration of the
hundredth anniversary of the birth of Rob-
ert Burns, 25th 1st mo., 1859.

How sweetly come the holy psalms
From saints and martyrs down,
The waving of triumphal palms
Above the thorny crown!
The choral praise, the chanted prayers
From harps by angels strung,
The hunted Cameron's mountain
airs,
The hymns that Luther sung!

Yet, jarring not the heavenly notes,
The sounds of earth are heard,
As through the open minster floats
The song of breeze and bird!
Not less the wonder of the sky
That daisies bloom below;
The brook sings on, though loud and
high
The cloudy organs blow!

And, if the tender ear be jarred
That, haply, hears by turns
The saintly harp of Olney's bard,
The pastoral pipe of Burns,
No discord mars His perfect plan
Who gave them both a tongue;
For he who sings the love of man
The love of God hath sung!

To-day be every fault forgiven
Of him in whom we joy!
We take, with thanks, the gold of
Heaven
And leave the earth's alloy.



Joseph Sturge

Be ours his music as of spring,
 His sweetness as of flowers,
 The songs the bard himself might sing
 In holier ears than ours.

Sweet airs of love and home, the hum
 Of household melodies,
 Come singing, as the robins come
 To sing in door-yard trees.
 And, heart to heart, two nations lean,
 No rival wreaths to twine,
 But blending in eternal green
 The holly and the pine!

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOSEPH
 STURGE

In the fair land o'erwatched by
 Ischia's mountains,
 Across the charmed bay

Whose blue waves keep with Capri's
 silver fountains
 Perpetual holiday,

A king lies dead, his wafer duly
 eaten,
 His gold-bought masses given;
 And Rome's great altar smokes with
 gums to sweeten
 Her foulest gift to Heaven.

And while all Naples thrills with mute
 thanksgiving,
 The court of England's queen
 For the dead monster so abhorred
 while living
 In mourning garb is seen. ¹¹

With a true sorrow God rebukes that
 feigning;
 By lone Edgbaston's side

- Stands a great city in the sky's sad
raining,
Bareheaded and wet-eyed!
- Silent for once the restless hive of
labor,
Save the low funeral tread,
Or voice of craftsman whispering to
his neighbor
The good deeds of the dead. 20
- For him no minster's chant of the im-
mortals
Rose from the lips of sin;
No mitred priest swung back the
heavenly portals
To let the white soul in.
- But Age and Sickness framed their
tearful faces
In the low hovel's door,
And prayers went up from all the dark
by-places
And Ghettos of the poor.
- The pallid toiler and the negro chattel,
The vagrant of the street, 30
The human dice wherewith in games
of battle
The lords of earth compete,
- Touched with a grief that needs no
outward draping,
All swelled the long lament,
Of grateful hearts, instead of marble,
shaping
His viewless monument!
- For never yet, with ritual pomp and
splendor,
In the long heretofore,
A heart more loyal, warm, and true,
and tender,
Has England's turf closed
o'er. 40
- And if there fell from out her grand
old steeples
No crash of brazen wail,
The murmurous woe of kindreds,
tongues, and peoples
Swept in on every gale.
- It came from Holstein's birchen-
belted meadows,
And from the tropic calms
- Of Indian islands in the sun-smit
shadows
Of Occidental palms;
- From the locked roadsteads of the
Bothnian peasants,
And harbors of the Finn, 50
Where war's worn victims saw his
gentle presence
Come sailing, Christ-like, in,
- To seek the lost, to build the old
waste places,
To link the hostile shores
Of severing seas, and sow with Eng-
land's daisies
The moss of Finland's moors.
- Thanks for the good man's beautiful
example,
Who in the vilest saw
Some sacred crypt or altar of a tem-
ple
Still vocal with God's law; 60
- And heard with tender ear the spirit
sighing
As from its prison cell,
Praying for pity, like the mournful
crying
Of Jonah out of hell.
- Not his the golden pen's or lip's per-
suasion,
But a fine sense of right,
And Truth's directness, meeting each
occasion
Straight as a line of light.
- His faith and works, like streams that
intermingle,
In the same channel ran: 70
The crystal clearness of an eye kept
single
Shamed all the frauds of man.
- The very gentlest of all human na-
tures
He joined to courage strong,
And love outreaching unto all God's
creatures
With sturdy hate of wrong.
- Tender as woman, manliness and
meekness
In him were so allied

That they who judged him by his
strength or weakness
Saw but a single side. 80

Men failed, betrayed him, but his zeal
seemed nourished
By failure and by fall;
Still a large faith in human-kind he
cherished,
And in God's love for all.

And now he rests: his greatness and
his sweetness
No more shall seem at strife,
And death has moulded into calm
completeness
The statue of his life.

Where the dew's glisten and the song-
birds warble,
His dust to dust is laid, 90
In Nature's keeping, with no pomp of
marble
To shame his modest shade.

The forges glow, the hammers all are
ringing;
Beneath its smoky veil,
Hard by, the city of his love is swing-
ing
Its clamorous iron flail.

But round his grave are quietude and
beauty,
And the sweet heaven above,—
The fitting symbols of a life of
duty
Transfigured into love! 100

BROWN OF OSSAWATOMIE

JOHN BROWN of Ossawatomie spake on
his dying day:
"I will not have to shrieve my soul a
priest in Slavery's pay.
But let some poor slave-mother whom
I have striven to free,
With her children, from the gallows-
stair put up a prayer for
me!"

John Brown of Ossawatomie, they led
him out to die;
And lo! a poor slave-mother with her
little child pressed nigh.

Then the bold, blue eye grew tender,
and the old harsh face grew
mild,
As he stooped between the jeering
ranks and kissed the negro's
child!

The shadows of his stormy life that
moment fell apart;
And they who blamed the bloody
hand forgave the loving heart.
That kiss from all its guilty means re-
deemed the good intent,
And round the grisly fighter's hair the
martyr's aureole bent!

Perish with him the folly that seeks
through evil good!
Long live the generous purpose un-
stained with human blood!
Not the raid of midnight terror, but
the thought which underlies;
Not the borderer's pride of daring, but
the Christian's sacrifice.

Nevermore may yon Blue Ridges the
Northern rifle hear,
Nor see the light of blazing homes
flash on the negro's spear.
But let the free-winged angel Truth
their guarded passes scale,
To teach that right is more than
might, and justice more than
mail!

So vainly shall Virginia set her battle
in array;
In vain her trampling squadrons knead
the winter snow with clay.
She may strike the pouncing eagle,
but she dares not harm the
dove;
And every gate she bars to Hate shall
open wide to Love!

NAPLES

1860

INSCRIBED TO ROBERT C. WATERSTON,
OF BOSTON

I GIVE thee joy! — I know to thee
The dearest spot on earth must be
Where sleeps thy loved one by the
summer sea;

Where, near her sweetest poet's
tomb,
The land of Virgil gave thee room
To lay thy flower with her perpetual
bloom.

I know that when the sky shut
down
Behind thee on the gleaming
town,
On Baiæ's baths and Posilippo's
crown;

And, through thy tears, the
mocking day
Burned Ischia's mountain lines
away,
And Capri melted in its sunny bay;

Through thy great farewell sor-
row shot
The sharp pang of a bitter
thought
That slaves must tread around that
holy spot.

Thou knewest not the land was
blest
In giving thy beloved rest,
Holding the fond hope closer to her
breast.

That every sweet and saintly
grave
Was freedom's prophecy, and
gave
The pledge of Heaven to sanctify and
save.

That pledge is answered. To thy
ear
The unchained city sends its
cheer,
And, tuned to joy, the muffled bells of
fear

Ring Victor in. The land sits free
And happy by the summer sea,
And Bourbon Naples now is Italy!

She smiles above her broken
chain
The languid smile that follows
pain,
Stretching her cramped limbs to the
sun again.

Oh, joy for all, who hear her call
From gray Camaldoli's convent-
wall
And Elmo's towers to freedom's car-
nival!

A new life breathes among her
vines
And olives, like the breath of pines
Blown downward from the breezy
Apennines.

Lean, O my friend, to meet that
breath,
Rejoice as one who witnesseth
Beauty from ashes rise, and life from
death!

Thy sorrow shall no more be pain,
Its tears shall fall in sunlit rain,
Writing the grave with flowers:
"Arisen again!"

A MEMORIAL

Moses Austin Cartland, a dear friend and
relation, who led a faithful life as a teacher,
and died in the summer of 1863.

OH, thicker, deeper, darker growing,
The solemn vista to the tomb
Must know henceforth another sha-
dow,
And give another cypress room.

In love surpassing that of brothers,
We walked, O friend, from child-
hood's day;
And, looking back o'er fifty summers,
Our footprints track a common way.

One in our faith, and one our longing
To make the world within our
reach
Somewhat the better for our living,
And gladder for our human speech.

Thou heard'st with me the far-off
voices,
The old beguiling song of fame,
But life to thee was warm and present,
And love was better than a name.

To homely joys and loves and friend-
ships
Thy genial nature fondly clung;

And so the shadow on the dial
Ran back and left thee always
young. 20

And who could blame the generous
weakness
Which, only to thyself unjust,
So overprized the worth of others,
And dwarfed thy own with self-dis-
trust?

All hearts grew warmer in the presence
Of one who, seeking not his own,
Gave freely for the love of giving,
Nor reaped for self the harvest
sown.

Thy greeting smile was pledge and
prelude
Of generous deeds and kindly
words; 30
In thy large heart were fair guest-
chambers,
Open to sunrise and the birds!

The task was thine to mould and
fashion
Life's plastic newness into grace:
To make the boyish heart heroic,
And light with thought the maid-
en's face.

O'er all the land, in town and prairie,
With bended heads of mourning,
stand
The living forms that owe their beauty
And fitness to thy shaping hand. 40

Thy call has come in ripened man-
hood,
The noonday calm of heart and
mind,
While I, who dreamed of thy remain-
ing
To mourn me, linger still behind:

Live on, to own, with self-upbraiding,
A debt of love still due from me, —
The vain remembrance of occasions,
Forever lost, of serving thee.

It was not mine among thy kindred
To join the silent funeral prayers, 50
But all that long sad day of summer
My tears of mourning dropped with
theirs.

All day the sea-waves sobbed with
sorrow,
The birds forgot their merry trills:
All day I heard the pines lamenting
With thine upon thy homestead
hills.

Green be those hillside pines forever,
And green the meadowy lowlands
be,
And green the old memorial beeches,
Name-carven in the woods of Lee!

Still let them greet thy life compan-
ions 61
Who thither turn their pilgrim feet,
In every mossy line recalling
A tender memory sadly sweet.

O friend! if thought and sense avail
not
To know thee henceforth as thou art,
That all is well with thee forever
I trust the instincts of my heart.

Thine be the quiet habitations,
Thine the green pastures, blossom-
sown, 70
And smiles of saintly recognition,
As sweet and tender as thy own.

Thou com'st not from the hush and
shadow
To meet us, but to thee we come,
With thee we never can be strangers,
And where thou art must still be
home.

BRYANT ON HIS BIRTHDAY

WE praise not now the poet's art,
The rounded beauty of his song;
Who weighs him from his life apart
Must do his nobler nature wrong.

Not for the eye, familiar grown
With charms to common sight de-
nied, —
The marvellous gift he shares alone
With him who walked on Rydal-
side;

Not for rapt hymn nor woodland lay,
Too grave for smiles, too sweet for
tears;

We speak his praise who wears to-day
The glory of his seventy years.

When Peace brings Freedom in her
train,

Let happy lips his songs rehearse;
His life is now his noblest strain,
His manhood better than his verse!

Thank God! his hand on Nature's
keys

Its cunning keeps at life's full span;
But, dimmed and dwarfed, in times
like these,

The poet seems beside the man!

So be it! let the garlands die,
The singer's wreath, the painter's
meed,

Let our names perish, if thereby
Our country may be saved and
freed!

THOMAS STARR KING

THE great work laid upon his two-
score years

Is done, and well done. If we drop our
tears,

Who loved him as few men were ever
loved,

We mourn no blighted hope nor
broken plan

With him whose life stands rounded
and approved

In the full growth and stature of a
man.

Mingle, O bells, along the Western
slope,

With your deep toll a sound of faith
and hope!

Wave cheerily still, O banner, half-
way down,

From thousand-masted bay and stee-
pled town!

Let the strong organ with its loftiest
swell

Lift the proud sorrow of the land, and
tell

That the brave sower saw his ripened
grain.

O East and West! O morn and sunset
twain

No more forever! — has he lived in
vain

Who, priest of Freedom, made ye one,
and told
Your bridal service from his lips of
gold?

LINES ON A FLY-LEAF

Suggested by the book *A New Atmosphere*, by Gail Hamilton.

I NEED not ask thee, for my sake,
To read a book which well may make
Its way by native force of wit
Without my manual sign to it.

Its piquant writer needs from me
No gravely masculine guaranty,
And well might laugh her merriest
laugh

At broken spears in her behalf;
Yet, spite of all the critics tell,
I frankly own I like her well. 10

It may be that she wields a pen
Too sharply nibbed for thin-skinned
men,

That her keen arrows search and try
The armor joints of dignity,

And, though alone for error meant,
Sing through the air irreverent.

I blame her not, the young athlete
Who plants her woman's tiny feet,
And dares the chances of debate

Where bearded men might hesitate, 20
Who, deeply earnest, seeing well

The ludicrous and laughable,
Mingling in eloquent excess

Her anger and her tenderness,
And, chiding with a half-caress,

Strives, less for her own sex than ours,
With principalities and powers,

And points us upward to the clear
Sunned heights of her new atmos-
phere.

Heaven mend her faults! — I will not
pause 30

To weigh and doubt and peck at flaws,
Or waste my pity when some fool

Provokes her measureless ridicule.
Strong-minded is she? Better so

Than dulness set for sale or show,
A household folly, capped and belled

In fashion's dance of puppets held,
Or poor pretence of womanhood,

Whose formal, flavorless platitude
Is warranted from all offence 40

Of robust meaning's violence.

Give me the wine of thought whose
head

Sparkles along the page I read, —
Electric words in which I find
The tonic of the northwest wind;
The wisdom which itself allies
To sweet and pure humanities,
Where scorn of meanness, hate of
wrong,
Are underlaid by love as strong;
The genial play of mirth that lights 50
Grave themes of thought, as when, on
nights

Of summer-time, the harmless blaze
Of thunderless heat-lightning plays,
And tree and hill-top resting dim
And doubtful on the sky's vague rim,
Touched by that soft and lambent
gleam,
Start sharply outlined from their
dream.

Talk not to me of woman's sphere,
Nor point with Scripture texts a
sneer,

Nor wrong the manliest saint of all 60
By doubt, if he were here, that Paul
Would own the heroines who have
lent

Grace to truth's stern arbitrament,
Foregone the praise to woman sweet,
And cast their crowns at Duty's
feet;

Like her, who by her strong Appeal
Made Fashion weep and Mammon
feel,

Who, earliest summoned to withstand
The color-madness of the land,
Counted her life-long losses gain, 70
And made her own her sisters' pain;
Or her who, in her greenwood shade,
Heard the sharp call that Freedom
made,

And, answering, struck from Sappho's
lyre

Of love the Tyrtæan carmen's fire:
Or that young girl, — Domrémy's
maid

Revived a nobler cause to aid, —
Shaking from warning finger-tips
The doom of her apocalypse;
Or she, who world-wide entrance
gave 80

To the log-cabin of the slave,
Made all his want and sorrow known,
And all earth's languages his own.

GEORGE L. STEARNS

HE has done the work of a true
man, —

Crown him, honor him, love him.
Weep over him, tears of woman,
Stoop manliest brows above him!

O dusky mothers and daughters,
Vigils of mourning keep for him!
Up in the mountains, and down by the
waters,
Lift up your voices and weep for him!

For the warmest of hearts is frozen,
The freest of hands is still;
And the gap in our picked and chosen
The long years may not fill.

No duty could overtask him,
No need his will outrun;
Or ever our lips could ask him,
His hands the work had done.

He forgot his own soul for others,
Himself to his neighbor lending;
He found the Lord in his suffering
brothers,
And not in the clouds descending.

So the bed was sweet to die on,
Whence he saw the doors wide
swung
Against whose bolted iron
The strength of his life was flung.

And he saw ere his eye was darkened
The sheaves of the harvest-bring-
ing,
And knew while his ear yet hearkened
The voice of the reapers singing.

Ah, well! The world is discreet;
There are plenty to pause and wait;
But here was a man who set his feet
Sometimes in advance of fate;

Plucked off the old bark when the inner
Was slow to renew it,
And put to the Lord's work the sinner
When saints failed to do it.

Never rode to the wrong's redressing
A worthier paladin.
Shall he not hear the blessing,
"Good and faithful, enter in!"

GARIBALDI

IN trance and dream of old, God's
 prophet saw
 The casting down of thrones. Thou,
 watching lone
 The hot Sardinian coast-line, hazy-
 hilled,
 Where, fringing round Caprera's
 rocky zone
 With foam, the slow waves gather and
 withdraw,
 Behold'st the vision of the seer ful-
 filled,
 And hear'st the sea-winds burdened
 with a sound
 Of falling chains, as, one by one, un-
 bound,
 The nations lift their right hands up
 and swear
 Their oath of freedom. From the
 chalk-white wall
 Of England, from the black Car-
 pathian range,
 Along the Danube and the Theiss,
 through all
 The passes of the Spanish Pyrenees,
 And from the Seine's thronged banks,
 a murmur strange
 And glad floats to thee o'er thy sum-
 mer seas
 On the salt wind that stirs thy whit-
 ening hair, —
 The song of freedom's bloodless vic-
 tories!
 Rejoice, O Garibaldi! Though thy
 sword
 Failed at Rome's gates, and blood
 seemed vainly poured
 Where, in Christ's name, the crown'd
 infidel
 Of France wrought murder with the
 arms of hell
 On that sad mountain slope whose
 ghostly dead,
 Unmindful of the gray exorcist's ban,
 Walk, unappeased, the chambered
 Vatican,
 And draw the curtains of Napo-
 leon's bed!
 God's providence is not blind, but,
 full of eyes,
 It searches all the refuges of lies;
 And in His time and way, the ac-
 cursed things
 Before whose evil feet thy battle-gage

Has clashed defiance from hot
 youth to age
 Shall perish. All men shall be priests
 and kings,
 One royal brotherhood, one church
 made free
 By love, which is the law of liberty!

TO LYDIA MARIA CHILD

ON READING HER POEM IN "THE STAN-
 DARD"

THE sweet spring day is glad with
 music,
 But through it sounds a sadder
 strain;
 The worthiest of our narrowing circle
 Sings Loring's dirges o'er again.

O woman greatly loved! I join thee
 In tender memories of our friend;
 With thee across the awful spaces
 The greeting of a soul I send!

What cheer hath he? How is it with
 him?
 Where lingers he this weary while?
 Over what pleasant fields of Heaven
 Dawns the sweet sunrise of his
 smile?

Does he not know our feet are tread-
 ing
 The earth hard down on Slavery's
 grave?
 That, in our crowning exultations,
 We miss the charm his presence
 gave?

Why on this spring air comes no whis-
 per
 From him to tell us all is well?
 Why to our flower-time comes no
 token
 Of lily and of asphodel?

I feel the unutterable longing,
 Thy hunger of the heart is mine;
 I reach and grope for hands in dark-
 ness,
 My ear grows sharp for voice or sign.

Still on the lips of all we question
 The finger of God's silence lies;

ending hair, —
The song of freedom's bloodless vic-
tories!
Rejoice, O Garibaldi! Though thy
sword
Failed at Rome's gates, and blood
seemed vainly poured
Where, in Christ's name, the
infidel
Of France was

CHILIC :
Does he not know our feet are tread-
ing
The earth hard
The





Lydia Maria Child

Will the lost hands in ours be folded?
Will the shut eyelids ever rise?

O friend! no proof beyond this
yearning,
This outreach of our hearts, we need;
God will not mock the hope He giveth,
No love He prompts shall vainly
plead.

Then let us stretch our hands in dark-
ness,
And call our loved ones o'er and o'er;
Some day their arms shall close about
us,
And the old voices speak once more.

No dreary splendors wait our coming
Where rapt ghost sits from ghost
apart;
Homeward we go to Heaven's thanks-
giving,
The harvest-gathering of the heart.

THE SINGER

YEARS since (but names to me be-
fore),
Two sisters sought at eve my door;
Two song-birds wandering from their
nest,
A gray old farm-house in the West.

How fresh of life the younger one,
Half smiles, half tears, like rain in
sun!

Her gravest mood could scarce displace
The dimples of her nut-brown face.

Wit sparkled on her lips not less
For quick and tremulous tenderness;
And, following close her merriest
glance,
Dreamed through her eyes the heart's
romance.

Timid and still, the elder had
Even then a smile too sweetly sad;
The crown of pain that all must wear
Too early pressed her midnight hair.

Yet ere the summer eve grew long,
Her modest lips were sweet with
song;

A memory haunted all her words
Of clover-fields and singing-birds. 20

Her dark, dilating eyes expressed
The broad horizons of the west;
Her speech dropped prairie flowers;
the gold
Of harvest wheat about her rolled.

Fore-doomed to song she seemed to
me:

I queried not with destiny:
I knew the trial and the need,
Yet, all the more, I said, God speed!

What could I other than I did?
Could I a singing-bird forbid? 30
Deny the wind-stirred leaf? Rebuke
The music of the forest brook?

She went with morning from my door,
But left me richer than before;
Thenceforth I knew her voice of cheer,
The welcome of her partial ear.

Years passed: through all the land her
name

A pleasant household word became:
All felt behind the singer stood
A sweet and gracious womanhood. 40

Her life was earnest work, not play;
Her tired feet climbed a weary way;
And even through her lightest strain
We heard an undertone of pain.

Unseen of her her fair fame grew,
The good she did she rarely knew,
Ungessed of her in life the love
That rained its tears her grave above.

When last I saw her, full of peace,
She waited for her great release; 50
And that old friend so sage and bland,
Our later Franklin, held her hand.

For all that patriot bosoms stirs
Had moved that woman's heart of hers,
And men who toiled in storm and sun
Found her their meet companion.

Our converse, from her suffering bed
To healthful themes of life she led:
The out-door world of bud and bloom
And light and sweetness filled her
room. 60

Yet evermore an underthought
Of loss to come within us wrought,
And all the while we felt the strain
Of the strong will that conquered pain.

God giveth quietness at last!
The common way that all have passed
She went, with mortal yearnings fond,
To fuller life and love beyond.

Fold the rapt soul in your embrace, 60
My dear ones! Give the singer place!
To you, to her, — I know not where, —
I lift the silence of a prayer.

For only thus our own we find;
The gone before, the left behind,
All mortal voices die between;
The unheard reaches the unseen.

Again the blackbirds sing; the
streams
Wake, laughing, from their winter
dreams,
And tremble in the April showers
The tassels of the maple flowers. 80

But not for her has spring renewed
The sweet surprises of the wood;
And bird and flower are lost to her
Who was their best interpreter!

What to shut eyes has God revealed?
What hear the ears that death has
sealed?

What unreamed beauty passing
 show
 Requires the loss of all we know ?

O silent land, to which we move,
 Enough if there alone be love, °°
 And mortal need can ne'er outgrow
 What it is waiting to bestow !

O white soul ! from that far-off shore
 Float some sweet song the waters
 o'er,
 Our faith confirm, our fears dispel,
 With the old voice we loved so well !

HOW MARY GREW

WITH wisdom far beyond her years,
 And graver than her wondering peers,
 So strong, so mild, combining still
 The tender heart and queenly will,
 To conscience and to duty true,
 So, up from childhood, Mary Grew !

Then in her gracious womanhood
 She gave her days to doing good,
 She dared the scornful laugh of men,
 The hounding mob, the slanderer's
 pen.
 She did the work she found to do, —
 A Christian heroine, Mary Grew !

The freed slave thanks her; blessing
 comes
 To her from women's weary homes;
 The wronged and erring find in her
 Their censor mild and comforter.
 The world were safe if but a few
 Could grow in grace as Mary Grew !

So, New Year's Eve, I sit and say,
 By this low wood-fire, ashen gray;
 Just wishing, as the night shuts down,
 That I could hear in Boston town,
 In pleasant Chestnut Avenue,
 From her own lips, how Mary Grew !

And hear her graceful hostess tell
 The silver-voicèd oracle
 Who lately through her parlors spoke,
 As through Dodona's sacred oak,
 A wiser truth than any told
 By Sappho's lips of ruddy gold, —
 The way to make the world anew
 Is just to grow — as Mary Grew !

SUMNER

"I am not one who has disgraced beauty of sentiment by deformity of conduct, or the maxims of a freeman by the actions of a slave; but, by the grace of God, I have kept my life unsullied." — MILTON'S *Defence of the People of England*.

O MOTHER STATE ! the winds of March
 Blew chill o'er Auburn's Field of
 God,
 Where, slow, beneath a leaden arch
 Of sky, thy mourning children trod.

And now, with all thy woods in leaf,
 Thy fields in flower, beside thy dead
 Thou sittest, in thy robes of grief,
 A Rachel yet uncomforted !

And once again the organ swells,
 Once more the flag is half-way hung,
 And yet again the mournful bells °°
 In all thy steeple-towers are rung.

And I, obedient to thy will,
 Have come a simple wreath to lay,
 Superfluous, on a grave that still
 Is sweet with all the flowers of May.

I take, with awe, the task assigned;
 It may be that my friend might miss
 In his new sphere of heart and mind,
 Some token from my hand in this. °°

By many a tender memory moved,
 Along the past my thought I send;
 The record of the cause he loved
 Is the best record of its friend.

No trumpet sounded in his ear,
 He saw not Sinai's cloud and flame,
 But never yet to Hebrew seer
 A clearer voice of duty came.

God said: "Break thou these yokes;
 undo
 These heavy burdens. I ordain °°
 A work to last thy whole life through,
 A ministry of strife and pain.

"Forego thy dreams of lettered ease.
 Put thou the scholar's promise by,
 The rights of man are more than
 these."
 He heard, and answered: "Here
 am I !"

He set his face against the blast,
 His feet against the flinty shard,
 Till the hard service grew, at last,
 Its own exceeding great reward. 40

Lifted like Saul's above the crowd,
 Upon his kingly forehead fell
 The first sharp bolt of Slavery's cloud,
 Launched at the truth he urged so
 well.

Ah! never yet, at rack or stake
 Was sorer loss made Freedom's gain,
 Than his, who suffered for her sake
 The beak-torn Titan's lingering
 pain!

The fixed star of his faith, through all
 Loss, doubt, and peril, shone the
 same; 50
 As through a night of storm, some tall,
 Strong lighthouse lifts its steady
 flame.

Beyond the dust and smoke he saw
 The sheaves of Freedom's large in-
 crease,
 The holy fanes of equal law,
 The New Jerusalem of peace.

The weak might fear, the worldling
 mock,
 The faint and blind of heart regret;
 All knew at last th' eternal rock 59
 On which his forward feet were set.

The subtlest scheme of compromise
 Was folly to his purpose bold;
 The strongest mesh of party lies
 Weak to the simplest truth he told.

One language held his heart and lip,
 Straight onward to his goal he trod,
 And proved the highest statesmanship
 Obedience to the voice of God.

No wail was in his voice, — none heard,
 When treason's storm-cloud black-
 est grew, 70

The weakness of a doubtful word;
 His duty, and the end, he knew.

The first to smite, the first to spare;
 When once the hostile ensigns fell,
 He stretched out hands of generous care
 To lift the foe he fought so well.

For there was nothing base or small
 Or craven in his soul's broad plan;
 Forgiving all things personal,
 He hated only wrong to man. 80

The old traditions of his State,
 The memories of her great and good,
 Took from his life a fresher date,
 And in himself embodied stood.

How felt the greed of gold and place,
 The venal crew that schemed and
 planned,
 The fine scorn of that haughty face,
 The spurning of that bribeless hand!

If than Rome's tribunes statelier
 He wore his senatorial robe, 90
 His lofty port was all for her,
 The one dear spot on all the globe.

If to the master's plea he gave
 The vast contempt his manhood
 felt,
 He saw a brother in the slave, —
 With man as equal man he dealt.

Proud was he? If his presence kept
 Its grandeur wheresoe'er he trod,
 As if from Plutarch's gallery stepped
 The hero and the demigod, 100

None failed, at least, to reach his ear,
 Nor want nor woe appealed in vain;
 The homesick soldier knew his cheer,
 And blessed him from his ward of
 pain.

Safely his dearest friends may own
 The slight defects he never hid,
 The surface-blemish in the stone
 Of the tall, stately pyramid.

Suffice it that he never brought 109
 His conscience to the public mart;
 But lived himself the truth he taught,
 White-souled, clean-handed, pure
 of heart.

What if he felt the natural pride
 Of power in noble use, too true
 With thin humilities to hide
 The work he did, the lore he knew?

Was he not just? Was any wronged
 By that assured self-estimate?

He took but what to him belonged,
Unenvious of another's state. 120

Well might he heed the words he
spake,

And scan with care the written page
Through which he still shall warm and
wake

The hearts of men from age to age.

Ah! who shall blame him now be-
cause

He solaced thus his hours of pain!
Should not the o'erworn thresher
pause,

And hold to light his golden grain?

No sense of humor dropped its oil
On the hard ways his purpose went;
Small play of fancy lightened toil; 131
He spake alone the thing he meant.

He loved his books, the Art that hints
A beauty veiled behind its own,
The graver's line, the pencil's tints,
The chisel's shape evoked from
stone.

He cherished, void of selfish ends,
The social courtesies that bless 138
And sweeten life, and loved his friends
With most unworldly tenderness.

But still his tired eyes rarely learned
The glad relief by Nature brought;
Her mountain ranges never turned
His current of persistent thought.

The sea rolled chorus to his speech
Three-banked like Latium's tall
trireme,
With laboring oars; the grove and
beach
Were Forum and the Academe.

The sensuous joy from all things fair
His strenuous bent of soul repressed,
And left from youth to silvered hair
Few hours for pleasure, none for
rest. 152

For all his life was poor without.
O Nature, make the last amends!
Train all thy flowers his grave about,
And make thy singing-birds his
friends!

Revive again, thou summer rain,
The broken turf upon his bed!
Breathe, summer wind, thy tenderest
strain
Of low, sweet music overhead! 160

With calm and beauty symbolize
The peace which follows long annoy,
And lend our earth-bent, mourning
eyes,
Some hint of his diviner joy.

For safe with right and truth he is,
As God lives he must live alway;
There is no end for souls like his,
No night for children of the day!

Nor cant nor poor solicitudes
Made weak his life's great argu-
ment; 170
Small leisure his for frames and moods
Who followed Duty where she went.

The broad, fair fields of God he saw
Beyond the bigot's narrow bound;
The truths he moulded into law
In Christ's beatitudes he found.

His state-craft was the Golden Rule,
His right of vote a sacred trust;
Clear, over threat and ridicule,
All heard his challenge: "Is it
just?" 180

And when the hour supreme had
come,
Not for himself a thought he gave;
In that last pang of martyrdom,
His care was for the half-freed slave.

Not vainly dusky hands upbore,
In prayer, the passing soul to
heaven

Whose mercy to His suffering poor
Was service to the Master given.

Long shall the good State's annals tell,
Her children's children long be
taught, 190

How, praised or blamed, he guarded
well
The trust he neither shunned nor
sought.

If for one moment turned thy face,
O Mother, from thy son, not long

He waited calmly in his place
The sure remorse which follows
wrong.

Forgiven be the State he loved
The one brief lapse, the single blot;
Forgotten be the stain removed,
Her righted record shows it not! 200

The lifted sword above her shield
With jealous care shall guard his
fame;
The pine-tree on her ancient field
To all the winds shall speak his
name.

The marble image of her son
Her loving hands shall yearly crown,
And from her pictured Pantheon
His grand, majestic face look down.

O State so passing rich before,
Who now shall doubt thy highest
claim? 210
The world that counts thy jewels o'er
Shall longest pause at Sumner's
name!

THIERS

I

FATE summoned, in gray-bearded
age, to act
A history stranger than his written
fact,
Him who portrayed the splendor
and the gloom
Of that great hour when throne and
altar fell
With long death-groan which still is
audible.
He, when around the walls of
Paris rung
The Prussian bugle like the blast of
doom,
And every ill which follows unblest war
Maddened all France from Finistère
to Var,
The weight of fourscore from his
shoulders flung,
And guided Freedom in the path he
saw
Lead out of chaos into light and law;
Peace, not imperial, but republican,
And order pledged to all the Rights of
Man.

II

Death called him from a need as im-
minent
As that from which the Silent William
went
When powers of evil, like the smiting
seas
On Holland's dikes, assailed her liber-
ties.
Sadly, while yet in doubtful balance
hung
The weal and woe of France, the bells
were rung
For her lost leader. Paralyzed of will,
Above his bier the hearts of men
stood still.
Then, as if set to his dead lips, the
horn
Of Roland wound once more to rouse
and warn,
The old voice filled the air! His last
brave word
Not vainly France to all her boun-
daries stirred.
Strong as in life, he still for Freedom
wrought,
As the dead Cid at red Toloso fought.

FITZ-GREENE HALLECK

AT THE UNVEILING OF HIS STATUE

AMONG their graven shapes to whom
Thy civic wreaths belong,
O city of his love, make room
For one whose gift was song.
Not his the soldier's sword to wield,
Nor his the helm of state,
Nor glory of the stricken field,
Nor triumph of debate.
In common ways, with common men,
He served his race and time 10
As well as if his clerkly pen
Had never danced to rhyme.
If, in the thronged and noisy mart,
The Muses found their son,
Could any say his tuneful art
A duty left undone?
He toiled and sang; and year by year
Men found their homes more sweet,

And through a tenderer atmosphere
Looked down the brick-walled
street. 20

The Greek's wild onset Wall Street
knew;
The Red King walked Broadway;
And Alnwick Castle's roses blew
From Palisades to Bay.

Fair City by the Sea! upraise
His veil with reverent hands;
And mingle with thy own the praise
And pride of other lands.

Let Greece his fiery lyric breathe
Above her hero-urns; 30
And Scotland, with her holly, wreathe
'The flower he culled for Burns.

Oh, stately stand thy palace walls,
Thy tall ships ride the seas;
To-day thy poet's name recalls
A prouder thought than these.

Not less thy pulse of trade shall beat,
Nor less thy tall fleets swim,
That shaded square and dusty street
Are classic ground through him. 40

Alive, he loved, like all who sing,
The echoes of his song;
Too late the tardy meed we bring,
The praise delayed so long.

Too late, alas! Of all who knew
The living man, to-day
Before his unveiled face, how few
Make hare their locks of gray!

Our lips of praise must soon be dumb,
Our grateful eyes be dim; 50
O brothers of the days to come,
Take tender charge of him!

New hands the wires of song may
sweep,
New voices challenge fame;
But let no moss of years o'ercreep
The lines of Halleck's name.

WILLIAM FRANCIS BARTLETT

Oh, well may Essex sit forlorn
Beside her sea-blown shore;

Her well beloved, her noblest born,
Is hers in life no more!

No lapse of years can render less
Her memory's sacred claim;
No fountain of forgetfulness
Can wet the lips of Fame.

A grief alike to wound and heal,
A thought to soothe and pain, 10
The sad, sweet pride that mothers
feel
To her must still remain.

Good men and true she has not
lacked,
And brave men yet shall be;
The perfect flower, the crowning fact,
Of all her years was he!

As Galahad pure, as Merlin sage,
What worthier knight was found
To grace in Arthur's golden age
The fabled Table Round? 20

A voice, the battle's trumpet-note,
To welcome and restore;
A hand, that all unwilling smote,
To heal and build once more!

A soul of fire, a tender heart
Too warm for hate, he knew
The generous victor's graceful part
To sheathe the sword he drew.

When Earth, as if on evil dreams,
Looks back upon her wars, 30
And the white light of Christ out-
streams
From the red disk of Mars,

His fame who led the stormy van
Of battle well may cease,
But never that which crowns the
man
Whose victory was Peace.

Mourn, Essex, on thy sea-blown shore
Thy beautiful and brave,
Whose failing hand the olive bore,
Whose dying lips forgave! 40

Let age lament the youthful chief,
And tender eyes be dim;
The tears are more of joy than grief
That fall for one like him!

BAYARD TAYLOR

I

"AND where now, Bayard, will thy
 footsteps tend?"
 My sister asked our guest one winter's day.
 Smiling he answered in the Friends' sweet way
 Common to both: "Wherever thou shalt send!
 What wouldst thou have me see for thee?" She laughed,
 Her dark eyes dancing in the wood-fire's glow:
 "Loffoden isles, the Kilpis, and the low,
 Unsetting sun on Finmark's fishing-craft."
 "All these and more I soon shall see for thee!"
 He answered cheerily: and he kept his pledge¹⁰
 On Lapland snows, the North Cape's windy wedge,
 And Tromsø freezing in its winter sea.
 He went and came. But no man knows the track
 Of his last journey, and he comes not back!

II

He brought us wonders of the new and old;
 We shared all climes with him. The Arab's tent
 To him its story-telling secret lent.
 And, pleased, we listened to the tales he told.
 His task, beguiled with songs that shall endure,
 In manly, honest thoroughness he wrought;²⁰
 From humble home-lays to the heights of thought
 Slowly he climbed, but every step was sure.
 How, with the generous pride that friendship hath,
 We, who so loved him, saw at last the crown
 Of civic honor on his brows pressed down,
 Rejoiced, and knew not that the gift was death.

And now for him, whose praise in deafened ears
 Two nations speak, we answer but with tears!

III

O Vale of Chester! trod by him so oft,
 Green as thy June turf keep his memory. Let³⁰
 Nor wood, nor dell, nor storied stream forget,
 Nor winds that blow round lonely Cedarcroft;
 Let the home voices greet him in the far,
 Strange land that holds him; let the messages
 Of love pursue him o'er the chartless seas
 And unmapped vastness of his unknown star!
 Love's language, heard beyond the loud discourse
 Of perishable fame, in every sphere
 Itself interprets; and its utterance here
 Somewhere in God's unfolding universe⁴⁰
 Shall reach our traveller, softening the surprise
 Of his rapt gaze on unfamiliar skies!

OUR AUTOCRAT

Read at the breakfast given in honor of Dr. Holmes by the publishers of the *Atlantic Monthly*, December 3, 1879.

His laurels fresh from song and lay,
 Romance, art, science, rich in all,
 And young of heart, how dare we say
 We keep his seventieth festival?

No sense is here of loss or lack;
 Before his sweetness and his light
 The dial holds its shadow back,
 The charmed hours delay their flight.

His still the keen analysis
 Of men and moods, electric wit,
 Free play of mirth, and tenderness
 To heal the slightest wound from it.

And his the pathos touching all
 Life's sins and sorrows and regrets,



Bayard Taylor

Its hopes and fears, its final call
And rest beneath the violets.

His sparkling surface scarce betrays
The thoughtful tide beneath it
rolled,
The wisdom of the latter days,
And tender memories of the old.

What shapes and fancies, grave or gay,
Before us at his bidding come!
The Treadmill tramp, the One-Horse
Shay,
The dumb despair of Elsie's doom!

The tale of Avis and the Maid,
The plea for lips that cannot speak,
The holy kiss that Iris laid
On Little Boston's pallid cheek!

Long may he live to sing for us
His sweetest songs at evening time,

And, like his Chambered Nautilus,
To holier heights of beauty climb!

Though now unnumbered guests sur-
round
The table that he rules at will,
Its Autocrat, however crowned,
Is but our friend and comrade still.

The world may keep his honored
name,
The wealth of all his varied powers;
A stronger claim has love than fame,
And he himself is only ours!

WITHIN THE GATE

L. M. C.

WE sat together, last May-day, and
talked
Of the dear friends who walked

Beside us, sharers of the hopes and fears
Of five and forty years,

Since first we met in Freedom's hope
forlorn,
And heard her battle-horn
Sound through the valleys of the sleep-
ing North,
Calling her children forth.

And youth pressed forward with hope-
lighted eyes,
And age, with forecast wise 10
Of the long strife before the triumph
won,
Girded his armor on.

Sadly, as name by name we called
the roll,
We heard the dead-bells toll
For the unanswering many, and we
knew
The living were the few.

And we, who waited our own call
before
The inevitable door,
Listened and looked, as all have done,
to win
Some token from within. 20

No sign we saw, we heard no voices
call;
The impenetrable wall
Cast down its shadow, like an awful
doubt,
On all who sat without.

Of many a hint of life beyond the
veil,
And many a ghostly tale
Wherewith the ages spanned the gulf
between
The seen and the unseen,

Seeking from omen, trance, and dream
to gain
Solace to doubtful pain, 30
And touch, with groping hands, the
garment hem
Of truth sufficing them,

We talked; and, turning from the
sore unrest
Of an all-baffling quest,

We thought of holy lives that from
us passed
Hopeful unto the last,

As if they saw beyond the river of
death,
Like Him of Nazareth,
The many mansions of the Eternal days
Lift up their gates of praise. 40

And, hushed to silence by a reverent
awe,
Methought, O friend, I saw
In thy true life of word, and work, and
thought
The proof of all we sought.

Did we not witness in the life of thee
Immortal prophecy?
And feel, when with thee, that thy
footsteps trod
An everlasting road?

Not for brief days thy generous sym-
pathies,
Thy scorn of selfish ease; 50
Not for the poor prize of an earthly
goal
Thy strong uplift of soul.

Than thine was never turned a fonder
heart
To nature and to art
In fair-formed Hellas in her golden
prime,
Thy Philothea's time.

Yet, loving beauty, thou couldst pass
it by,
And for the poor deny
Thyself, and see thy fresh, sweet
flower of fame
Wither in blight and blame. 60

Sharing His love who holds in His
embrace
The lowliest of our race,
Sure the Divine economy must be
Conservative of thee!

For truth must live with truth, self-
sacrifice
Seek out its great allies;
Good must find good by gravitation
sure,
And love with love endure.

And so, since thou hast passed within
 the gate
 Whereby awhile I wait, 70
 I give blind grief and blinder sense the
 lie:
 Thou hast not lived to die!

IN MEMORY

JAMES T. FIELDS

As a guest who may not stay
 Long and sad farewells to say
 Glides with smiling face away,

Of the sweetness and the zest
 Of thy happy life possessed
 Thou hast left us at thy best.

Warm of heart and clear of brain,
 Of thy sun-bright spirit's wane
 Thou hast spared us all the pain.

Now that thou hast gone away, 10
 What is left of one to say
 Who was open as the day?

What is there to gloss or shun?
 Save with kindly voices none
 Speak thy name beneath the sun.

Safe thou art on every side,
 Friendship nothing finds to hide,
 Love's demand is satisfied.

Over manly strength and worth,
 At thy desk of toil, or hearth, 20
 Played the lambent light of mirth, —

Mirth that lit, but never burned;
 All thy blame to pity turned;
 Hatred thou hadst never learned.

Every harsh and vexing thing
 At thy home-fire lost its sting;
 Where thou wast was always spring.

And thy perfect trust in good,
 Faith in man and womanhood,
 Chance and change and time with-
 stood. 30

Small respect for cant and whine,
 Bigot's zeal and hate malign,
 Had that sunny soul of thine.

But to thee was duty's claim
 Sacred, and thy lips became
 Reverent with one holy Name.

Therefore, on thy unknown way,
 Go in God's peace! We who stay
 But a little while delay.

Keep for us, O friend, where'er 40
 Thou art waiting, all that here
 Made thy earthly presence dear;

Something of thy pleasant past
 On a ground of wonder cast,
 In the stiller waters glassed!

Keep the human heart of thee;
 Let the mortal only be
 Clothed in immortality.

And when fall our feet as fell 50
 Thine upon the asphodel,
 Let thy old smile greet us well;

Proving in a world of bliss
 What we fondly dream in this, —
 Love is one with holiness!

WILSON

Read at the Massachusetts Club on the
 seventieth anniversary of the birthday of
 Vice-President Wilson, February 16, 1882.

THE lowliest born of all the land,
 He wrung from Fate's reluctant
 hand
 The gifts which happier boyhood
 claims;
 And, tasting on a thankless soil
 The bitter bread of unpaid toil,
 He fed his soul with noble aims.

And Nature, kindly provident,
 To him the future's promise lent;
 The powers that shape man's des-
 tinies,
 Patience and faith and toil, he knew,
 The close horizon round him grew
 Broad with great possibilities.

By the low hearth-fire's fitful blaze
 He read of old heroic days,
 The sage's thought, the patriot's
 speech;



Wilson

Unhelped, alone, himself he taught,
His school the craft at which he
wrought,
His lore the book within his reach.

He felt his country's need; he knew
The work her children had to do;
And when, at last, he heard the call
In her behalf to serve and dare,
Beside his senatorial chair
He stood the unquestioned peer of
all.

Beyond the accident of birth
He proved his simplemanhood's worth;
Ancestral pride and classic grace
Confessed the large-brained artisan,
So clear of sight, so wise in plan
And counsel, equal to his place.

With glance intuitive he saw
Through all disguise of form and law,
And read men like an open book;

Fearless and firm, he never quailed
Nor turned aside for threats, nor
failed
To do the thing he undertook.

How wise, how brave, he was, how
well
He bore himself, let history tell
While waves our flag o'er land and
sea,
No black thread in its warp or weft;
He found dis severed States, he left
A grateful Nation, strong and free!

THE POET AND THE CHILDREN

LONGFELLOW

With a glory of winter sunshine
Over his locks of gray,
In the old historic mansion
He sat on his last birthday;

With his books and his pleasant pictures,
 And his household and his kin,
 While a sound as of myriads singing
 From far and near stole in.

It came from his own fair city,
 From the prairie's boundless plain,
 From the Golden Gate of sunset,
 And the cedarn woods of Maine.

And his heart grew warm within him,
 And his moistening eyes grew dim,
 For he knew that his country's children
 Were singing the songs of him:

The lays of his life's glad morning,
 The psalms of his evening time,
 Whose echoes shall float forever
 On the winds of every clime.

All their beautiful consolations,
 Sent forth like birds of cheer,
 Came flocking back to his windows,
 And sang in the Poet's ear.

Grateful, but solemn and tender,
 The music rose and fell
 With a joy akin to sadness
 And a greeting like farewell.

With a sense of awe he listened
 To the voices sweet and young;
 The last of earth and the first of heaven
 Seemed in the songs they sung.

And waiting a little longer
 For the wonderful change to come,
 He heard the Summoning Angel,
 Who calls God's children home!

And to him in a holier welcome
 Was the mystical meaning given
 Of the words of the blessed Master:
 "Of such is the kingdom of heaven!"

A WELCOME TO LOWELL

TAKE our hands, James Russell
 Lowell,
 Our hearts are all thy own;
 To-day we bid thee welcome
 Not for ourselves alone.

In the long years of thy absence
 Some of us have grown old,
 And some have passed the portals
 Of the Mystery untold;

For the hands that cannot clasp
 thee,
 For the voices that are dumb, 10
 For each and all I bid thee
 A grateful welcome home!

For Cedarcroft's sweet singer
 To the nine-fold Muses dear;
 For the Seer the winding Concord
 Paused by his door to hear;

For him, our guide and Nestor,
 Who the march of song began,
 The white locks of his ninety
 years
 Bared to thy winds, Cape Ann! 20

For him who, to the music
 Her pines and hemlocks played,
 Set the old and tender story
 Of the lorn Acadian maid;

For him, whose voice for freedom
 Swayed friend and foe at will,
 Hushed is the tongue of silver,
 The golden lips are still!

For her whose life of duty
 At scoff and menace smiled, 30
 Brave as the wife of Roland,
 Yet gentle as a Child.

And for him the three-hilled city
 Shall hold in memory long,
 Whose name is the hint and token
 Of the pleasant Fields of Song!

For the old friends unforgetten,
 For the young thou hast not known,
 I speak their heart-warm greeting;
 Come back and take thy own! 40

From England's royal farewells,
 And honors fitly paid,
 Come back, dear Russell Lowell,
 To Elmwood's waiting shade!

Come home with all the garlands
 That crown of right thy head.
 I speak for comrades living,
 I speak for comrades dead!



"Luck to the craft that bears this name of mine"

AN ARTIST OF THE BEAUTIFUL

GEORGE FULLER

HAUNTED of Beauty, like the marvelous youth
Who sang Saint Agnes' Eve! How passing fair
Her shapes took color in thy homestead air!
How on thy canvas even her dreams were truth!
Magician! who from commonest elements
Called up divine ideals, clothed upon
By mystic lights soft blending into one
Womanly grace and child-like innocence.
Teacher! thy lesson was not given in vain.
Beauty is goodness; ugliness is sin:
Art's place is sacred: nothing foul therein
May crawl or tread with bestial feet profane.
If rightly choosing is the painter's test,
Thy choice, O master, ever was the best.

MULFORD

Author of *The Nation* and *The Republic of God*.

UNNOTED as the setting of a star
He passed; and sect and party scarcely knew
When from their midst a sage and seer withdrew
To fitter audience, where the great dead are
In God's republic of the heart and mind,
Leaving no purer, nobler soul behind.

TO A CAPE ANN SCHOONER

Luck to the craft that bears this name
of mine,
Good fortune follow with her golden spoon
The glazed hat and tarry pantaloons;
And wheresoe'er her keel shall cut the brine,
Cod, hake and haddock quarrel for her line.

Shipped with her crew, whatever wind
 may blow,
 Or tides delay, my wish with her shall
 go,
 Fishing by proxy. Would that it
 might show
 At need her course, in lack of sun and
 star,
 Where icebergs threaten, and the
 sharp reefs are;
 Lift the blind fog on Anticosti's lee
 And Avalon's rock; make populous
 the sea
 Round Grand Manan with eager finny
 swarms,
 Break the long calms, and charm
 away the storms.

SAMUEL J. TILDEN

GREYSTONE, AUGUST 4, 1886.

ONCE more, O all-adjusting Death!
 The nation's Pantheon opens wide;

Once more a common sorrow saith
 A strong, wise man has died.

Faults doubtless had he. Had we not
 Our own, to question and asperse
 The worth we doubted or forgot
 Until beside his hearse?

Ambitious, cautious, yet the man
 To strike down fraud with resolute
 hand;
 A patriot, if a partisan,
 He loved his native land.

So let the mourning bells be rung,
 The banner droop its folds half
 way
 And while the public pen and tongue
 Their fitting tribute pay,

Shall we not vow above his bier
 To set our feet on party lies,
 And wound no more a living ear
 With words that Death denies?



“ Oh, for faith like thine, sweet Eva ”

OCCASIONAL POEMS

EVA

Dry the tears for holy Eva,
With the blessed angels leave her;
Of the form so soft and fair
Give to earth the tender care.

For the golden locks of Eva
Let the sunny south-land give her
Flowery pillow of repose,
Orange-bloom and budding rose.

In the better home of Eva
Let the shining ones receive her,

With the welcome-voicèd psalm,
Harp of gold and waving palm!

All is light and peace with Eva;
There the darkness cometh never;
Tears are wiped, and fetters fall,
And the Lord is all in all.

Weep no more for happy Eva,
Wrong and sin no more shall grieve
her;

Care and pain and weariness
Lost in love so measureless.

Gentle Eva, loving Eva,
Child confessor, true believer,
Listener at the Master's knee,
"Suffer such to come to me."

Oh, for faith like thine, sweet Eva,
Lighting all the solemn river,
And the blessings of the poor
Wafting to the heavenly shore!

A LAY OF OLD TIME

Written for the Essex County Agricultural
Fair, and sung at the banquet at New-
buryport, October 2, 1856.

ONE morning of the first sad Fall,
Poor Adam and his bride
Sat in the shade of Eden's wall —
But on the outer side.

She, blushing in her fig-leaf suit
For the chaste garb of old;
He, sighing o'er his bitter fruit
For Eden's drupes of gold.

Behind them, smiling in the morn,
Their forfeit garden lay, ¹⁰
Before them, wild with rock and thorn,
The desert stretched away.

They heard the air above them
fanned,
A light step on the sward,
And lo! they saw before them stand
The angel of the Lord!

"Arise," he said, "why look behind,
When hope is all before,
And patient hand and willing mind
Your loss may yet restore?" ²⁰

"I leave with you a spell whose power
Can make the desert glad,
And call around you fruit and flower
As fair as Eden had.

"I clothe your hands with power to
lift
The curse from off your soil;
Your very doom shall seem a gift,
Your loss a gain through Toil.

"Go, cheerful as yon humming-bees,
To labor as to play." ³⁰
White glimmering over Eden's trees
The angel passed away.

The pilgrims of the world went forth
Obedient to the word,
And found where'er they tilled the
earth
A garden of the Lord!

The thorn-tree cast its evil fruit
And blushed with plum and pear,
And seeded grass and trodden root
Grew sweet beneath their care. ⁴⁰

We share our primal parents' fate,
And, in our turn and day,
Look back on Eden's sworded gate
As sad and lost as they.

But still for us his native skies
The pitying Angel leaves,
And leads through Toil to Paradise
New Adams and new Eves!

A SONG OF HARVEST

For the Agricultural and Horticultural
Exhibition at Amesbury and Salisbury,
September 28, 1858.

THIS day, two hundred years ago,
The wild grape by the river's side,
And tasteless groundnut trailing low,
The table of the woods supplied.

Unknown the apple's red and gold,
The blushing tint of peach and pear;
The mirror of the Powow told
No tale of orchards ripe and rare.

Wild as the fruits he scorned to till,
These vales the idle Indian trod;

Nor knew the glad, creative skill,
The joy of him who toils with God.

O Painter of the fruits and flowers!
We thank Thee for thy wise design
Whereby these human hands of ours
In Nature's garden work with
Thine.

And thanks that from our daily need
The joy of simple faith is born;
That he who smites the summer weed,
May trust Thee for the autumn
corn.

Give fools their gold, and knaves their
power;
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;
Who sows a field, or trains a flower,
Or plants a tree, is more than all.

For he who blesses most is blest;
And God and man shall own his
worth
Who toils to leave at his bequest
An added beauty to the earth.

And, soon or late, to all that sow,
The time of harvest shall be given;
The flower shall bloom, the fruit shall
grow,
If not on earth, at last in heaven.

KENOZA LAKE

As Adam did in Paradise,
To-day the primal right we claim:
Fair mirror of the woods and skies,
We give to thee a name.

Lake of the pickerel! — let no more
The echoes answer back, "Great
Pond,"
But sweet Kenoza, from thy shore
And watching hills beyond,

Let Indian ghosts, if such there be
Who ply unseen their shadowy
lines,¹⁰
Call back the ancient name to thee,
As with the voice of pines.

The shores we trod as barefoot boys,
The nutted woods we wandered
through,

To friendship, love, and social joys
We consecrate anew.

Here shall the tender song be sung,
And memory's dirges soft and low,
And wit shall sparkle on the tongue,
And mirth shall overflow,²⁰

Harmless as summer lightning plays
From a low, hidden cloud by night,
A light to set the hills ablaze,
But not a bolt to smite.

In sunny South and prairied West
Are exiled hearts remembering still,
As bees their hive, as birds their nest,
The homes of Haverhill.

They join us in our rites to-day;
And, listening, we may hear, ere-
long,³⁰
From inland lake and ocean bay,
The echoes of our song.

Kenoza! o'er no sweeter lake
Shall morning break or noon-cloud
sail, —
No fairer face than thine shall take
The sunset's golden veil.

Long he it ere the tide of trade
Shall break with harsh-resounding
din
The quiet of thy banks of shade,
And hills that fold thee in.⁴⁰

Still let thy woodlands hide the hare,
The shy loon sound his trumpet-
note,
Wind-weary from his fields of air,
The wild-geese on thee float.

Thy peace rebuke our feverish stir,
Thy beauty our deforming strife;
Thy woods and waters minister
The healing of their life.

And sinless Mirth, from care released,
Behold, unawed, thy mirrored sky,
Smiling as smiled on Cana's feast⁵¹
The Master's loving eye.

And when the summer day grows dim,
And light mists walk thy mimic sea,
Revive in us the thought of Him
Who walked on Galilee!



"Thy peace rebuke our feverish stir,
Thy beauty our deforming strife"

FOR AN AUTUMN FESTIVAL

THE Persian's flowery gifts, the shrine
Of fruitful Ceres charm no more;
The woven wreaths of oak and pine
Are dust along the Isthmian shore.

But beauty hath its homage still,
And nature holds us still in debt;
And woman's grace and household
skill,
And manhood's toil, are honored yet.

And we, to-day, amidst our flowers
And fruits, have come to own again
The blessings of the summer hours,
The early and the latter rain;

To see our Father's hand once more
Reverse for us the plenteous horn
Of autumn, filled and running o'er
With fruit, and flower, and golden
corn!

Once more the liberal year laughs out
O'er richer stores than gems or gold:
Once more with harvest-song and sheet
Is Nature's bloodless triumph told.

Our common mother rests and sings,
Like Ruth, among her garnered
sheaves;
Her lap is full of goodly things,
Her brow is bright with autumn
leaves.

Oh, favors every year made new!
Oh, gifts with rain and sunshine
sent!
The bounty overruns our due,
The fulness shames our discon-
tent.

We shut our eyes, the flowers bloom
on;
We murmur, but the corn-ears fill,
We choose the shadow, but the sun
That casts it shines behind us still.

God gives us with our rugged soil
The power to make it Eden-fair,
And richer fruits to crown our toil
Than summer-wedded islands bear.

Who murmurs at his lot to-day?
Who scorns his native fruit and
bloom?

Or sighs for dainties far away,
Beside the bounteous board of
home?

Thank Heaven, instead, that Free-
dom's arm

Can change a rocky soil to gold, —
That brave and generous lives can
warm

A clime with northern ices cold.

And let these altars, wreathed with
flowers

And piled with fruits, awake again
Thanksgivings for the golden hours,
The early and the latter rain!

THE QUAKER ALUMNI

From the well-springs of Hudson, the
sea-cliffs of Maine,

Grave men, sober matrons, you gather
again;

And, with hearts warmer grown as
your heads grow more cool,

Play over the old game of going to
school.

All your strifes and vexations, your
whims and complaints,
(You were not saints yourselves, if the
children of saints!)

All your petty self-seekings and rival-
ries done,

Round the dear Alma Mater your
hearts beat as one!

How widely soe'er you have strayed
from the fold,

Though your "thee" has grown
"you," and your drab blue and
gold,

To the old friendly speech and the
garb's sober form,

Like the heart of Argyle to the tartan,
you warm.

But, the first greetings over, you
glance round the hall;

Your hearts call the roll, but they an-
swer not all:

Through the turf green above them
the dead cannot hear;

Name by name, in the silence, falls sad
as a tear!

In love, let us trust, they were sum-
moned so soon

From the morning of life, while we toil
through its noon;

They were frail like ourselves, they
had needs like our own,

And they rest as we rest in God's
mercy alone. 20

Unchanged by our changes of spirit
and frame,

Past, now, and henceforward the Lord
is the same;

Though we sink in the darkness, His
arms break our fall,

And in death as in life, He is Father of
all!

We are older: our footsteps, so light
in the play

Of the far-away school-time, move
slower to-day; —

Here a beard touched with frost, there
a bald, shining crown,

And beneath the cap's border gray
mingles with brown.

But faith should be cheerful, and trust
should be glad,

And our follies and sins, not our years,
make us sad. 30

Should the heart closer shut as the
bonnet grows prim,

And the face grow in length as the hat
grows in brim?

Life is brief, duty grave; but, with
rain-folded wings,

Of yesterday's sunshine the grateful
heart sings;

And we, of all others, have reason to
pay

The tribute of thanks, and rejoice on
our way;

For the counsels that turned from the
follies of youth;

For the beauty of patience, the white-
ness of truth;

For the wounds of rebuke, when love
tempered its edge;

For the household's restraint, and the
discipline's hedge; 40

For the lessons of kindness vouchsafed
to the least

Of the creatures of God, whether human or beast,
 Bringing hope to the poor, lending strength to the frail,
 In the lanes of the city, the slave-hut, and jail;

For a womanhood higher and holier, by all
 Her knowledge of good, than was Eve ere her fall, —
 Whose task-work of duty moves lightly as play,
 Serene as the moonlight and warm as the day;

And, yet more, for the faith which embraces the whole,
 Of the creeds of the ages the life and the soul,⁵⁰
 Wherein letter and spirit the same channel run,
 And man has not severed what God has made one!

For a sense of the Goodness revealed everywhere,
 As sunshine impartial, and free as the air;
 For a trust in humanity, Heathen or Jew,
 And a hope for all darkness the Light shineth through.

Who scoffs at our birthright? — the words of the seers,
 And the songs of the bards in the twilight of years,
 All the foregleams of wisdom in santon and sage,
 In prophet and priest, are our true heritage.⁶⁰

The Word which the reason of Plato discerned;
 The truth, as whose symbol the Mithra-fire burned;
 The soul of the world which the Stoic but guessed,
 In the Light Universal the Quaker confessed!

No honors of war to our worthies belong;
 Their plain stem of life never flowered into song;

But the fountains they opened still gush by the way,
 And the world for their healing is better to-day.

He who lies where the minster's groined arches curve down
 To the tomb-crowded transept of England's renown,⁷⁰
 The glorious essayist, by genius enthroned,
 Whose pen as a sceptre the Muses all owned, —

Who through the world's pantheon walked in his pride,
 Setting new statues up, thrusting old ones aside,
 And in fiction the pencils of history dipped,
 To gild o'er or blacken each saint in his crypt, —

How vainly he labored to sully with blame
 The white bust of Penn, in the niche of his fame!
 Self-will is self-wounding, perversity blind:
 On himself fell the stain for the Quaker designed!⁸⁰

For the sake of his true-hearted father before him;
 For the sake of the dear Quaker mother that bore him;
 For the sake of his gifts, and the works that outlive him,
 And his brave words for freedom, we freely forgive him!

There are those who take note that our numbers are small, —
 New Gibbons who write our decline and our fall;
 But the Lord of the seed-field takes care of His own,
 And the world shall yet reap what our sowers have sown.

The last of the sect to his fathers may go,
 Leaving only his coat for some Bar-num to show;⁹⁰

But the truth will outlive him, and
broaden with years,
Till the false dies away, and the wrong
disappears.

Nothing fails of its end. Out of sight
sinks the stone,
In the deep sea of time, but the circles
sweep on,
Till the low-rippled murmurs along
the shores run,
And the dark and dead waters leap
glad in the sun.

Meanwhile shall we learn, in our ease,
to forget
To the martyrs of Truth and of Free-
dom our debt? —
Hide their words out of sight, like the
garb that they wore,
And for Barclay's Apology offer one
more? 100

Shall we fawn round the priestcraft
that glutted the shears,
And festooned the stocks with our
grandfathers' ears?
Talk of Woolman's unsoundness?
count Penn heterodox?
And take Cotton Mather in place of
George Fox?

Make our preachers war-chaplains?
quote Scripture to take
The hunted slave back, for Onesimus'
sake?

Go to burning church-candles, and
chanting in choir,
And on the old meeting-house stick up
a spire?

No! the old paths we'll keep until
better are shown,
Credit good where we find it, abroad
or our own; 110
And while "Lo here" and "Lo there"
the multitude call,
Be true to ourselves, and do justice to all.

The good round about us we need not
refuse,
Nor talk of our Zion as if we were Jews;
But why shirk the badge which our
fathers have worn,
Or beg the world's pardon for having
been born?

We need not pray over the Pharisee's
prayer,
Nor claim that our wisdom is Benja-
min's share;
Truth to us and to others is equal and
one:
Shall we bottle the free air, or board
up the sun? 120

Well know we our birthright may serve
but to show
How the meanest of weeds in the rich-
est soil grow;
But we need not disparage the good
which we hold;
Though the vessels be earthen, the
treasure is gold!

Enough and too much of the sect and
the name.
What matters our label, so truth be
our aim?
The creed may be wrong, but the life
may be true,
And hearts beat the same under drab
coats or blue.

So the man be a man, let him worship,
at will,
In Jerusalem's courts, or on Gerizim's
hill. 130
When she makes up her jewels, what
cares you good town
For the Baptist of Wayland, the Qua-
ker of Brown?

And this green, favored island, so fresh
and sea-blown,
When she counts up the worthies her
annals have known,
Never waits for the pitiful gaugers of
sect
To measure her love, and mete out her
respect.

Three shades at this moment seem
walking her strand,
Each with head halo-crowned, and
with palms in his hand, —
Wise Berkeley, grave Hopkins, and,
smiling serene
On prelate and puritan, Channing is
seen. 140

One holy name bearing, no longer they
need

Credentials of party, and pass-words
of creed:

The new song they sing hath a three-
fold accord,
And they own one baptism, one faith,
and one Lord!

But the golden sands run out: occa-
sions like these

Glide swift into shadow, like sails on
the seas:

While we sport with the mosses and
pebbles ashore,

They lessen and fade, and we see
them no more.

Forgive me, dear friends, if my va-
grant thoughts seem

Like a school-boy's who idles and
plays with his theme. ¹⁵⁰

Forgive the light measure whose
changes display

The sunshine and rain of our brief
April day.

There are moments in life when the lip
and the eye

Try the question of whether to smile
or to cry;

And scenes and reunions that prompt
like our own

The tender in feeling, the playful in
tone.

I, who never sat down with the boys
and the girls

At the feet of your Slocums, and Cart-
lands, and Earles, —

By courtesy only permitted to lay

On your festival's altar my poor gift,
to-day, — ¹⁶⁰

I would joy in your joy: let me have a
friend's part

In the warmth of your welcome of
hand and of heart, —

On your play-ground of boyhood un-
bend the brow's care,

And shift the old burdens our shoul-
ders must bear.

Long live the good School! giving out
year by year

Recruits to true manhood and wo-
manhood dear:

Brave boys, modest maidens, in
beauty sent forth,
The living epistles and proof of its
worth!

In and out let the young life as stead-
ily flow

As in broad Narragansett the tides
come and go; ¹⁷⁰

And its sons and its daughters in
prairie and town

Remember its honor, and guard its
renown.

Not vainly the gift of its founder was
made;

Not prayerless the stones of its corner
were laid:

The blessing of Him whom in secret
they sought

Has owned the good work which the
fathers have wrought.

To Him be the glory forever! We bear
To the Lord of the Harvest our wheat
with the tare.

What we lack in our work may He
find in our will,

And winnow in mercy our good from
the ill! ¹⁸⁰

OUR RIVER

FOR A SUMMER FESTIVAL AT "THE
LAURELS" ON THE MERRIMAC

ONCE more on yonder laurelled
height

The summer flowers have budded;
Once more with summer's golden
light

The vales of home are flooded;
And once more, by the grace of Him
Of every good the Giver,
We sing upon its wooded rim
The praises of our river:

Its pines above, its waves below,
The west-wind down it blowing, ¹⁰

As fair as when the young Brissot
Beheld it seaward flowing, —

And bore its memory o'er the deep,
To soothe the martyr's sadness,

And fresco, in his troubled sleep,
His prison-walls with gladness.

We know the world is rich with
streams

Renowned in song and story,
Whose music murmurs through our
dreams

Of human love and glory: 20
We know that Arno's banks are
fair,

And Rhine has castled shadows,
And, poet-tuned, the Doon and Ayr
Go surging down their meadows.

But while, unpictured and unsung
By painter or by poet,
Our river waits the tuneful tongue
And cunning hand to show it, —
We only know the fond skies lean 30
Above it, warm with blessing,
And the sweet soul of our Undine
Awakes to our caressing.

No fickle sun-god holds the flocks
That graze its shores in keep-
ing;

No icy kiss of Dian mocks
The youth beside it sleeping:
Our Christian river loveth most
The beautiful and human;
The heathen streams of Naiads boast,
But ours of man and woman. 40

The miner in his cabin hears
The ripple we are hearing;
It whispers soft to homesick ears
Around the settler's clearing:
In Sacramento's vales of corn,
Or Santee's bloom of cotton,
Our river by its valley-horn
Was never yet forgotten.

The drum rolls loud, the bugle fills
The summer air with clangor; 50
The war-storm shakes the solid hills
Beneath its tread of anger;
Young eyes that last year smiled in
ours

Now point the rifle's barrel,
And hands then stained with fruits
and flowers
Bear redder stains of quarrel.

But blue skies smile, and flowers
bloom on,
And rivers still keep flowing,
The dear God still his rain and sun
On good and ill bestowing. 60

His pine-trees whisper, "Trust and
wait!"

His flowers are prophesying
That all we dread of change or fate
His love is underlying.

And thou, O Mountain-born! — no
more

We ask the wise Allotter
Than for the firmness of thy shore,
The calmness of thy water,
The cheerful lights that overlay
Thy rugged slopes with beauty, 70
To match our spirits to our day
And make a joy of duty.

REVISITED

READ AT "THE LAURELS," ON THE
MERRIMAC, 6TH MONTH, 1865.

THE roll of drums and the bugle's
wailing

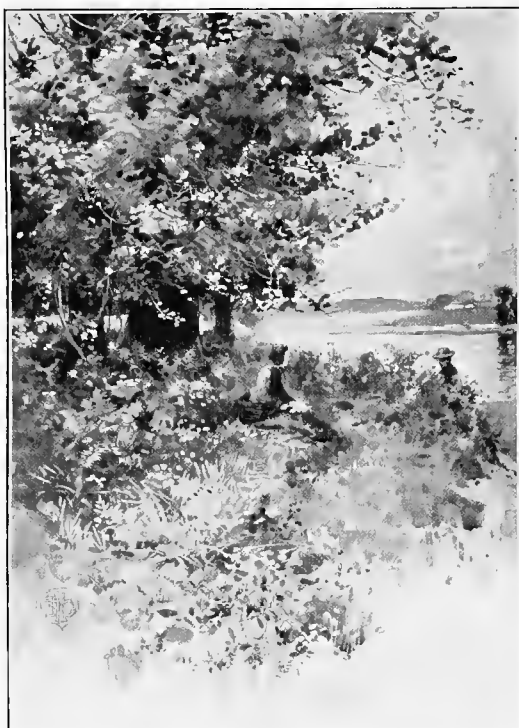
Vex the air of our vales no more;
The spear is beaten to hooks of prun-
ing,
The share is the sword the soldier
wore!

Sing soft, sing low, our lowland river,
Under thy banks of laurel bloom;
Softly and sweet, as the hour beseem-
eth,
Sing us the songs of peace and home.

Let all the tenderer voices of nature
Temper the triumph and chasten 10
mirth,
Full of the infinite love and pity
For fallen martyr and darkened
hearth.

But to Him who gives us beauty for
ashes,
And the oil of joy for mourning long,
Let thy hills give thanks, and all thy
waters
Break into jubilant waves of song!

Bring us the airs of hills and forests,
The sweet aroma of birch and pine,
Give us a waft of the north-wind
laden
With sweetbrier odors and breath of
kine! 20



“ But blue skies smile, and flowers bloom on,
And rivers still keep flowing ”

Bring us the purple of mountain sun-
sets,

Shadows of clouds that rake the
hills,

The green repose of thy Plymouth
meadows,

The gleam and ripple of Campton
rills.

Lead us away in shadow and sunshine,
Slaves of fancy, through all thy
miles,

The winding ways of Pemigewasset,
And Winnepesaukee's hundred isles.

Shatter in sunshine over thy ledges,
Laugh in thy plunges from fall to
fall;

30

Play with thy fringes of elms, and
darken

Under the shade of the mountain
wall.

The cradle-song of thy hillside foun-
tains

Herein thy glory and strength repeat;
Give us a taste of thy upland music,
Show us the dance of thy silver feet.

Into thy dutiful life of uses

Pour the music and weave the flow-
ers:

With the song of birds and bloom of
meadows

Lighten and gladden thy heart and
ours.

40

Sing on! bring down, O lowland river,
The joy of the hills to the waiting
sea;

The wealth of the vales, the pomp of
mountains,
The breath of the woodlands, bear
with thee.

Here, in the calm of thy seaward val-
ley,
Mirth and labor shall hold their
truce;

Dance of water and mill of grinding,
Both are beauty and both are use.

Type of the Northland's strength and
glory,
Pride and hope of our home and
race, — ⁵⁰

Freedom lending to rugged labor
Tints of beauty and lines of grace.

Once again, O beautiful river,
Hear our greetings and take our
thanks;

Hither we come, as Eastern pilgrims
Throng to the Jordan's sacred
banks.

For though by the Master's feet un-
trodden,
Though never His word has stilled
thy waves,

Well for us may thy shores be holy,
With Christian altars and saintly
graves. ⁶⁰

And well may we own thy hint and
token

Of fairer valleys and streams than
these,
Where the rivers of God are full of
water,
And full of sap are His healing trees!

"THE LAURELS"

AT THE TWENTIETH AND LAST ANNI-
VERSARY

FROM these wild rocks I look to-day
O'er leagues of dancing waves, and
see

The far, low coast-line stretch away
To where our river meets the sea.

The light wind blowing off the land
Is burdened with old voices;
through

Shut eyes I see how lip and hand
The greeting of old days renew.

O friends whose hearts still keep their
prime,
Whose bright example warms and
cheers,

Ye teach us how to smile at Time,
And set to music all his years!

I thank you for sweet summer days,
For pleasant memories lingering
long,

For joyful meetings, fond delays,
And ties of friendship woven strong.

As for the last time, side by side,
You tread the paths familiar grown,
I reach across the severing tide,
And blend my farewells with your
own.

Make room, O river of our home!
For other feet in place of ours,
And in the summers yet to come,
Make glad another Feast of Flow-
ers!

Hold in thy mirror, calm and deep,
The pleasant pictures thou hast
seen;

Forget thy lovers not, but keep
Our memory like thy laurels green.

JUNE ON THE MERRIMAC

O DWELLERS in the stately towns,
What come ye out to see?
This common earth, this common
sky,
This water flowing free?

As gayly as these kalmia flowers
Your door-yard blossoms spring;
As sweetly as these wild-wood birds
Your caged minstrels sing.

You find but common bloom and
green

The rippling river's rune, ¹⁰
The beauty which is everywhere
Beneath the skies of June;



“ Yet here no evil thought finds place,
Nor foot profane comes in.”

The Hawkswood oaks, the storm-torn
plumes
Of old pine-forest kings,
Beneath whose century-woven shade
Deer Island's mistress sings.

And here are pictured Artichoke,
And Curson's bowery mill;
And Pleasant Valley smiles between
The river and the hill. 20

You know full well these banks of
bloom,
The upland's wavy line,
And how the sunshine tips with fire
The needles of the pine.

Yet, like some old remembered psalm,
Or sweet, familiar face,
Not less because of commonness
You love the day and place.

And not in vain in this soft air
Shall hard-strung nerves relax, 30
Not all in vain the o'erworn brain
Forego its daily tax.

The lust of power, the greed of gain
Have all the year their own;
The haunting demons well may let
Our one bright day alone.

Unheeded let the newsboy call,
Aside the ledger lay:
The world will keep its treadmill
step
Though we fall out to-day. 40

The truants of life's weary school,
Without excuse from thrift
We change for once the gains of
toil
For God's unpurchased gift.

From ceiled rooms, from silent books,
From crowded car and town,
Dear Mother Earth, upon thy lap
We lay our tired heads down.

Cool, summer wind, our heated brows;
Blue river, through the green 50
Of clustering pines, refresh the eyes
Which all too much have seen.

For us these pleasant woodland ways
Are thronged with memories old,
Have felt the grasp of friendly hands
And heard love's story told.

A sacred presence overbroods
The earth whereon we meet;
These winding forest-paths are trod
By more than mortal feet. 60

Old friends called from us by the
voice
Which they alone could hear,
From mystery to mystery,
From life to life, draw near.

More closely for the sake of them
Each other's hands we press;
Our voices take from them a tone
Of deeper tenderness.

Our joy is theirs, their trust is ours, 70
Alike below, above,
Or here or there, about us fold
The arms of one great love!

We ask to-day no countersign,
No party names we own;
Unlabelled, individual,
We bring ourselves alone.

What cares the unconventional wood
For pass-words of the town?
The sound of fashion's shibboleth
The laughing waters drown. 80

Here cant forgets his dreary tone,
And care his face forlorn;
The liberal air and sunshine laugh
The bigot's zeal to scorn.

From manhood's weary shoulder falls
His load of selfish cares;
And woman takes her rights as flow-
ers
And brooks and birds take theirs.

The license of the happy woods,
The brook's release are ours; 90
The freedom of the unshamed wind
Among the glad-eyed flowers.

Yet here no evil thought finds
place,
Nor foot profane comes in;
Our grove, like that of Samothrace,
Is set apart from sin.

We walk on holy ground; above
A sky more holy smiles;
The chant of the beatitudes
Swells down these leafy aisles. 100

Thanks to the gracious Providence
That brings us here once more;
For memories of the good behind
And hopes of good before!

And if, unknown to us, sweet days
Of June like this must come,
Unseen of us these laurels clothe
The river-banks with bloom;

And these green paths must soon be
trod
By other feet than ours, 110
Full long may annual pilgrims come
To keep the Feast of Flowers;

The matron be a girl once more,
The bearded man a boy,
And we, in heaven's eternal June,
Be glad for earthly joy!

HYMN

FOR THE OPENING OF THOMAS STARR
KING'S HOUSE OF WORSHIP, 1864

AMIDST these glorious works of Thine,
The solemn minarets of the pine,
And awful Shasta's icy shrine, —

Where swell Thy hymns from wave
and gale,
And organ-thunders never fail,
Behind the cataract's silver veil, —

Our puny walls to Thee we raise,
Our poor reed-music sounds Thy
praise:
Forgive, O Lord, our childish ways!

June on the Merrimac



For, kneeling on these altar-stairs, ¹⁰
 We urge Thee not with selfish prayers,
 Nor murmur at our daily cares.

Before Thee, in an evil day,
 Our country's bleeding heart we
 lay,
 And dare not ask Thy hand to stay;

But, through the war-cloud, pray to
 Thee

For union; but a union free,
 With peace that comes of purity!

That Thou wilt bare Thy arm to
 save
 And, smiting through this Red Sea
 wave, ²⁰
 Make broad a pathway for the slave!

For us, confessing all our need,
 We trust nor rite nor word nor
 deed,
 Nor yet the broken staff of creed.

Assured alone that Thou art good
 To each, as to the multitude,
 Eternal Love and Fatherhood, —

Weak, sinful, blind, to Thee we kneel,
 Stretch dumbly forth our hands, and
 feel
 Our weakness is our strong appeal. ³⁰

So, by these Western gates of Even
 We wait to see with Thy forgiven
 The opening Golden Gate of Heaven!

Suffice it now. In time to be
 Shall holier altars rise to Thee, —
 Thy Church our broad humanity!

White flowers of love its walls shall
 climb,
 Soft bells of peace shall ring its chime,
 Its days shall all be holy time.

A sweeter song shall then be heard, —
 The music of the world's accord ⁴¹
 Confessing Christ, the Inward Word!

That song shall swell from shore to
 shore,
 One hope, one faith, one love, re-
 store
 The seamless robe that Jesus wore.

HYMN

FOR THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP AT
 GEORGETOWN, ERECTED IN MEMORY
 OF A MOTHER

Thou dwellest not, O Lord of all!
 In temples which thy children raise;
 Our work to Thine is mean and small,
 And brief to Thy eternal days.

Forgive the weakness and the pride,
 If marred thereby our gift may be,
 For love, at least, has sanctified
 The altar that we rear to thee.

The heart and not the hand has
 wrought
 From sunken base to tower above
 The image of a tender thought,
 The memory of a deathless love!

And though should never sound of
 speech
 Or organ echo from its wall,
 Its stones would pious lessons teach,
 Its shade in benedictions fall.

Here should the dove of peace be
 found,
 And blessings and not curses given;
 Nor strife profane, nor hatred wound
 The mingled loves of earth and hea-
 ven.

Thou, who didst soothe with dying
 breath
 The dear one watching by Thy
 cross,
 Forgetful of the pains of death
 In sorrow for her mighty loss,

In memory of that tender claim,
 O Mother-born, the offering take,
 And make it worthy of Thy name,
 And bless it for a mother's sake!

A SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATION

AT THE PRESIDENT'S LEVEE, BROWN
 UNIVERSITY, 29TH 6TH MONTH,
 1870

TO-DAY the plant by Williams set
 Its summer bloom discloses;

- The wilding sweetbrier of his prayers
Is crowned with cultured roses.
- Once more the Island State repeats
The lesson that he taught her,
And binds his pearl of charity
Upon her brown-locked daughter.
- Is't fancy that he watches still
His Providence plantations? 10
That still the careful Founder takes
A part on these occasions?
- Methinks I see that reverend form,
Which all of us so well know:
He rises up to speak; he jogs
The presidential elbow.
- "Good friends," he says, "you reap a
field
I sowed in self-denial,
For toleration had its griefs
And charity its trial. 20
- "Great grace, as saith Sir Thomas
More,
To him must needs be given
Who heareth heresy and leaves
The heretic to Heaven!
- "I hear again the snuffled tones,
I see in dreary vision
Dyspeptic dreamers, spiritual bores,
And prophets with a mission.
- "Each zealot thrust before my eyes
His Scripture-garbled label; 30
All creeds were shouted in my ears
As with the tongues of Babel.
- "Scourged at one cart-tail, each de-
nied
The hope of every other;
Each martyr shook his branded fist
At the conscience of his brother!
- "How cleft the dreary drone of man
The shriller pipe of woman,
As Gorton led his saints elect,
Who held all things in common! 40
- "Their gay robes trailed in ditch and
swamp,
And torn by thorn and thicket,
The dancing-girls of Merry Mount
Came dragging to my wicket.
- "Shrill Anabaptists, shorn of ears;
Gray witch-wives, hobbling slowly;
And Antinomians, free of law,
Whose very sins were holy.
- "Hoarse ranters, crazed Fifth Mon-
archists
Of stripes and bondage braggarts, 50
Pale Churchmen, with singed rubrics
snatched
From Puritanic fagots.
- "And last, not least, the Quakers
came,
With tongues still sore from burn-
ing,
The Bay State's dust from off their
feet
Before my threshold spurning;
- "A motley host, the Lord's *débris*,
Faith's odds and ends together;
Well might I shrink from guests with
lungs
Tough as their breeches leather: 60
- "If, when the hangman at their heels
Came, rope in hand to catch them,
I took the hunted outcasts in,
I never sent to fetch them.
- "I fed, but spared them not a whit;
I gave to all who walked in,
Not clams and succotash alone,
But stronger meat of doctrine.
- "I proved the prophets false, I pricked
The bubble of perfection, 70
And clapped upon their inner light
The snuffers of election.
- "And looking backward on my times,
This credit I am taking;
I kept each sectary's dish apart,
No spiritual chowder making.
- "Where now the blending signs of sect
Would puzzle their assorter,
The dry-shod Quaker kept the land,
The Baptist held the water. 80
- "A common coat now serves for both,
The hat's no more a fixture;
And which was wet and which was
dry,
Who knows in such a mixture?

"Well! He who fashioned Peter's
dream
To bless them all is able;
And bird and beast and creeping thing
Make clean upon His table!

"I walked by my own light; but when
The ways of faith divided, 90
Was I to force unwilling feet
To tread the path that I did?

"I touched the garment-hem of truth,
Yet saw not all its splendor;
I knew enough of doubt to feel
For every conscience tender.

"God left men free of choice, as when
His Eden-trees were planted;
Because they chose amiss, should I
Deny the gift He granted? 100

"So, with a common sense of need,
Our common weakness feeling,
I left them with myself to God
And His all-gracious dealing!

"I kept His plan whose rain and
sun
To tare and wheat are given;
And if the ways to hell were free,
I left them free to heaven!"

Take heart with us, O man of old,
Soul-freedom's brave confessor, 110
So love of God and man wax strong,
Let sect and creed be lesser.

The jarring discords of thy day
In ours one hymn are swelling;
The wandering feet, the severed paths,
All seek our Father's dwelling.

And slowly learns the world the truth
That makes us all thy debtor, —
That holy life is more than rite,
And spirit more than letter; 120

That they who differ pole-wide serve
Perchance the common Master,
And other sheep He hath than they
Who graze one narrow pasture!

For truth's worst foe is he who claims
To act as God's avenger,
And deems, beyond his sentry-beat,
The crystal walls in danger!

Who sets for heresy his traps
Of verbal quirk and quibble, 130
And weeds the garden of the Lord
With Satan's borrowed dibble.

To-day our hearts like organ keys
One Master's touch are feeling;
The branches of a common Vine
Have only leaves of healing.

Co-workers, yet from varied fields,
We share this restful nooning;
The Quaker with the Baptist here
Believes in close communing. 140

Forgive, dear saint, the playful tone,
Too light for thy deserving;
Thanks for thy generous faith in
man,
Thy trust in God unswerving.

Still echo in the hearts of men
The words that thou hast spoken;
No forge of hell can weld again
The fetters thou hast broken.

The pilgrim needs a pass no more
From Roman or Genevan; 150
Thought-free, no ghostly tollman
keeps
Henceforth the road to Heaven!

CHICAGO

MEN said at vespers: "All is well!"
In one wild night the city fell;
Fell shrines of prayer and marts of
gain
Before the fiery hurricane.

On threescore spires had sunset shone,
Where ghastly sunrise looked on none.
Men clasped each other's hands, and
said:
"The City of the West is dead!"

Brave hearts who fought, in slow re-
treat,
The fiends of fire from street to street,
Turned, powerless, to the blinding
glare,
The dumb defiance of despair.

A sudden impulse thrilled each wire
That signalled round that sea of fire;

Swift words of cheer, warm heart-
throbs came;
In tears of pity died the flame!

From East, from West, from South
and North,
The messages of hope shot forth,
And, underneath the severing wave,
The world, full-handed, reached to
save.

Fair seemed the old; but fairer still
The new, the dreary void shall fill
With dearer homes than those o'er-
thrown,
For love shall lay each corner-stone.

Rise, stricken city! from thee throw
The ashen sackcloth of thy woe;
And build, as to Amphion's strain,
To songs of cheer thy walls again!

How shrivelled in thy hot distress
The primal sin of selfishness!
How instant rose, to take thy part,
The angel in the human heart!

Ah! not in vain the flames that tossed
Above thy dreadful holocaust;
The Christ again has preached through
thee
The Gospel of Humanity!

Then lift once more thy towers on high,
And fret with spires the western sky,
To tell that God is yet with us,
And love is still miraculous!

KINSMAN

DIED AT THE ISLAND OF PANAY (PHIL-
IPPINE GROUP), AGED NINETEEN
YEARS

WHERE ceaseless Spring her garland
twines,

As sweetly shall the loved one rest,
As if beneath the whispering pines
And maple shadows of the West.

Ye mourn, O hearts of home! for him,
But, haply, mourn ye not alone;
For him shall far-off eyes be dim,
And pity speak in tongues un-
known.

There needs no graven line to give
The story of his blameless youth;
All hearts shall throb intuitive,
And nature guess the simple truth.

The very meaning of his name
Shall many a tender tribute win;
The stranger own his sacred claim,
And all the world shall be his kin.

And there, as here, on main and isle,
The dews of holy peace shall fall,
The same sweet heavens above him
smile
And God's dear love be over all!

THE GOLDEN WEDDING OF LONGWOOD

WITH fifty years between you and
your well-kept wedding vow,
The Golden Age, old friends of mine,
is not a fable now.

And, sweet as has life's vintage been
through all your pleasant past,
Still, as at Cana's marriage-feast, the
best wine is the last!

Again before me, with your names,
fair Chester's landscape comes,
Its meadows, woods, and ample barns,
and quaint, stone-built
homes.

The smooth-shorn vales, the wheaten
slopes, the boschage green and
soft,
Of which their poet sings so well from
towered Cedarcroft.

And lo! from all the country-side
come neighbors, kith and kin;
From city, hamlet, farm-house old,
the wedding guests come in. 10

And they who, without scrip or purse,
mob-hunted, travel-worn,
In Freedom's age of martyrs came, as
victors now return.

Older and slower, yet the same, files in
the long array,
And hearts are light and eyes are glad,
though heads are badger-gray.

The fire-tried men of Thirty-eight who
saw with me the fall,
Midst roaring flames and shouting
mob, of Pennsylvania Hall;

And they of Lancaster who turned the
cheeks of tyrants pale,
Singing of freedom through the grates
of Moyamensing jail!

And haply with them, all unseen, old
comrades, gone before,
Pass, silently as shadows pass, within
your open door, — 20

The eagle face of Lindley Coates,
brave Garrett's daring zeal,
The Christian grace of Pennock, the
steadfast heart of Neal.

Ah me! beyond all power to name,
the worthies tried and true,
Grave men, fair women, youth and
maid, pass by in hushed review.

Of varying faiths, a common cause
fused all their hearts in one.
God give them now, whate'er their
names, the peace of duty done!

How gladly would I tread again the
old-remembered places,
Sit down beside your hearth once more
and look in the dear old faces!

And thank you for the lessons your
fifty years are teaching, 29
For honest lives that louder speak
than half our noisy preaching;

For your steady faith and courage in
that dark and evil time,
When the Golden Rule was treason
and to feed the hungry crime;

For the poor slave's house of refuge
when the hounds were on his
track,
And saint and sinner, church and
state, joined hands to send him
back.

Blessings upon you! — What you did
for each sad, suffering one,
So homeless, faint, and naked, unto
our Lord was done!

Fair fall on Kennett's pleasant vales
and Longwood's bowery ways
The mellow sunset of your lives,
friends of my early days.

May many more of quiet years be
added to your sum,
And, late at last, in tenderest love, the
beckoning angel come. 40

Dear hearts are here, dear hearts are
there, alike below, above;
Our friends are now in either world,
and love is sure of love.

HYMN

FOR THE OPENING OF PLYMOUTH
CHURCH, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

ALL things are Thine: no gift have we,
Lord of all gifts, to offer Thee;
And hence with grateful hearts to-day,
Thy own before Thy feet we lay.

Thy will was in the builders' thought;
Thy hand unseen amidst us wrought;
Through mortal motive, scheme and
plan,
Thy wise eternal purpose ran.

No lack Thy perfect fulness knew;
For human needs and longings grew
This house of prayer, this home of
rest,
In the fair garden of the West.

In weakness and in want we call
On Thee for whom the heavens are
small;
Thy glory is Thy children's good,
Thy joy Thy tender Fatherhood.

O Father! deign these walls to bless,
Fill with Thy love their emptiness,
And let their door a gateway be
To lead us from ourselves to Thee!

LEXINGTON

1775

No Berserk thirst of blood had they,
No battle-joy was theirs, who set

Against the alien bayonet
Their homespun breasts in that old
day.

Their feet had trodden peaceful ways;
They loved not strife, they
dreaded pain;
They saw not, what to us is plain,
That God would make man's wrath
His praise. ⁸

No seers were they, but simple men;
Its vast results the future hid:
The meaning of the work they did
Was strange and dark and doubtful
then.

Swift as their summons came they
left
The plough mid-furrow standing
still,
The half-ground corn grist in the
mill,
The spade in earth, the axe in cleft.

They went where duty seemed to call,
They scarcely asked the reason
why;
They only knew they could but
die,
And death was not the worst of all! ²⁰

Of man for man the sacrifice,
All that was theirs to give, they
gave.
The flowers that blossomed from
their grave
Have sown themselves beneath all
skies.

Their death-shot shook the feudal
tower,
And shattered slavery's chain as
well;
On the sky's dome, as on a bell,
Its echo struck the world's great hour.

That fateful echo is not dumb:
The nations listening to its sound
Wait, from a century's vantage-
ground, ³¹
The holier triumphs yet to come, —

The bridal time of Law and Love,
The gladness of the world's re-
lease,

When, war-sick, at the feet of
Peace
The hawk shall nestle with the
dove! —

The golden age of brotherhood
Unknown to other rivalries
Than of the mild humanities,
And gracious interchange of good, ⁴⁰

When closer strand shall lean to
strand,
Till meet, beneath saluting flags,
The eagle of our mountain-crag,
The lion of our Motherland!

THE LIBRARY

SUNG AT THE OPENING OF THE HAVER-
HILL LIBRARY, NOVEMBER 11, 1875

"LET THERE BE LIGHT!" God spake
of old,
And over chaos dark and cold,
And through the dead and formless
frame
Of nature, life and order came.

Faint was the light at first that
shone
On giant fern and mastodon,
On half-formed plant and beast of
prey,
And man as rude and wild as they.

Age after age, like waves, o'eran
The earth, uplifting brute and man;
And mind, at length, in symbols
dark
Its meanings traced on stone and
bark.

On leaf of palm, on sedge-wrought
roll,
On plastic clay and leathern scroll,
Man wrote his thoughts; the ages
passed,
And lo! the Press was found at last!

Then dead souls woke; the thoughts
of men
Whose bones were dust revived
again;
The cloister's silence found a tongue,
Old prophets spake, old poets sung.



“They went where duty seemed to call”

And here, to-day, the dead look down;
The kings of mind again we crown;
We hear the voices lost so long,
The sage's word, the sibyl's song.

Here Greek and Roman find them-
selves
Alive along these crowded shelves;

And Shakespeare treads again his
stage,
And Chaucer paints anew his age.

As if some Pantheon's marbles broke
Their stony trance, and lived and spoke,
Life thrills along the alcoved hall,
The lords of thought await our call!

"I WAS A STRANGER AND YE
TOOK ME IN"

'NEATH skies that winter never knew
The air was full of light and balm,
And warm and soft the Gulf wind blew
Through orange bloom and groves of palm.

A stranger from the frozen North,
Who sought the fount of health in vain,
Sank homeless on the alien earth,
And breathed the languid air with pain.

God's angel came! The tender shade
Of pity made her blue eye dim;
Against her woman's breast she laid
The drooping, fainting head of him.

She bore him to a pleasant room,
Flower-sweet and cool with salt sea air,
And watched beside his bed, for whom
His far-off sisters might not care.

She fanned his feverish brow and smoothed
Its lines of pain with tenderest touch.

With holy hymn and prayer she soothed
The trembling soul that feared so much.

Through her the peace that passeth sight
Came to him, as he lapsed away
As one whose troubled dreams of night
Slide slowly into tranquil day.

The sweetness of the Land of Flowers
Upon his lonely grave she laid:
The jasmine dropped its golden show-ers,
The orange lent its bloom and shade.

And something whispered in her thought,
More sweet than mortal voices be:
"The service thou for him hast wrought,
O daughter! hath been done for me."

CENTENNIAL HYMN

I

OUR fathers' God! from out whose hand
The centuries fall like grains of sand,
We meet to-day, united, free,
And loyal to our land and Thee,
To thank Thee for the era done,
And trust Thee for the opening one.

II

Here, where of old, by Thy design,
The fathers spake that word of Thine
Whose echo is the glad refrain
Of rended bolt and falling chain,
To grace our festal time, from all
The zones of earth our guests we call.

III

Be with us while the New World greets
The Old World thronging all its streets,
Unveiling all the triumphs won
By art or toil beneath the sun;
And unto common good ordain
This rivalry of hand and brain.

IV

Thou, who hast here in concord furled
The war flags of a gathered world,
Beneath our Western skies fulfil
The Orient's mission of good-will,
And, freighted with love's Golden Fleece,
Send back its Argonauts of peace.

V

For art and labor met in truce,
For beauty made the bride of use,
We thank Thee; but, withal, we crave
The austere virtues strong to save,
The honor proof to place or gold,
The manhood never bought nor sold!

VI

Oh make Thou us, through centuries long,
In peace secure, in justice strong;
Around our gift of freedom draw

The safeguards of thy righteous law:
And, cast in some diviner mould,
Let the new cycle shame the old!

AT SCHOOL—CLOSE

BOWDOIN STREET, BOSTON, 1877

THE end has come, as come it must
To all things; in these sweet June
days

The teacher and the scholar trust
Their parting feet to separate ways.

They part: but in the years to be
Shall pleasant memories cling to
each,
As shells bear inland from the sea
The murmur of the rhythmic beach.

One knew the joy the sculptor knows
When, plastic to his lightest touch,
His clay-wrought model slowly grows
To that fine grace desired so much.

So daily grew before her eyes
The living shapes whereon she
wrought,
Strong, tender, innocently wise,
The child's heart with the woman's
thought.

And one shall never quite forget
The voice that called from dream
and play,
The firm but kindly hand that set
Her feet in learning's pleasant
way, — 20

The joy of Undine soul-possessed,
The wakening sense, the strange del-
light
That swelled the fabled statue's
breast
And filled its clouded eyes with
sight!

O Youth and Beauty, loved of all!
Ye pass from girlhood's gate of
dreams;
In broader ways your footsteps fall,
Ye test the truth of all that seems.

Her little realm the teacher leaves,
She breaks her wand of power apart,

While, for your love and trust, she gives
The warm thanks of a grateful heart.

Hers is the sober summer noon
Contrasted with your morn of
spring,
The waning with the waxing moon,
The folded with the outspread wing.

Across the distance of the years
She sends her God-speed back to
you;

She has no thought of doubts or fears:
Be but yourselves, be pure, be
true, 40

And prompt in duty; heed the deep,
Low voice of conscience; through
the ill
And discord round about you, keep
Your faith in human nature still.

Be gentle: unto griefs and needs,
Be pitiful as woman should,
And, in spite of all the lies of creeds,
Hold fast the truth that God is good.

Give and receive; go forth and bless
The world that needs the hand and
heart 50
Of Martha's helpful carefulness
No less than Mary's better part.

So shall the stream of time flow by
And leave each year a richer good,
And matron loveliness outvie
The nameless charm of maidenhood.

And, when the world shall link your
names
With gracious lives and manners
fine,
The teacher shall assert her claims,
And proudly whisper, "These were
mine!" 60

HYMN OF THE CHILDREN

SUNG AT THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILDREN'S MISSION, BOSTON, 1878

THINE are all the gifts, O God!
Thine the broken bread;
Let the naked feet be shod,
And the starving fed.

Let Thy children, by Thy grace,
Give as they abound,
Till the poor have breathing-space,
And the lost are found.

Wiser than the miser's hoards
Is the giver's choice;
Sweeter than the song of birds
Is the thankful voice.

Welcome smiles on faces sad
As the flowers of spring;
Let the tender hearts be glad
With the joy they bring.

Happier for their pity's sake
Make their sports and plays,
And from lips of childhood take
Thy perfected praise!

THE LANDMARKS

I

THROUGH the streets of Marblehead
Fast the red-winged terror sped;

Blasting, withering, on it came,
With its hundred tongues of flame,

Where St. Michael's on its way
Stood like chained Andromeda,

Waiting on the rock, like her,
Swift doom or deliverer!

Church that, after sea-moss grew
Over walls no longer new,

Counted generations five,
Four entombed and one alive;

Heard the martial thousand tread
Battleward from Marblehead;

Saw within the rock-walled bay
Treville's liliated pennons play,

And the fisher's dory met
By the barge of Lafayette,

Telling good news in advance
Of the coming fleet of France!

Church to reverend memories dear,
Quaint in desk and chandelier;

Bell, whose century-rusted tongue
Burials tolled and bridals rung;

Loft, whose tiny organ kept
Keys that Snetzler's hand had swept;

Altar, o'er whose tablet old
Sinai's law its thunders rolled!

Suddenly the sharp cry came:
"Look! St. Michael's is aflame!" 30

Round the low tower wall the fire
Snake-like wound its coil of ire.

Sacred in its gray respect
From the jealousies of sect,

"Save it," seemed the thought of all,
"Save it, though our roof-trees fall!"

Up the tower the young men sprung;
One, the bravest, outward swung

By the rope, whose kindling strands
Smoked beneath the holder's hands, 40

Smiting down with strokes of power
Burning fragments from the tower.

Then the gazing crowd beneath
Broke the painful pause of breath;

Brave men cheered from street to
street,

With home's ashes at their feet;

Houseless women kerchiefs waved:
"Thank the Lord! St. Michael's
saved!" 50

II

In the heart of Boston town
Stands the church of old renown, 50

From whose walls the impulse went
Which set free a continent;

From whose pulpit's oracle
Prophecies of freedom fell;

And whose steeple-rocking din
Rang the nation's birth-day in!

Standing at this very hour
Perilled like St. Michael's tower,



" In the heart of Boston town
Stands the church of old renown "

Held not in the clasp of flame,
But by mammon's grasping claim. 60

Shall it be of Boston said
She is shamed by Marblehead?

City of our pride! as there,
Hast thou none to do and dare?

Life was risked for Michael's shrine;
Shall not wealth be staked for thine?

Woe to thee, when men shall search
Vainly for the Old South Church;

When from Neck to Boston Stone,
All thy pride of place is gone; 70

When from Bay and railroad car,
Stretched before them wide and far,

Men shall only see a great
Wilderness of brick and slate,

Every holy spot o'erlaid
By the commonplace of trade!

City of our love! to thee
Duty is but destiny.

True to all thy record saith,
Keep with thy traditions faith; 80

Ere occasion 's overpast,
Hold its flowing forelock fast;

Honor still the precedents
Of a grand munificence;

In thy old historic way
Give, as thou didst yesterday

At the South-land's call, or on
Need's demand from fired St. John.

Set thy Church's muffled bell
Free the generous deed to tell. 90

Let thy loyal hearts rejoice
In the glad, sonorous voice,

Ring from the brazen mouth
Of the bell of the Old South, —

Ring clearly, with a will,
"What she was is Boston still!"

GARDEN

HYMN FOR THE AMERICAN HORTICUL-
TURAL SOCIETY, 1882

O PAINTER of the fruits and flowers,
We own Thy wise design,
Whereby these human hands of ours
May share the work of Thine!

Apart from Thee we plant in vain
The root and sow the seed;
Thy early and Thy later rain,
Thy sun and dew we need.

Our toil is sweet with thankfulness,
Our burden is our boon;
The curse of Earth's gray morning is
The blessing of its noon.

Why search the wide world every-
where
For Eden's unknown ground?
That garden of the primal pair
May nevermore be found.

But, blest by Thee, our patient toil
May right the ancient wrong,

And give to every clime and soil
The beauty lost so long.

Our homestead flowers and fruited
trees
May Eden's orchard shame;
We taste the tempting sweets of
these
Like Eve, without her blame.

And, North and South and East and
West,
The pride of every zone,
The fairest, rarest, and the best
May all be made our own.

Its earliest shrines the young world
sought
In hill-groves and in bowers,
The fittest offerings thither brought
Were Thy own fruits and flowers.

And still with reverent hands we call
Thy gifts each year renewed;
The good is always beautiful,
The beautiful is good.

A GREETING

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE'S SEVEN-
TIETH ANNIVERSARY, JUNE 14,
1882

THRICE welcome from the Land of
Flowers
And golden-fruited orange bowers
To this sweet, green-turfed June of
ours!

To her who, in our evil time,
Dragged into light the nation's crime
With strength beyond the strength of
men,
And, mightier than their swords, her
pen!

To her who world-wide entrance gave
To the log-cabin of the slave;
Made all his wrongs and sorrows
known,
And all earth's languages his own, —
North, South, and East and West,
made all

The common air electrical,
Until the o'ercharged bolts of heaven
Blazed down, and every chain was
riven!



“ To her who, in our evil time,
Dragged into light the nation's crime ”

Welcome from each and all to her
Whose Wooing of the Minister
Revealed the warm heart of the man
Beneath the creed-bound Puritan,
And taught the kinship of the love 20
Of man below and God above;
To her whose vigorous pencil-strokes
Sketched into life her Oldtown Folks;
Whose fireside stories, grave or gay,
In quaint Sam Lawson's vagrant way
With old New England's flavor rife,
Waifs from her rude idyllic life,
Are racy as the legends old
By Chaucer or Boccaccio told;

To her who keeps, through change of
place
And time, her native strength and 30
grace,
Alike where warm Sorrento smiles,
Or where, by birchen-shaded isles,
Whose summer winds have shivered
o'er
The icy drift of Labrador,
She lifts to light the priceless Pearl
Of Harpswell's angel-beckoned girl!
To her at threescore years and ten
Be tributes of the tongue and
pen;

Be honor, praise, and heart-thanks
 given,⁴⁰
 The loves of earth, the hopes of heaven!

Ah, dearer than the praise that stirs
 The air to-day, our love is hers!
 She needs no guaranty of fame
 Whose own is linked with Freedom's
 name.

Long ages after ours shall keep
 Her memory living while we sleep;
 The waves that wash our gray coast
 lines,

The winds that rock the Southern pines,
 Shall sing of her; the unending years
 Shall tell her tale in unborn ears.⁵¹
 And when, with sins and follies past,
 Are numbered color-hate and caste,
 White, black, and red shall own as one
 The noblest work by woman done.

GODSPEED

OUTBOUND, your bark awaits you.
 Were I one

Whose prayer availeth much, my
 wish should be

Your favoring trade-wind and con-
 senting sea.

By sail or steed was never love outrun,
 And, here or there, love follows her in
 whom

All graces and sweet charities unite,
 The old Greek beauty set in holier
 light;

And her for whom New England's by-
 ways bloom,

Who walks among us welcome as the
 Spring,

Calling up blossoms where her light
 feet stray.

God keep you both, make beautiful
 your way,

Comfort, console, and bless; and
 safely bring,

Ere yet I make upon a vaster sea
 The unreturning voyage, my friends
 to me.

WINTER ROSES

My garden roses long ago
 Have perished from the leaf-strewn
 walks;

Their pale, fair sisters smile no more
 Upon the sweet-brier stalks.

Gone with the flower-time of my life,
 Spring's violets, summer's blooming
 pride,

And Nature's winter and my own
 Stand, flowerless, side by side.

So might I yesterday have sung;
 To-day, in bleak December's noon,
 Come sweetest fragrance, shapes, and
 hues,

The rosy wealth of June!

Bless the young hands that culled the
 gift,

And bless the hearts that prompted
 it;

If undeserved it comes, at least
 It seems not all unfit.

Of old my Quaker ancestors
 Had gifts of forty stripes save one;
 To-day as many roses crown
 The gray head of their son.

And with them, to my fancy's eye,
 The fresh-faced givers smiling come,
 And nine and thirty happy girls
 Make glad a lonely room.

They bring the atmosphere of youth;
 The light and warmth of long ago
 Are in my heart, and on my cheek
 The airs of morning blow.

O buds of girlhood, yet unblown,
 And fairer than the gift ye chose,
 For you may years like leaves unfold
 The heart of Sharon's rose!

THE REUNION

Read September 10, 1885, to the surviving
 students of Haverhill Academy in 1827-
 1830.

The gulf of seven and fifty years
 We stretch our welcoming hands
 across;

The distance but a pebble's toss
 Between us and our youth appears.

For in life's school we linger on
 The remnant of a once full list;

Conning our lessons, undismissed,
With faces to the setting sun.

And some have gone the unknown
way,
And some await the call to rest; 10
Who knoweth whether it is best
For those who went or those who
stay?

And yet despite of loss and ill,
If faith and love and hope remain,
Our length of days is not in vain,
And life is well worth living still.

Still to a gracious Providence
The thanks of grateful hearts are
due,
For blessings when our lives were
new, 19
For all the good vouchsafed us since.

The pain that spared us sorer hurt,
The wish denied, the purpose
crossed,
And pleasure's fond occasions lost,
Were mercies to our small desert.

'T is something that we wander back,
Gray pilgrims, to our ancient ways,
And tender memories of old days
Walk with us by the Merrimac;

That even in life's afternoon
A sense of youth comes back again,
As through this cool September
rain 31
The still green woodlands dream of
June.

The eyes grown dim to present things
Have keener sight for bygone years,
And sweet and clear, in deafening
ears,
The bird that sang at morning sings.

Dear comrades, scattered wide and
far,
Send from their homes their kindly
word,
And dearer ones, unseen, unheard,
Smile on us from some heavenly star.

For life and death with God are one,
Unchanged by seeming change His
care 42

And love are round us here and
there;
He breaks no thread His hand has
spun.

Soul touches soul, the muster roll
Of life eternal has no gaps;
And after half a century's lapse
Our school-day ranks are closed and
whole.

Hail and farewell! We go our way;
Where shadows end, we trust in
light; 50
The star that ushers in the night
Is herald also of the day!

NORUMBEGA HALL

Not on Penobscot's wooded bank the
spires
Of the sought City rose, nor yet he-
side
The winding Charles, nor where the
daily tide
Of Naumkeag's haven rises and re-
tires,
The vision tarried; but somewhere we
knew
The beautiful gates must open to our
quest,
Somewhere that marvellous City of
the West
Would lift its towers and palace domes
in view,
And, lo! at last its mystery is made
known —
Its only dwellers maidens fair and
young,
Its Princess such as England's Lau-
reate sung;
And safe from capture, save by love
alone,
It lends its beauty to the lake's green
shore,
And Norumbega is a myth no more.

THE BARTHOLDI STATUE

1886

THE land, that, from the rule of kings,
In freeing us, itself made free,
Our Old World Sister, to us brings
Her sculptured Dream of Liberty:



“ Rise, stately Symbol! holding forth
Thy light and hope to all who sit
In chains and darkness ! ”

Unlike the shapes on Egypt's sands
Uplifted by the toil-worn slave,
On Freedom's soil with freemen's
hands
We rear the symbol free hands gave.

O France, the beautiful! to thee
Once more a debt of love we owe:
In peace beneath thy Colors Three,
We hail a later Rochambeau!

Rise, stately Symbol! holding forth
Thy light and hope to all who sit
In chains and darkness! Belt the
earth
With watch-fires from thy torch
uplit!

Reveal the primal mandate still
Which Chaos heard and ceased to be,

Trace on mid-air th' Eternal Will
In signs of fire: “ Let man be free ! ”

Shine far, shine free, a guiding light
To Reason's ways and Virtue's aim,
A lightning-flash the wretch to smite
Who shields his license with thy
name!

ONE OF THE SIGNERS

O STORIED vale of Merrimac,
Rejoice through all thy shade and
shine,
And from his century's sleep call back
A brave and honored son of thine.

Unveil his effigy between
The living and the dead to-day;

The fathers of the Old Thirteen
Shall witness bear as spirits may.

Unseen, unheard, his gray compeers,
The shades of Lee and Jefferson, 10
Wise Franklin reverend with his years,
And Carroll, lord of Carrollton!

Be thine henceforth a pride of place
Beyond thy namesake's over-sea,
Where scarce a stone is left to trace
The Holy House of Amesbury.

A prouder memory lingers round
The birthplace of thy true man
here
Than that which haunts the refuge
found
By Arthur's mythic Guinevere. 20

The plain deal table where he sat
And signed a nation's title-deed
Is dearer now to fame than that
Which bore the scroll of Runny-
mede.

Long as, on Freedom's natal morn,
Shall ring the Independence bells,
Give to thy dwellers yet unborn
The lesson which his image tells.

For in that hour of Destiny,
Which tried the men of bravest
stock, 30

He knew the end alone must be
A free land or a traitor's block.

Among those picked and chosen men
Than his, who here first drew his
breath,
No firmer fingers held the pen
Which wrote for liberty or death.

Not for their hearths and homes alone,
But for the world their work was
done;

On all the winds their thought has
flown
Through all the circuit of the sun. 40

We trace its flight by broken chains,
By songs of grateful Labor still;
To-day, in all her holy fanes,
It rings the bells of freed Brazil.

O hills that watched his boyhood's
home,
O earth and air that nursed him,
give,

In this memorial semblance, room
To him who shall its bronze out-
live!

And thou, O Land he loved, rejoice
That in the countless years to come,
Whenever Freedom needs a voice, 51
These sculptured lips shall not be
dumb!



" Behind them, marshes, seamed and crossed
With narrow creeks, and flower-embossed "

THE TENT ON THE BEACH

THE TENT ON THE BEACH

I WOULD not sin, in this half-playful
strain, —
Too light perhaps for serious years,
though born
Of the enforced leisure of slow pain, —
Against the pure ideal which has
drawn

My feet to follow its far-shining gleam.
A simple plot is mine: legends and
runes
Of credulous days, old fancies that
have lain
Silent from boyhood taking voice
again,
Warmed into life once more, even as
the tunes

That, frozen in the fabled hunting-
 horn, ¹⁰
 Thawed into sound: — a winter fire-
 side dream
 Of dawns and sunsets by the summer
 sea,
 Whose sands are traversed by a silent
 throng
 Of voyagers from that vaster mystery
 Of which it is an emblem; — and the
 dear
 Memory of one who might have tuned
 my song
 To sweeter music by her delicate ear.

When heats as of a tropic clime
 Burned all our inland valleys
 through,
 Three friends, the guests of summer
 time, ²⁰
 Pitched their white tent where
 sea-winds blew.
 Behind them, marshes, seamed and
 crossed
 With narrow creeks, and flower-
 embossed,
 Stretched to the dark oak wood, whose
 leafy arms
 Screened from the stormy East the
 pleasant inland farms.

At full of tide their bolder shore
 Of sun-bleached sand the waters
 beat;
 At ebb, a smooth and glistening floor
 They touched with light, receding
 feet.
 Northward a green bluff broke the
 chain ³⁰
 Of sand-hills; southward stretched
 a plain
 Of salt grass, with a river winding
 down,
 Sail-whitened, and beyond the stee-
 ples of the town, —

Whence sometimes, when the wind
 was light
 And dull the thunder of the beach
 They heard the bells of morn and
 night
 Swing, miles away, their silver
 speech.
 Above low scarp and turf-grown
 wall

They saw the fort-flag rise and fall;
 And, the first star to signal twilight's
 hour, ⁴⁰
 The lamp-fire glimmer down from the
 tall light-house tower.

They rested there, escaped awhile
 From cares that wear the life
 away,
 To eat the lotus of the Nile
 And drink the poppies of Ca-
 thay, —
 To fling their loads of custom down,
 Like drift-weed, on the sand-slopes
 brown,
 And in the sea-waves drown the rest-
 less pack
 Of duties, claims, and needs that
 barked upon their track.

One, with his beard scarce silvered,
 bore ⁵⁰
 A ready credence in his looks,
 A lettered magnate, lording o'er
 An ever-widening realm of books.
 In him brain-currents, near and far,
 Converged as in a Leyden jar;
 The old, dead authors thronged him
 round about,
 And Elzevir's gray ghosts from lea-
 thern graves looked out.

He knew each living pundit well,
 Could weigh the gifts of him or
 her,
 And well the market value tell ⁶⁰
 Of poet and philosopher.
 But if he lost, the scenes behind,
 Somewhat of reverence vague and
 blind,
 Finding the actors human at the best,
 No readier lips than his the good he
 saw confessed.

His boyhood fancies not outgrown,
 He loved himself the singer's art;
 Tenderly, gently, by his own
 He knew and judged an author's
 heart.
 No Rhadamanthine brow of doom
 Bowed the dazed pedant from his
 room; ⁷¹
 And bards, whose name is legion, if
 denied,
 Bore off alike intact their verses and
 their pride.

Pleasant it was to roam about
 The lettered world as he had done,
 And see the lords of song without
 Their singing robes and garlands
 on.
 With Wordsworth paddle Rydal
 mere,
 Taste rugged Elliott's home-brewed
 beer,
 And with the ears of Rogers, at four-
 score, ⁸⁰
 Hear Garrick's buskined tread and
 Walpole's wit once more.

And one there was, a dreamer born,
 Who, with a mission to fulfil,
 Had left the Muses' haunts to turn
 The crank of an opinion-mill,
 Making his rustic reed of song
 A weapon in the war with wrong,
 Yoking his fancy to the breaking-
 plough
 That beam-deep turned the soil for
 truth to spring and grow.

Too quiet seemed the man to ride ⁹⁰
 The winged Hippogriff Reform;
 Was his a voice from side to side
 To pierce the tumult of the
 storm?
 A silent, shy, peace-loving man,
 He seemed no fiery partisan
 To hold his way against the public
 frown,
 The ban of Church and State, the
 fierce mob's hounding down.

For while he wrought with strenu-
 ous will
 The work his hands had found to
 do,
 He heard the fitful music still ¹⁰⁰
 Of winds that out of dream-land
 blew.
 The din about him could not drown
 What the strange voices whispered
 down;
 Along his task-field weird processions
 swept,
 The visionary pomp of stately phan-
 toms stepped.

The common air was thick with
 dreams, —
 He told them to the toiling
 crowd;

Such music as the woods and
 streams
 Sang in his ear he sang aloud;
 In still, shut bays, on windy capes,
 He heard the call of beckoning
 shapes, ¹¹¹
 And, as the gray old shadows prompted
 him,
 To homely moulds of rhyme he shaped
 their legends grim.

He rested now his weary hands,
 And lightly moralized and
 laughed,
 As, tracing on the shifting sands
 A burlesque of his paper-craft,
 He saw the careless waves o'erun
 His words, as time before had done,
 Each day's tide-water washing clean
 away, ¹²⁰
 Like letters from the sand, the work of
 yesterday.

And one, whose Arab face was
 tanned
 By tropic sun and boreal frost,
 So travelled there was scarce a land
 Or people left him to exhaust,
 In idling mood had from him hurled
 The poor squeezed orange of the
 world,
 And in the tent-shade, sat beneath a
 palm,
 Smoked, cross-legged like a Turk, in
 Oriental calm.

The very waves that washed the
 sand ¹³⁰
 Below him, he had seen before
 Whitening the Scandinavian strand
 And sultry Mauritanian shore.
 From ice-rimmed isles, from sum-
 mer seas
 Palm-fringed, they bore him mes-
 sages;
 He heard the plaintive Nubian songs
 again,
 And mule-bells tinkling down the
 mountain-paths of Spain.

His memory round the ransacked
 earth
 On Puck's long girdle slid at ease;
 And, instant, to the valley's girth
 Of mountains, spice isles of the
 seas, ¹⁴¹

Faith flowered in minster stones,
 Art's guess
 At truth and beauty, found access;
 Yet loved the while, that free cosmopolite,
 Old friends, old ways, and kept his
 boyhood's dreams in sight.

Untouched as yet by wealth and
 pride,
 That virgin innocence of beach:
 No shingly monster, hundred-eyed,
 Stared its gray sand-birds out of
 reach;
 Unhoused, save where, at intervals,
 The white tents showed their canvas
 walls,
 Where brief sojourners, in the cool,
 soft air,
 Forgot their inland heats, hard toil,
 and year-long care.

Sometimes along the wheel-deep
 sand
 A one-horse wagon slowly
 crawled,
 Deep laden with a youthful band,
 Whose look some homestead old
 recalled;
 Brother perchance, and sisters
 twain,
 And one whose blue eyes told, more
 plain
 Than the free language of her rosy
 lip,
 Of the still dearer claim of love's rela-
 tionship.

With cheeks of russet-orchard tint,
 The light laugh of their native rills,
 The perfume of their garden's mint,
 The breezy freedom of the hills,
 They bore, in unrestrained delight,
 The motto of the Garter's knight,
 Careless as if from every gazing thing
 Hid by their innocence, as Gyges by
 his ring.

The clanging sea-fowl came and
 went,
 The hunter's gun in the marshes
 rang;
 At nightfall from a neighboring tent
 A flute-voiced woman sweetly
 sang.

Loose-haired, barefooted, hand-in-
 hand,
 Young girls went tripping down the
 sand;
 And youths and maidens, sitting in
 the moon,
 Dreamed o'er the old fond dream
 from which we wake too soon.

At times their fishing-lines they
 plied,
 With an old Triton at the oar,
 Salt as the sea-wind, tough and
 dried
 As a lean cusk from Labrador.
 Strange tales he told of wreck and
 storm,
 Had seen the sea-snake's awful
 form,
 And heard the ghosts on Haley's Isle
 complain,
 Speak him off shore, and beg a pas-
 sage to old Spain!

Ah! there, on breezy morns, they
 saw
 The fishing-schooners outward
 run,
 Their low-bent sails in tack and
 flaw
 Turned white or dark to shade
 and sun.
 Sometimes, in calms of closing
 day,
 They watched the spectral mirage
 play,
 Saw low, far islands looming tall and
 nigh,
 And ships, with upturned keels, sail
 like a sea the sky.

Sometimes a cloud, with thunder
 black,
 Stooped low upon the darkening
 main,
 Piercing the waves along its track
 With the slant javelins of
 rain.
 And when west-wind and sunshine
 warm
 Chased out to sea its wrecks of
 storm,
 They saw the prismatic hues in thin
 spray showers
 Where the green buds of waves burst
 into white froth flowers.

And when along the line of shore
 The mists crept upward chill and damp,
 Stretched, careless, on their sandy floor
 Beneath the flaring lantern lamp,
 They talked of all things old and new,
 Read, slept, and dreamed as idlers do;
 And in the unquestioned freedom of
 the tent,
 Body and o'er-taxed mind to healthful
 ease unbent.

Once, when the sunset splendors
 died, ²⁷⁰
 And, trampling up the sloping
 sand,
 In lines outreaching far and wide,
 The white-maned billows swept
 to land,
 Dim seen across the gathering
 shade,
 A vast and ghostly cavalcade,
 They sat around their lighted kero-
 sene,
 Hearing the deep bass roar their every
 pause between.

Then, urged thereto, the Editor
 Within his full portfolio dipped,
 Feigning excuse while searching for
 (With secret pride) his manu-
 script. ²²¹
 His pale face flushed from eye to
 heard,
 With nervous cough his throat he
 cleared,
 And, in a voice so tremulous it he-
 trayed
 The anxious fondness of an author's
 heart, he read:

THE WRECK OF RIVERMOUTH

RIVERMOUTH Rocks are fair to see,
 By dawn or sunset shone across,
 When the ebb of the sea has left them
 free
 To dry their fringes of gold-green
 moss:
 For there the river comes winding
 down, ²³⁰
 From salt sea-meadows and uplands
 brown,

And waves on the outer rocks afoam
 Shout to its waters, "Welcome home!"

And fair are the sunny isles in view
 East of the grisly Head of the Boar,
 And Agamenticus lifts its blue
 Disk of a cloud the woodlands o'er;
 And southerly, when the tide is down,
 'Twixt white sea-waves and sand-hills
 brown,
 The beach-birds dance and the gray
 gulls wheel ²⁴⁰
 Over a floor of burnished steel.

Once, in the old Colonial days,
 Two hundred years ago and more,
 A boat sailed down through the wind-
 ing ways
 Of Hampton River to that low shore,
 Full of a goodly company
 Sailing out on the summer sea,
 Veering to catch the land-breeze light,
 With the Boar to left and the Rocks
 to right.

In Hampton meadows, where mowers
 laid ²⁵⁰
 Their scythes to the swaths of salted
 grass,
 "Ah, well-a-day! our hay must be
 made!"
 A young man sighed, who saw them
 pass.
 Loud laughed his fellows to see him
 stand
 Whetting his scythe with a listless
 hand,
 Hearing a voice in a far-off song,
 Watching a white hand beckoning
 long.

"Fie on the witch!" cried a merry
 girl,
 As they rounded the point where
 Goody Cole ²⁵⁹
 Sat by her door with her wheel atwirl,
 A bent and bleary-eyed poor old
 soul.
 "Oho!" she muttered, "ye 're brave
 to-day!
 But I hear the little waves laugh and
 say,
 'The broth will be cold that waits at
 home;
 For it's one to go, but another to
 come!'"



“ ‘Oho!’ she muttered, ‘ye’re brave to-day!’ ”

“She’s cursed,” said the skipper;
“speak her fair:

I’m scary always to see her
shake
Her wicked head, with its wild gray
hair,
And nose like a hawk, and eyes like
a snake.”

But merrily still, with laugh and
shout,²⁷⁰
From Hampton River the boat sailed
out,
Till the huts and the flakes on Star
seemed nigh,
And they lost the scent of the pines of
Rye.

They dropped their lines in the lazy
tide,
Drawing up haddock and mottled
cod;
They saw not the Shadow that walked
beside,
They heard not the feet with silence
shod.

But thicker and thicker a hot mist
grew,
Shot by the lightnings through and
through;
And muffled growls, like the growl of
a beast,²⁸⁰
Ran along the sky from west to east.

Then the skipper looked from the
darkening sea

Up to the dimmed and wading sun;
But he spake like a brave man cheer-
ily,

“Yet there is time for our home-
ward run.”

Veering and tacking, they backward
wore;

And just as a breath from the woods
ashore

Blew out to whisper of danger past,
The wrath of the storm came down at
last!²⁸⁰

The skipper hauled at the heavy sail:
“God be our help!” he only cried,

As the roaring gale, like the stroke of a flail,
Smote the boat on its starboard side.

The Shoalsmen looked, but saw alone
Dark films of rain-cloud slantwise blown,

Wild rocks lit up by the lightning's glare,

The strife and torment of sea and air.

Goody Cole looked out from her door:
The Isles of Shoals were drowned and gone,

Scarcely she saw the Head of the Boar ³⁰⁰

Toss the foam from tusks of stone.
She clasped her hands with a grip of pain,

The tear on her cheek was not of rain:
"They are lost," she muttered, "boat and crew!"

Lord, forgive me! my words were true!"

Suddenly seaward swept the squall;
The low sun smote through cloudy rack;

The Shoals stood clear in the light, and all

The trend of the coast lay hard and black. ³⁰⁰

But far and wide as eye could reach,
No life was seen upon wave or beach;
The boat that went out at morning never

Sailed back again into Hampton River.

O mower, lean on thy bended snath,
Look from the meadows green and low:

The wind of the sea is a waft of death,
The waves are singing a song of woe!

By silent river, by moaning sea,
Long and vain shall thy watching be:
Never again shall the sweet voice call, ³²⁰

Never the white hand rise and fall!

O Rivermouth Rocks, how sad a sight
Ye saw in the light of breaking day!
Dead faces looking up cold and white
From sand and seaweed where they lay.

The mad old witch-wife wailed and wept,
And cursed the tide as it backward crept:

"Crawl back, crawl back, blue water-snake!

Leave your dead for the hearts that break!"

Solemn it was in that old day ³³⁰
In Hampton town and its log-built church,

Where side by side the coffins lay
And the mourners stood in aisle and porch.

In the singing-seats young eyes were dim,

The voices faltered that raised the hymn,

And Father Dalton, grave and stern,
Sobbed through his prayer and wept in turn.

But his ancient colleague did not pray;

Under the weight of his fourscore years

He stood apart with the iron-gray ³⁴⁰
Of his strong brows knitted to hide his tears;

And a fair-faced woman of doubtful fame,

Linking her own with his honored name,

Subtle as sin, at his side withstood
The felt reproach of her neighborhood.

Apart with them, like them forbid,
Old Goody Cole looked drearily round,

As, two by two, with their faces hid,

The mourners walked to the burying-ground.

She let the staff from her clasped hands fall: ³⁵⁰

"Lord, forgive us! we 're sinners all!"

And the voice of the old man answered her:

"Amen!" said Father Bachiler.

So, as I sat upon Appledore
In the calm of a closing summer day,

Goody Cole



And the broken lines of Hampton
shore

In purple mist of cloudland lay,
The Rivermouth Rocks their story
told;

And waves aglow with sunset gold,
Rising and breaking in steady chime,
Beat the rhythm and kept the time.³⁶¹

And the sunset paled, and warmed
once more

With a softer, tenderer after-glow;
In the east was moon-rise, with boats
off-shore

And sails in the distance drifting
slow.

The beacon glimmered from Ports-
mouth bar,

The White Isle kindled its great red
star;

And life and death in my old-time lay
Mingled in peace like the night and
day!

“Well!” said the Man of Books,
“your story ³⁷⁰

Is really not ill told in verse.
As the Celt said of purgatory,
One might go farther and fare
worse.”

The Reader smiled; and once again
With steadier voice took up his
strain,

While the fair singer from the neigh-
boring tent

Drew near, and at his side a graceful
listener bent.

THE GRAVE BY THE LAKE

WHERE the Great Lake's sunny smiles
Dimple round its hundred isles,
And the mountain's granite ledge ³⁸⁰
Cleaves the water like a wedge,
Ringed about with smooth, gray
stones,
Rest the giant's mighty bones.

Close beside, in shade and gleam,
Laughs and ripples Melvin stream;
Melvin water, mountain-born,
All fair flowers its banks adorn;
All the woodland voices meet,
Mingling with its murmurs sweet.

Over lowlands forest-grown, ³⁹⁰
Over waters island-strown,
Over silver-sanded beach,
Leaf-locked bay and misty reach,
Melvin stream and burial-heap,
Watch and ward the mountains
keep.

Who that Titan cromlech fills?
Forest-kaiser, lord o' the hills?
Knight who on the birchen tree
Carved his savage heraldry?
Priest o' the pine-wood temples dim,
Prophet, sage, or wizard grim? ⁴⁰¹

Rugged type of primal man,
Grim utilitarian,
Loving woods for hunt and prowl,
Lake and hill for fish and fowl,
As the brown bear blind and dull
To the grand and beautiful:

Not for him the lesson drawn
From the mountains smit with dawn.
Star-rise, moon-rise, flowers of May,
Sunset's purple bloom of day, — ⁴¹¹
Took his life no hue from thence,
Poor amid such affluence?

Haply unto hill and tree
All too near akin was he:
Unto him who stands afar
Nature's marvels greatest are;
Who the mountain purple seeks
Must not climb the higher peaks.

Yet who knows, in winter tramp, ⁴²⁰
Or the midnight of the camp,
What revealings faint and far,
Stealing down from moon and star,
Kindled in that human clod
Thought of destiny and God?

Stateliest forest patriarch,
Grand in robes of skin and bark,
What sepulchral mysteries,
What weird funeral-rites, were his?
What sharp wail, what drear lament,
Back scared wolf and eagle sent? ⁴³¹

Now, whate'er he may have been,
Low he lies as other men;
On his mound the partridge drums,
There the noisy blue-jay comes;
Rank nor name nor pomp has he
In the grave's democracy.

Part thy blue lips, Northern lake!
Moss-grown rocks, your silence break!
Tell the tale, thou ancient tree! 440
Thou, too, slide-worn Ossipee!
Speak, and tell us how and when
Lived and died this king of men!

Wordless moans the ancient pine;
Lake and mountain give no sign;
Vain to trace this ring of stones;
Vain the search of crumbling bones:
Deepest of all mysteries,
And the saddest, silence is.

Nameless, noteless, clay with clay 450
Mingles slowly day by day;
But somewhere, for good or ill,
That dark soul is living still;
Somewhere yet that atom's force
Moves the light-poised universe.

Strange that on his burial-sod
Harebells bloom, and golden-rod,
While the soul's dark horostope
Holds no starry sign of hope!
Is the Unseen with sight at odds? 460
Nature's pity more than God's?

Thus I mused by Melvin's side,
While the summer eventide
Made the woods and inland sea
And the mountains mystery;
And the hush of earth and air
Seemed the pause before a prayer, —

Prayer for him, for all who rest,
Mother Earth, upon thy breast, —
Lapped on Christian turf, or hid 470
In rock-cave or pyramid:
All who sleep, as all who live,
Well may need the prayer, "For-
give!"

Desert-smothered caravan,
Knee-deep dust that once was man,
Battle-trenches ghastly piled,
Ocean-floors with white bones tiled,
Crowded tomb and mounded sod,
Dumbly crave that prayer to God.

Oh, the generations old 480
Over whom no church-bells tolled,
Christless, lifting up blind eyes
To the silence of the skies!
For the innumerable dead
Is my soul disquieted.

Where be now these silent hosts?
Where the camping-ground of ghosts?
Where the spectral conscripts led
To the white tents of the dead?
What strange shore or chartless sea
Holds the awful mystery? 490

Then the warm sky stooped to make
Double sunset in the lake;
While above I saw with it,
Range on range, the mountains lit;
And the calm and splendor stole
Like an answer to my soul.

Hear'st thou, O of little faith,
What to thee the mountain saith,
What is whispered by the trees? —
"Cast on God thy care for these; 500
Trust Him, if thy sight be dim:
Doubt for them is doubt of Him.

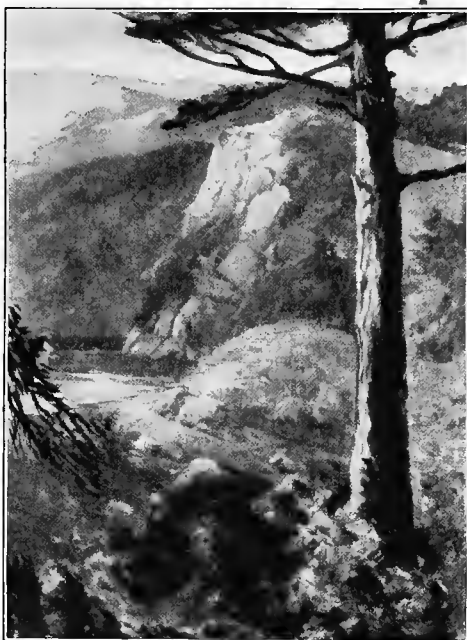
"Blind must be their close-shut eyes
Where like night the sunshine lies,
Fiery-linked the self-forged chain
Binding ever sin to pain,
Strong their prison-house of will,
But without He waiteth still.

"Not with hatred's undertow 510
Doth the Love Eternal flow;
Every chain that spirits wear
Crumbles in the breath of prayer;
And the penitent's desire
Opens every gate of fire.

"Still Thy love, O Christ arisen,
Yearns to reach these souls in prison!
Through all depths of sin and loss
Drops the plummet of Thy cross!
Never yet abyss was found 520
Deeper than that cross could sound!"

Therefore well may Nature keep
Equal faith with all who sleep,
Set her watch of hills around
Christian grave and heathen mound,
And to cairn and kirkyard send
Summer's flowery dividend.

Keep, O pleasant Melvin stream,
Thy sweet laugh in shade and gleam!
On the Indian's grassy tomb 530
Swing, O flowers, your bells of bloom!
Deep below, as high above,
Sweeps the circle of God's love.



"Deepest of all mysteries,
And the saddest, silence is"

He paused and questioned with his
eye
The hearers' verdict on his
song.
A low voice asked: "Is 't well to
pry
Into the secrets which belong
Only to God? — The life to be
Is still the unguessed mystery:
Unscaled, unpierced the cloudy walls
remain,
We beat with dream and wish the
soundless doors in vain.

"But faith beyond our sight may
go."

He said: "The gracious Father-
hood

Can only know above, below,
Eternal purposes of good.
From our free heritage of will,
The bitter springs of pain and ill

Flow only in all worlds. The perfect
day
Of God is shadowless, and love is love
always."

"I know," she said, "the letter
kills;

That on our arid fields of strife
And heat of clashing texts distils
The dew of spirit and of life.

But, searching still the written
Word,

I fain would find, Thus saith the
Lord,

A voucher for the hope I also feel
That sin can give no wound beyond
love's power to heal."

"Pray," said the Man of Books,
"give o'er

A theme too vast for time and
place.

Go on, Sir Poet, ride once more
 Your hobby at his old free pace.
 But let him keep, with step discreet,
 The solid earth beneath his feet.
 In the great mystery which around us
 lies,
 The wisest is a fool, the fool Heaven-
 helped is wise."

The Traveller said: "If songs have
 creeds,
 Their choice of them let singers
 make;
 But Art no other sanction needs
 Than beauty for its own fair sake.
 It grinds not in the mill of use, ⁵⁷⁰
 Nor asks for leave, nor begs ex-
 cuse;
 It makes the flexile laws it deigns to
 own,
 And gives its atmosphere its color and
 its tone.

"Confess, old friend, your austere
 school
 Has left your fancy little chance;
 You square to reason's rigid rule
 The flowing outlines of romance.
 With conscience keen from exer-
 cise,
 And chronic fear of compromise,
 You check the free play of your
 rhymes, to clap ⁵⁸⁰
 A moral underneath, and spring it
 like a trap."

The sweet voice answered: "Better
 so
 Than bolder flights that know no
 check;
 Better to use the bit, than throw
 The reins all loose on fancy's
 neck.
 The liberal range of Art should be
 The breadth of Christian liberty,
 Restrained alone by challenge and
 alarm
 Where its charmed footsteps tread
 the border land of harm.

"Beyond the poet's sweet dream
 lives ⁵⁰⁰
 The eternal epic of the man.
 He wisest is who only gives,
 True to himself, the best he can;

Who, drifting in the winds of praise,
 The inward monitor obeys;
 And, with the boldness that confesses
 fear,
 Takes in the crowded sail, and lets his
 conscience steer.

"Thanks for the fitting word he
 speaks,
 Nor less for doubtful word un-
 spoken,
 For the false model that he breaks,
 As for the moulded grace un-
 broken; ⁶⁰¹
 For what is missed and what re-
 mains,
 For losses which are truest gains,
 For reverence conscious of the Eternal
 eye,
 And truth too fair to need the garnish
 of a lie."

Laughing, the Critic bowed. "I
 yield
 The point without another word;
 Who ever yet a case appealed
 Where beauty's judgment had
 been heard?
 And you, my good friend, owe to
 me ⁶¹⁰
 Your warmest thanks for such a
 plea,
 As true withal as sweet. For my of-
 fence
 Of cavil, let her words be ample re-
 compense."

Across the sea one lighthouse star,
 With crimson ray that came and
 went,
 Revolving on its tower afar,
 Looked through the doorway of
 the tent.
 While outward, over sand-slopes
 wet,
 The lamp flashed down its yellow
 jet
 On the long wash of waves, with red
 and green ⁶²⁰
 Tangles of weltering weed through the
 white foam-wreaths seen.

"Sing while we may, — another
 day
 May bring enough of sorrow; —
 thus

Our Traveller in his own sweet lay,
His Crimean camp-song, hints to us,"

The lady said. "So let it be;
Sing us a song," exclaimed all three.

She smiled: "I can but marvel at your
choice

To hear our poet's words through my
poor borrowed voice."

Her window opens to the bay, ⁶³⁰
On glistening light or misty gray,
And there at dawn and set of day

In prayer she kneels.
"Dear Lord!" she saith, "to many a
home

From wind and wave the wanderers
come;

I only see the tossing foam
Of stranger keels.

"Blown out and in by summer gales,
The stately ships, with crowded sails,
And sailors leaning o'er their rails,
Before me glide; ⁶⁴¹

They come, they go, but nevermore,
Spice-laden from the Indian shore,
I see his swift-winged Isidore
The waves divide.

"O Thou! with whom the night is
day

And one the near and far away,
Look out on yon gray waste, and say
Where lingers he.

Alive, perchance, on some lone beach
Or thirsty isle beyond the reach ⁶⁵¹
Of man, he hears the mocking speech
Of wind and sea.

"O dread and cruel deep, reveal
The secret which thy waves con-
ceal,

And, ye wild sea-birds, hither wheel
And tell your tale.

Let winds that tossed his raven hair
A message from my lost one bear, —
Some thought of me, a last fond
prayer ⁶⁶⁰

Or dying wail!

"Come, with your dreariest truth shut
out

The fears that haunt me round about;
O God! I cannot bear this doubt
That stifles breath.

The worst is better than the dread;
Give me but leave to mourn my dead
Asleep in trust and hope, instead
Of life in death!"

It might have been the evening
breeze ⁶⁷⁰

That whispered in the garden trees,
It might have been the sound of seas
That rose and fell;

But, with her heart, if not her ear,
The old loved voice she seemed to
hear:

"I wait to meet thee: be of cheer,
For all is well!"

The sweet voice into silence went,
A silence which was almost pain,
As through it rolled the long lament,
The cadence of the mournful
main. ⁶⁸¹

Glancing his written pages o'er,
The Reader tried his part once
more;

Leaving the land of hackmatack and
pine

For Tuscan valleys glad with olive and
with vine.

THE BROTHER OF MERCY

PIERO LUCA, known of all the town
As the gray porter by the Pitti wall
Where the noon shadows of the gar-
dens fall,

Sick and in dolor, waited to lay down
His last sad burden, and beside his
mat ⁶⁹⁰

The barefoot monk of La Certosa sat.

Unseen, in square and blossoming
garden drifted,

Soft sunset lights through green Val
d'Arno sifted;

Unheard, below the living shuttles
shifted

Backward and forth, and wove, in
love or strife,

In mirth or pain, the mottled web of
life;

But when at last came upward from
the street

Tinkle of bell and tread of measured
feet,

The sick man started, strove to rise in
vain,
Sinking back heavily with a moan of
pain.
And the monk said, "T is but the
Brotherhood
Of Mercy going on some errand good:
Their black masks by the palace-wall
I see."
Piero answered faintly, "Woe is me!
This day for the first time in forty
years
In vain the bell hath sounded in my
ears,
Calling me with my brethren of the
mask,
Beggar and prince alike, to some new
task
Of love or pity, — haply from the
street
To bear a wretch plague-stricken, or,
with feet
Hushed to the quickened ear and
feverish brain,
To tread the crowded lazaretto's
floors,
Down the long twilight of the corri-
dors,
Midst tossing arms and faces full of
pain.
I loved the work: it was its own re-
ward.
I never counted on it to offset
My sins, which are many, or make less
my debt
To the free grace and mercy of our
Lord;
But somehow, father, it has come to
be
In these long years so much a part of
me,
I should not know myself, if lacking
it,
But with the work the worker too
would die,
And in my place some other self would
sit,
Joyful or sad, — what matters, if not
I?
And now all's over. Woe is me!" —
"My son,"
The monk said soothingly, "thy work
is done;
And no more as a servant, but the
guest
Of God thou enterest thy eternal rest.

No toil, no tears, no sorrow for t
lost,
Shall mar thy perfect bliss. Thou sh
sit down
Clad in white robes, and wear a gold
crown
Forever and forever." — Piero toss
On his sick-pillow: "Miserable me!
I am too poor for such grand coi
pany;
The crown would be too heavy for th
gray
Old head; and God forgive me if I s
It would be hard to sit there night a
day,
Like an image in the Tribune, doi
naught
With these hard hands, that all n
life have wrought,
Not for bread only, but for pity's sak
I'm dull at prayers: I could not ke
awake,
Counting my beads. Mine's but
crazy head,
Scarce worth the saving, if all else
dead.
And if one goes to heaven without
heart,
God knows he leaves behind his bett
part.
I love my fellow-men: the worst
know
I would do good to. Will death chan
me so
That I shall sit among the lazy sain
Turning a deaf ear to the sore cor
plaints
Of souls that suffer? Why, I nev
yet
Left a poor dog in the *strada* hard b
set,
Or ass o'erladen! Must I rate man le
Than dog or ass, in holy selfishness
Methinks (Lord, pardon, if t
thought be sin!)
The world of pain were better,
therein
One's heart might still be human, a
desires
Of natural pity drop upon its fires
Some cooling tears."
Thereat the pale monk cross
His brow, and muttering, "Madma
thou art lost!"
Took up his pyx and fled; and, le
alone,

*Anna Favor,
At set of harvest-day*



The sick man closed his eyes with a
great groan
That sank into a prayer, "Thy will be
done!"

Then was he made aware, by soul or
ear,
Of somewhat pure and holy bending
o'er him,
And of a voice like that of her who
bore him,
Tender and most compassionate:
"Never fear!
For heaven is love, as God himself is
love;
Thy work below shall be thy work
above."
And when he looked, lo! in the stern
monk's place ⁷⁷⁰
He saw the shining of an angel's
face!

The Traveller broke the pause. "I've
seen

The Brothers down the long street
steal,
Black, silent, masked, the crowd be-
tween,
And felt to doff my hat and kneel
With heart, if not with knee, in prayer,
For blessings on their pious care."
The Reader wiped his glasses :
"Friends of mine,
We'll try our home-brewed next, in-
stead of foreign wine."

THE CHANGELING

For the fairest maid in Hampton ⁷⁸⁰
They needed not to search,
Who saw young Anna Favor
Come walking into church, —

Or bringing from the meadows,
At set of harvest-day,
The frolic of the blackbirds,
The sweetness of the hay.

Now the weariest of all mothers,
The saddest two years' bride,
She scowls in the face of her hus-
band, ⁷⁹⁰
And spurns her child aside.

"Rake out the red coals, goodman, —
For there the child shall lie,
Till the black witch comes to fetch her
And both up chimney fly.

"It's never my own little daughter,
It's never my own," she said;
"The witches have stolen my Anna,
And left me an imp instead.

"Oh, fair and sweet was my baby, ⁸⁰⁰
Blue eyes, and hair of gold;
But this is ugly and wrinkled,
Cross, and cunning, and old.

"I hate the touch of her fingers,
I hate the feel of her skin;
It's not the milk from my bosom,
But my blood, that she sucks in.

"My face grows sharp with the tor-
ment;

Look! my arms are skin and bone!
Rake open the red coals, goodman,
And the witch shall have her
own. ⁸¹¹

"She'll come when she hears it crying,
In the shape of an owl or bat,
And she'll bring us our darling Anna
In place of her screeching brat."

Then the goodman, Ezra Dalton,
Laid his hand upon her head:
"Thy sorrow is great, O woman!
I sorrow with thee," he said.

"The paths to trouble are many, ⁸²⁰
And never but one sure way
Leads out to the light beyond it:
My poor wife, let us pray."

Then he said to the great All-Father,
"Thy daughter is weak and blind;
Let her sight come back, and clothe
her
Once more in her right mind.

"Lead her out of this evil shadow,
Out of these fancies wild;
Let the holy love of the mother ⁸³⁰
Turn again to her child.

"Make her lips like the lips of Mary
Kissing her blessed Son;



“Lead her out of this evil shadow”

Let her hands, like the hands of
Jesus,
Rest on her little one.

“Comfort the soul of thy handmaid,
Open her prison-door,
And thine shall be all the glory
And praise forevermore.”

Then into the face of its mother 840
The baby looked up and smiled;
And the cloud of her soul was
lifted,
And she knew her little child.

A beam of the slant west sunshine
Made the wan face almost fair,
Lit the blue eyes' patient wonder
And the rings of pale gold hair.

She kissed it on lip and forehead,
She kissed it on cheek and chin,
And she bared her snow-white bosom
To the lips so pale and thin. 851

Oh, fair on her bridal morning
Was the maid who blushed and
smiled,
But fairer to Ezra Dalton
Looked the mother of his child.

With more than a lover's fondness
He stooped to her worn young face,
And the nursing child and the mother
He folded in one embrace.

“Blessed be God!” he murmured. 860
“Blessed be God!” she said;
“For I see, who once was blinded, —
I live, who once was dead.”

“Now mount and ride, my good-
man,
As thou lovest thy own soul!
Woe's me, if my wicked fancies
Be the death of Goody Cole!”

His horse he saddled and bridled,
And into the night rode he,

Now through the great black wood-
land, ⁸⁷⁰
Now by the white-beached sea.

He rode through the silent clearings,
He came to the ferry wide,
And thrice he called to the boatman
Asleep on the other side.

He set his horse to the river,
He swam to Newbury town,
And he called up Justice Sewall
In his nightcap and his gown.

And the grave and worshipful justice
(Upon whose soul be peace!) ⁸⁸¹
Set his name to the jailer's warrant
For Goodwife Cole's release.

Then through the night the hoof-beats
Went sounding like a flail;
And Goody Cole at cockcrow
Came forth from Ipswich jail.

—————
"Here is a rhyme: I hardly dare
To venture on its theme worn out;
What seems so sweet by Doon and
Ayr ⁸⁹⁰
Sounds simply silly hereabout;
And pipes by lips Arcadian blown
Are only tin horns at our own.
Yet still the muse of pastoral walks
with us,
While Hosea Biglow sings, our new
Theocritus."

THE MAIDS OF ATTITASH

IN sky and wave the white clouds
swam,
And the blue hills of Nottingham
Through gaps of leafy green
Across the lake were seen,

When, in the shadow of the ash ⁹⁰⁰
That dreams its dream in Attitash,
In the warm summer weather,
Two maidens sat together.

They sat and watched in idle mood
The gleam and shade of lake and wood;
The beach the keen light smote,
The white sail of a boat;

Swan flocks of lilies shoreward lying,
In sweetness, not in music, dying;
Hardhack, and virgin's-bower. ⁹¹⁰
And white-spiked clethra-flower.

With careless ears they heard the
plash
And breezy wash of Attitash,
The wood-bird's plaintive cry,
The locust's sharp reply.

And teased the while, with playful
hand,
The shaggy dog of Newfoundland,
Whose uncouth frolic-filled
Their baskets berry-filled.

Then one, the beauty of whose eyes
Was evermore a great surprise, ⁹²¹
Tossed back her queenly head,
And lightly laughing, said:

"No bridegroom's hand be mine to hold
That is not lined with yellow gold;
I tread no cottage-floor;
I own no lover poor.

"My love must come on silken wings,
With bridal lights of diamond rings,
Not foul with kitchen smirch, ⁹³⁰
With tallow-dip for torch."

The other, on whose modest head
Was lesser dower of beauty shed,
With look for home-hearths meet,
And voice exceeding sweet,

Answered, "We will not rivals be;
Take thou the gold, leave love to me;
Mine be the cottage small,
And thine the rich man's hall.

"I know, indeed, that wealth is good;
But lowly roof and simple food, ⁹⁴¹
With love that hath no doubt,
Are more than gold without."

Hard by a farmer hale and young
His cradle in the rye-field swung,
Tracking the yellow plain
With windrows of ripe grain.

And still, when'er he paused to whet
His scythe, the sidelong glance he met
Of large dark eyes, where strove ⁹⁵⁰
False pride and secret love.

Be strong, young mower of the grain;
That love shall overmatch disdain,
Its instincts soon or late
The heart shall vindicate.

In blouse of gray, with fishing-rod,
Half screened by leaves, a stranger
trod
The margin of the pond,
Watching the group beyond.

The supreme hours unnoted come;
Unfelt the turning tides of doom; 961
And so the maids laughed on,
Nor dreamed what Fate had done,—

Nor knew the step was Destiny's
That rustled in the birchen trees,
As, with their lives forecast,
Fisher and mower passed.

Erelong by lake and rivulet side
The summer roses paled and died,
And Autumn's fingers shed 970
The maple's leaves of red.

Through the long gold-hazed after-
noon,
Alone, but for the diving loon,
The partridge in the brake,
The black duck on the lake,

Beneath the shadow of the ash
Sat man and maid by Attitash;
And earth and air made room
For human hearts to bloom.

Soft spread the carpets of the sod, 980
And scarlet-oak and golden-rod
With blushes and with smiles
Lit up the forest aisles.

The mellow light the lake aslant,
The pebbled margin's ripple-chant
Attempered and low-toned,
The tender mystery owned.

And through the dream the lovers
dreamed
Sweet sounds stole in and soft lights
streamed;
The sunshine seemed to bless, 990
The air was a caress.

Not she who lightly laughed is there
With scornful toss of midnight hair,

Her dark, disdainful eyes,
And proud lip worldly-wise.

Her haughty vow is still unsaid,
But all she dreamed and coveted
Wears, half to her surprise,
The youthful farmer's guise!

With more than all her old-time pride
She walks the rye-field at his side, 1001
Careless of cot or hall,
Since love transfigures all.

Rich beyond dreams, the vantage
ground
Of life is gained; her hands have found
The talisman of old
That changes all to gold.

While she who could for love dispense
With all its glittering accidents,
And trust her heart alone, 1010
Finds love and gold her own.

What wealth can buy or art can build
Awaits her; but her cup is filled
Even now unto the brim;
Her world is love and him!

—
The while he heard, the Book-man
drew

A length of make-believing face,
With smothered mischief laughing
through:

"Why, you shall sit in Ramsay's
place,

And, with his Gentle Shepherd,
keep 1020

On Yankee hills immortal sheep,
While love-lorn swains and maids the
seas beyond

Hold dreamy tryst around your
huckleberry-pond."

The Traveller laughed: "Sir Gala-
had
Singing of love the Trouvere's
lay!

How should he know the blindfold
lad

From one of Vulcan's forge-
boys?" — "Nay,

He better sees who stands outside
Than they who in procession ride,"

The Reader answered: "selectmen
and squire 1030
Miss, while they make, the show that
wayside folks admire.

"Here is a wild tale of the North,
Our travelled friend will own as
one
Fit for a Norland Christmas hearth
And lips of Christian Andersen.
They tell it in the valleys green
Of the fair island he has seen,
Low lying off the pleasant Swedish
shore,
Washed by the Baltic Sea, and
watched by Elsinore." 1039

KALLUNDBORG CHURCH

"Tie stille, barn min!
Imorgen kommer Fin,
Fa'er din,
Og gi'er dig Esbern Snares öine og hjerte at
lege med!"

Zealand Rhyme.

"BUILD at Kallundborg by the sea
A church as stately as church may be,
And there shalt thou wed my daugh-
ter fair,"
Said the Lord of Nesvek to Esbern
Snare.

And the Baron laughed. But Esbern
said,
"Though I lose my soul, I will Helva
wed!"
And off he strode, in his pride of will,
To the Troll who dwelt in Ulshoi hill.

"Build, O Troll, a church for me
At Kallundborg by the mighty sea;
Build it stately, and build it fair, 1050
Build it quickly," said Esbern Snare.

But the sly Dwarf said, "No work is
wrought
By Trolls of the Hills, O man, for
naught.
What wilt thou give for thy church so
fair?"
"Set thy own price," quoth Esbern
Snare.

"When Kallundborg church is builded
well,

Thou must the name of its builder tell,
Or thy heart and thy eyes must be
my boon."
"Build," said Esbern, "and build it
soon."

By night and by day the Troll
wrought on; 1060
He hewed the timbers, he piled the
stone;
But day by day, as the walls rose fair,
Darker and sadder grew Esbern Snare.
He listened by night, he watched by
day,
He sought and thought, but he dared
not pray;
In vain he called on the Elle-maids
shy,
And the Neck and the Nis gave no
reply.

Of his evil bargain far and wide
A rumor ran through the country-
side;
And Helva of Nesvek, young and
fair, 1070
Prayed for the soul of Esbern Snare.

And now the church was wellnigh
done;
One pillar it lacked, and one alone;
And the grim Troll muttered, "Fool
thou art!
To-morrow gives me thy eyes and
heart!"

By Kallundborg in black despair,
Through wood and meadow, walked
Esbern Snare,
Till, worn and weary, the strong man
sank
Under the birches on Ulshoi bank.

At his last day's work he heard the
Troll 1080
Hammer and delve in the quarry's
hole;
Before him the church stood large and
fair:
"I have builded my tomb," said
Esbern Snare.

And he closed his eyes the sight to
hide,
When he heard a light step at his side:

"O Esbern Snare!" a sweet voice said,
 "Would I might die now in thy
 stead!"

With a grasp by love and by fear
 made strong,
 He held her fast, and he held her long;
 With the beating heart of a bird
 afraid, ¹⁰⁹⁰
 She hid her face in his flame-red beard.

"O love!" he cried, "let me look
 to-day
 In thine eyes ere mine are plucked
 away;
 Let me hold thee close, let me feel thy
 heart
 Ere mine by the Troll is torn apart!

"I sinned, O Helva, for love of thee!
 Pray that the Lord Christ pardon
 me!"
 But fast as she prayed, and faster still,
 Hammered the Troll in Ulshoi hill.

He knew, as he wrought, that a loving
 heart ¹¹⁰⁰
 Was somehow baffling his evil art;
 For more than spell of Elf or Troll
 Is a maiden's prayer for her lover's
 soul.

And Esbern listened, and caught the
 sound
 Of a Troll-wife singing underground:
 "To-morrow comes Fine, father thine:
 Lie still and hush thee, baby mine!

"Lie still, my darling! next sunrise
 Thou'lt play with Esbern Snare's
 heart and eyes!"

"Ho! ho!" quoth Esbern, "is that
 your game? ¹¹¹⁰
 Thanks to the Troll-wife, I know his
 name!"

The Troll he heard him, and hurried on
 To Kallundborg church with the lack-
 ing stone.

"Too late, Gaffer Fine!" cried Es-
 bern Snare;
 And Troll and pillar vanished in air!

That night the harvesters heard the
 sound
 Of a woman sobbing underground,

And the voice of the Hill-Troll loud
 with blame
 Of the careless singer who told his
 name.

Of the Troll of the Church they sing
 the rune ¹¹²⁰
 By the Northern Sea in the harvest
 moon;
 And the fishers of Zealand hear him
 still
 Scolding his wife in Ulshoi hill.

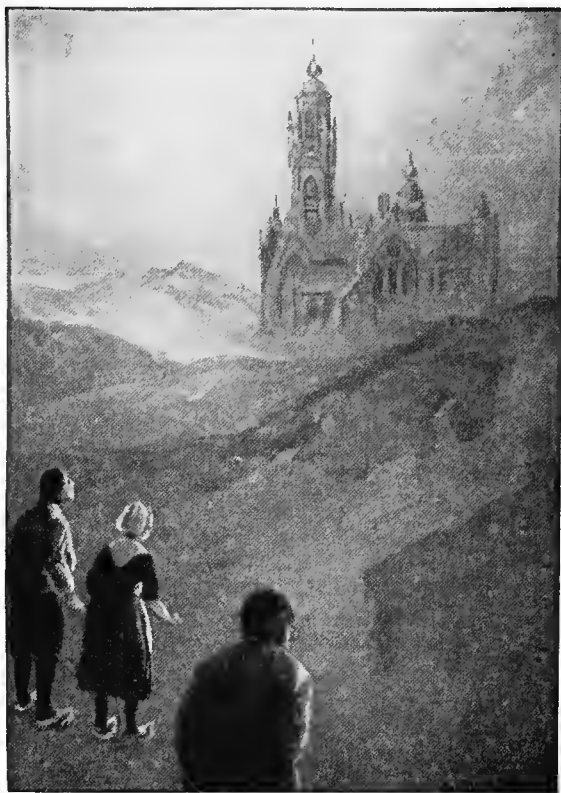
And seaward over its groves of birch
 Still looks the tower of Kallundborg
 church,
 Where, first at its altar, a wedded pair,
 Stood Helva of Nesvek and Esbern
 Snare!

"What," asked the Traveller,
 "would our sires,
 The old Norse story-tellers, say
 Of sun-graved pictures, ocean
 wires, ¹¹³⁰
 And smoking steamboats of to-
 day?
 And this, O lady, by your leave,
 Recalls your song of yester eve:
 Pray, let us have that Cable-hymn
 once more."
 "Hear, hear!" the Book-man cried,
 "the lady has the floor.

"These noisy waves below perhaps
 To such a strain will lend their
 ear,
 With softer voice and lighter lapse
 Come stealing up the sands to
 hear,
 And what they once refused to
 do ¹¹⁴⁰
 For old King Knut accord to you.
 Nay, even the fishes shall your lis-
 teners be,
 As once, the legend runs, they heard
 St. Anthony."

THE CABLE HYMN

O LONELY bay of Trinity,
 O dreary shores, give ear!
 Lean down unto the white-lipped sea
 The voice of God to hear!



“ Before him the church stood large and fair ”

From world to world His couriers fly,
 Thought-winged and shod with fire;
 The angel of His stormy sky 1150
 Rides down the sunken wire.

What saith the herald of the Lord?
 “The world’s long strife is done;
 Close wedded by that mystic cord,
 Its continents are one.

“ And one in heart, as one in blood,
 Shall all her peoples be;
 The hands of human brotherhood
 Are clasped beneath the sea.

“Through Orient seas, o’er Afric’s
 plain 1160
 And Asian mountains borne,
 The vigor of the Northern brain
 Shall nerve the world outworn.

“From clime to clime, from shore to
 shore,
 Shall thrill the magic thread;
 The new Prometheus steals once more
 The fire that wakes the dead.”

Throb on, strong pulse of thunder! beat
 From answering beach to beach;

Fuse nations in thy kindly heat, 1170
And melt the chains of each!

Wild terror of the sky above,
Glide tamed and dumb below!
Bear gently, Ocean's carrier-dove,
Thy errands to and fro.

Weave on, swift shuttle of the Lord,
Beneath the deep so far,
The bridal robe of earth's accord,
The funeral shroud of war!

For lo! the fall of Ocean's wall 1180
Space mocked and time outrun;
And round the world the thought of all
Is as the thought of one!

The poles unite, the zones agree,
The tongues of striving cease;
As on the Sea of Galilee
The Christ is whispering, Peace!

"Glad prophecy! to this at last,"
The Reader said, "shall all things
come.

Forgotten be the bugle's blast, 1190
And battle-music of the drum.
A little while the world may run
Its old mad way, with needle-gun
And ironclad, but truth, at last, shall
reign:

The cradle-song of Christ was never
sung in vain!"

Shifting his scattered papers,
"Here,"

He said, as died the faint applause,
"Is something that I found last year
Down on the island known as
Orr's.

I had it from a fair-haired girl 1200
Who, oddly, bore the name of Pearl
(As if by some droll freak of circum-
stance),

Classic, or wellnigh so, in Harriet
Stowe's romance."

THE DEAD SHIP OF HARPS- WELL

WHAT flecks the outer gray beyond
The sundown's golden trail?

The white flash of a sea-bird's wing,
Or gleam of slanting sail?
Let young eyes watch from Neck and
Point,
And sea-worn elders pray, —
The ghost of what was once a ship
Is sailing up the bay! 1211

From gray sea-fog, from icy drift,
From peril and from pain,
The home-bound fisher greets thy
lights,
O hundred-harbored Maine!
But many a keel shall seaward turn,
And many a sail outstand,
When, tall and white, the Dead Ship
looms
Against the dusk of land.

She rounds the headland's bristling
pines; 1220
She threads the isle-set bay;
No spur of breeze can speed her on,
Nor ebb of tide delay.
Old men still walk the Isle of Orr
Who tell her date and name,
Old shipwrights sit in Freeport yards
Who hewed her oaken frame.

What weary doom of baffled quest,
Thou sad sea-ghost, is thine?
What makes thee in the haunts of
home 1230

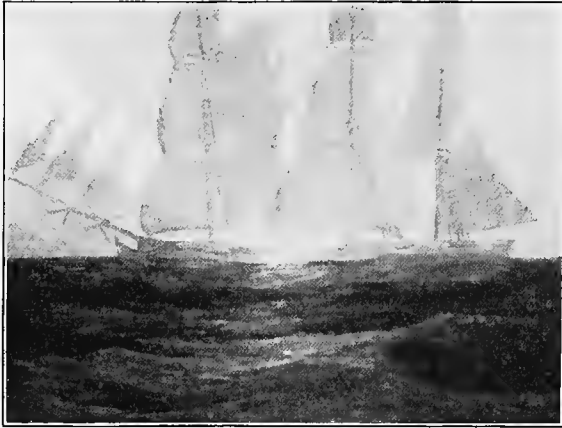
A wonder and a sign?
No foot is on thy silent deck,
Upon thy helm no hand;
No ripple hath the soundless wind
That smites thee from the land!

For never comes the ship to port,
Howe'er the breeze may be;
Just when she nears the waiting shore
She drifts again to sea.
No tack of sail, nor turn of helm, 1240
Nor sheer of veering side;
Stern-fore she drives to sea and night,
Against the wind and tide.

In vain o'er Harpswell Neck the star
Of evening guides her in;
In vain for her the lamps are lit
Within thy tower, Seguin!
In vain the harbor-boat shall hail,
In vain the pilot call;
No hand shall reef her spectral sail, 1250
Or let her anchor fall.

Shake, brown old wives, with dreary
 joy,
 Your gray-head hints of ill;
 And, over sick-beds whispering low,
 Your prophecies fulfil.
 Some home amid yon birchen trees
 Shall drape its door with woe;
 And slowly where the Dead Ship sails,
 The burial boat shall row!

The Book-man said. "A ghostly
 touch
 The legend has. I'm glad to see
 Your flying Yankee beat the
 Dutch."
 "Well, here is something of the
 sort 1280
 Which one midsummer day I
 caught



"The ghost of what was once a ship"

From Wolf Neck and from Flying
 Point, 1260
 From island and from main,
 From sheltered cove and tided creek,
 Shall glide the funeral train.
 The dead-boat with the hearers four,
 The mourners at her stern, —
 And one shall go the silent way
 Who shall no more return!
 And men shall sigh, and women weep,
 Whose dear ones pale and pine,
 And sadly over sunset seas 1270
 Await the ghostly sign.
 They know not that its sails are filled
 By pity's tender breath,
 Nor see the Angel at the helm
 Who steers the Ship of Death!

"Chill as a down-east breeze should
 be,"

In Narragansett Bay, for lack of fish."
 "We wait," the Traveller said; "serve
 hot or cold your dish."

THE PALATINE

LEAGUES north, as fly the gull and
 auk,
 Point Judith watches with eye of
 hawk;
 Leagues south, thy beacon flames,
 Montauk!
 Lonely and wind-shorn, wood-for-
 saken,
 With never a tree for Spring to waken,
 For tryst of lovers or farewells taken,
 Circed by waters that never freeze,
 Beaten by billow and swept by breeze,
 Lieth the island of Manisees, 1292

Set at the mouth of the Sound to hold
The coast lights up on its turret old,
Yellow with moss and sea-fog mould.

Dreary the land when gust and sleet
At its doors and windows howl and
beat,
And Winter laughs at its fires of peat!

But in summer time, when pool and
pond,
Held in the laps of valleys fond, ¹³⁰⁰
Are blue as the glimpses of sea be-
yond;

When the hills are sweet with the
brier-rose,
And, hid in the warm, soft dells, un-
close
Flowers the mainland rarely knows;

When boats to their morning fishing
go,
And, held to the wind and slanting low,
Whitening and darkening the small
sails show, —

Then is that lonely island fair;
And the pale health-seeker findeth
there
The wine of life in its pleasant air. ¹³¹⁰

No greener valleys the sun invite,
On smoother beaches no sea-birds
light,
No blue waves shatter to foam more
white!

There, circling ever their narrow range,
Quaint tradition and legend strange
Live on unchallenged, and know no
change.

Old wives spinning their webs of tow,
Or rocking weirdly to and fro
In and out of the peat's dull glow,

And old men mending their nets of
twine, ¹³²⁰
Talk together of dream and sign,
Talk of the lost ship Palatine, —

The ship that, a hundred years before,
Freighted deep with its goodly store,
In the gales of the equinox went
ashore.

The eager islanders one by one
Counted the shots of her signal gun,
And heard the crash when she drove
right on!

Into the teeth of death she sped: ¹³²⁰
(May God forgive the hands that fed
The false lights over the rocky Head!)

O men and brothers! what sights
were there!

White upturned faces, hands stretched
in prayer!

Where waves had pity, could ye not
spare?

Down swooped the wreckers, like
birds of prey
Tearing the heart of the ship away,
And the dead had never a word to say.

And then, with ghastly shimmer and
shine

Over the rocks and the seething brine,
They burned the wreck of the Pala-
tine. ¹³⁴⁰

In their cruel hearts, as they home-
ward sped,

"The sea and the rocks are dumb,"
they said;

"There'll be no reckoning with the
dead."

But the year went round, and when
once more

Along their foam-white curves of shore
They heard the line-storm rave and
roar,

Behold! again, with shimmer and shine,
Over the rocks and the seething brine,
The flaming wreck of the Palatine!

So, haply in fitter words than these,
Mending their nets on their patient
knees, ¹³⁵¹

They tell the legend of Manisees.

Nor looks nor tones a doubt betray;
"It is known to us all," they quietly
say;

"We too have seen it in our day."

Is there, then, no death for a word
once spoken?



“They burned the wreck of the Palatine”

Was never a deed but left its token
Written on tables never broken?

Do the elements subtle reflections give?
Do pictures of all the ages live 1360
On Nature's infinite negative,

Which, half in sport, in malice half,
She shows at times, with shudder or
 laugh,
Phantom and shadow in photograph?

For still, on many a moonless night,
From Kingston Head and from Montauk light
 The spectre kindles and burns in sight.

Now low and dim, now clear and
 higher,
Leaps up the terrible Ghost of Fire,
Then, slowly sinking, the flames ex-
 pire. 1370

And the wise Sound skippers, though
 skies be fine,
Reef their sails when they see the sign
Of the blazing wreck of the Palatine!

“A fitter tale to scream than sing,”
The Book-man said. “Well,
 fancy, then,”

The Reader answered, "on the
wing
The sea-birds shriek it, not for
men,
But in the ear of wave and breeze!"
The Traveller mused: "Your Mani-
sees
Is fairy-land: off Narragansett shore
Who ever saw the isle or heard its
name before? 1381

"T is some strange land of Fly-
away,
Whose dreamy shore the ship be-
guiles;
St. Brandan's in its sea-mist gray,
Or sunset loom of Fortunate
Isles!"
"No ghost, but solid turf and rock
Is the good island known as Block,"
The Reader said. "For beauty and
for ease
I chose its Indian name, soft-flowing
Manisees!

"But let it pass; here is a bit 1390
Of unrhymed story, with a hint
Of the old preaching mood in it,
The sort of sidelong moral squint
Our friend objects to, which has
grown,
I fear, a habit of my own.
'T was written when the Asian plague
drew near,
And the land held its breath and paled
with sudden fear."

ABRAHAM DAVENPORT

IN the old days (a custom laid aside
With breeches and cocked hats) the
people sent
Their wisest men to make the public
laws. 1400
And so, from a brown homestead,
where the Sound
Drinks the small tribute of the Mianas,
Waved over by the woods of Rippo-
wams,
And hallowed by pure lives and tran-
quil deaths,
Stamford sent up to the councils of the
State
Wisdom and grace in Abraham
Davenport.

'T was on a May-day of the far old
year
Seventeen hundred eighty, that there
fell
Over the bloom and sweet life of the
Spring,
Over the fresh earth and the heaven
of noon, 1410
A horror of great darkness, like the
night
In day of which the Norland sagas
tell, —
The Twilight of the Gods. The low-
hung sky
Was black with ominous clouds, save
where its rim
Was fringed with a dull glow, like that
which climbs
The crater's sides from the red hell
below.
Birds ceased to sing, and all the barn-
yard fowls
Roosted; the cattle at the pasture bars
Lowed, and looked homeward; bats
on leathern wings
Flitted abroad; the sounds of labor
died; 1420
Men prayed, and women wept; all
ears grew sharp
To hear the doom-blast of the trumpet
shatter
The black sky, that the dreadful face
of Christ
Might look from the rent clouds, not
as he looked
A loving guest at Bethany, but stern
As Justice and inexorable Law.

Meanwhile in the old State House,
dim as ghosts,
Sat the lawgivers of Connecticut,
Trembling beneath their legislative
robes.
"It is the Lord's Great Day! Let us
adjourn," 1430
Some said; and then, as if with one
accord,
All eyes were turned to Abraham
Davenport.
He rose, slow cleaving with his steady
voice
The intolerable hush. "This well may
be
The Day of Judgment which the
world awaits;
But be it so or not, I only know



My present duty, and my Lord's
 command
 To occupy till He come. So at the post
 Where He hath set me in His providence,
 I choose, for one, to meet Him face to
 face, — ¹⁴⁴⁰
 No faithless servant frightened from
 my task,
 But ready when the Lord of the harvest
 calls;
 And therefore, with all reverence, I
 would say,
 Let God do His work, we will see to
 ours.
 Bring in the candles." And they
 brought them in.

Then by the flaring lights the
 Speaker read,

Albeit with husky voice and shaking
 hands,
 An act to amend an act to regulate
 The shad and alewife fisheries.
 Whereupon
 Wisely and well spake Abraham
 Davenport, ¹⁴⁵⁰
 Straight to the question, with no figures
 of speech
 Save the ten Arab signs, yet not without
 The shrewd dry humor natural to the
 man:
 His awe-struck colleagues listening all
 the while,
 Between the pauses of his argument,
 To hear the thunder of the wrath of
 God
 Break from the hollow trumpet of the
 cloud.

And there he stands in memory to
 this day,
 Erect, self-poised, a rugged face, half
 seen
 Against the background of unnatural
 dark, 1460
 A witness to the ages as they pass,
 That simple duty hath no place for
 fear.

He ceased: just then the ocean
 seemed

To lift a half-faced moon in sight;
 And, shore-ward, o'er the waters
 gleamed,

From crest to crest, a line of
 light,

Such as of old, with solemn awe,
 The fishers by Gennesaret saw,
 When dry-shod o'er it walked the Son
 of God,

Tracking the waves with light wher-
 e'er his sandals trod. 1470

Silently for a space each eye

Upon that sudden glory turned:
 Cool from the land the breeze blew
 by,

The tent-ropes flapped, the long
 beach churned

Its waves to foam; on either hand
 Stretched, far as sight, the hills of
 sand;

With bays of marsh, and capes of bush
 and tree,

The wood's black shore-line loomed
 beyond the meadowy sea.

The lady rose to leave. "One song,
 Or hymn," they urged, "before
 we part." 1480

And she, with lips to which belong
 Sweet intuitions of all art,

Gave to the winds of night a strain
 Which they who heard would hear
 again;

And to her voice the solemn ocean
 lent,

Touching its harp of sand, a deep ac-
 companiment.

THE WORSHIP OF NATURE

THE harp at Nature's advent strung
 Has never ceased to play;

The song the stars of morning sung
 Has never died away. 1490

And prayer is made, and praise is given,
 By all things near and far;
 The ocean looketh up to heaven,
 And mirrors every star.

Its waves are kneeling on the strand,
 As kneels the human knee,
 Their white locks bowing to the sand,
 The priesthood of the sea!

They pour their glittering treasures
 forth,

Their gifts of pearl they bring, 1500
 And all the listening hills of earth
 Take up the song they sing.

The green earth sends her incense up
 From many a mountain shrine;
 From folded leaf and dewy cup
 She pours her sacred wine.

The mists above the morning rills
 Rise white as wings of prayer;
 The altar-curtains of the hills
 Are sunset's purple air. 1510

The winds with hymns of praise are
 loud,
 Or low with sobs of pain, —
 The thunder-organ of the cloud,
 The dropping tears of rain.

With drooping head and branches
 crossed
 The twilight forest grieves,
 Or speaks with tongues of Pentecost
 From all its sunlit leaves.

The blue sky is the temple's arch,
 Its transept earth and air, 1520
 The music of its starry march
 The chorus of a prayer.

So Nature keeps the reverent frame
 With which her years began,
 And all her signs and voices shame
 The prayerless heart of man.

The singer ceased. The moon's
 white rays
 Fell on the rapt, still face of
 her.

"Allah il Allah ! He hath praise
From all things," said the Trav-
eller.

1530

"Oft from the desert's silent nights,
And mountain hymns of sunset
lights,

My heart has felt rebuke, as in his tent
The Moslem's prayer has shamed my
Christian knee unbent."

He paused, and lo ! far, faint, and
slow

The bells in Newbury's steeples
told

The twelve dead hours; the lamp
burned low;

The singer sought her canvas
fold.

One sadly said, "At break of day
We strike our tent and go our way."

But one made answer cheerily, "Never
fear,

1541

We'll pitch this tent of ours in type
another year."



William Lloyd Garrison

ANTI-SLAVERY POEMS

TO WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON

CHAMPION of those who groan beneath
Oppression's iron hand:
In view of penury, hate, and death,
I see thee fearless stand.
Still bearing up thy lofty brow,
In the steadfast strength of truth,

In manhood sealing well the vow
And promise of thy youth.

Go on, for thou hast chosen well;
On in the strength of God!
Long as one human heart shall
swell
Beneath the tyrant's rod.

Speak in a slumbering nation's ear,
 As thou hast ever spoken,
 Until the dead in sin shall hear,
 The fetter's link be broken!

I love thee with a brother's love,
 I feel my pulses thrill,
 To mark thy spirit soar above
 The cloud of human ill. 20
 My heart hath leaped to answer thine,
 And echo back thy words,
 As leaps the warrior's at the shine
 And flash of kindred swords!

They tell me thou art rash and vain,
 A searcher after fame;
 That thou art striving but to gain
 A long-enduring name;
 That thou hast nerved the Afric's
 hand
 And steeled the Afric's heart, 30
 To shake aloft his vengeful brand,
 And rend his chain apart.

Have I not known thee well, and read
 Thy mighty purpose long?
 And watched the trials which have
 made
 Thy human spirit strong?
 And shall the slanderer's demon
 breath
 Avail with one like me,
 To dim the sunshine of my faith
 And earnest trust in thee? 40

Go on, the dagger's point may glare
 Amid thy pathway's gloom;
 The fate which sternly threatens there
 Is glorious martyrdom!
 Then onward with a martyr's zeal;
 And wait thy sure reward
 When man to man no more shall
 kneel,
 And God alone be Lord!
 1833

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE

'T WAS night. The tranquil moonlight
 smile
 With which Heaven dreams of
 Earth, shed down
 Its beauty on the Indian isle, —
 On broad green field and white-
 walled town,

And inland waste of rock and wood,
 In searching sunshine, wild and rude,
 Rose, mellowed through the silver
 gleam,

Soft as the landscape of a dream.
 All motionless and dewy wet,
 Tree, vine, and flower in shadow
 met: 10

The myrtle with its snowy bloom,
 Crossing the nightshade's solemn
 gloom, —

The white cecropia's silver rind
 Relieved by deeper green behind,
 The orange with its fruit of gold,
 The lithe paullinia's verdant fold,
 The passion-flower with symbol holy,
 Twining its tendrils long and lowly,
 The rhexias dark, and cassia tall,
 And proudly rising over all, 20
 The kingly palm's imperial stem,
 Crowned with its leafy diadem,
 Star-like, beneath whose sombre
 shade,

The fiery-winged cucullo played!

How lovely was thine aspect, then,
 Fair island of the Western Sea!
 Lavish of beauty, even when
 Thy brutes were happier than thy
 men,

For they, at least, were free!
 Regardless of thy glorious clime, 30
 Unmindful of thy soil of flowers,
 The toiling negro sighed, that Time
 No faster sped his hours.

For, by the dewy moonlight still,
 He fed the weary-turning mill,
 Or bent him in the chill morass,
 To pluck the long and tangled grass,
 And hear above his scar-worn back
 The heavy slave-whip's frequent
 crack:

While in his heart one evil thought 40
 In solitary madness wrought,
 One baleful fire surviving still

The quenching of the immortal
 mind,

One sterner passion of his kind,
 Which even fetters could not kill,
 The savage hope, to deal, ere long,
 A vengeance bitterer than his wrong!
 Hark to that cry! long, loud, and
 shrill,

From field and forest, rock and hill,
 Thrilling and horrible it rang, 50
 Around, beneath, above;

The wild beast from his cavern sprang,
 The wild bird from her grove!
 Nor fear, nor joy, nor agony
 Were mingled in that midnight cry;
 But like the lion's growl of wrath,
 When falls that hunter in his path
 Whose barbèd arrow, deeply set,
 Is ranking in his bosom yet, 59
 It told of hate, full, deep, and strong,
 Of vengeance kindling out of wrong;
 It was as if the crimes of years —
 The unrequited toil, the tears,
 The shame and hate, which liken well
 Earth's garden to the nether hell —
 Had found in nature's self a tongue,
 On which the gathered horror hung;
 As if from cliff, and stream, and glen
 Burst on the startled ears of men
 That voice which rises unto God, 70
 Solemn and stern, — the cry of blood!
 It ceased, and all was still once more,
 Save ocean chafing on his shore,
 The sighing of the wind between
 The broad banana's leaves of green,
 Or bough by restless plumage shook,
 Or murmuring voice of mountain
 brook.

Brief was the silence. Once again
 Pealed to the skies that frantic yell,
 Glowed on the heavens a fiery stain, 80
 And flashes rose and fell;
 And painted on the blood-red sky,
 Dark, naked arms were tossed on high;
 And, round the white man's lordly
 hall,
 Trod, fierce and free, the brute he
 made;
 And those who crept along the wall,
 And answered to his lightest call
 With more than spaniel dread,
 The creatures of his lawless beck,
 Were trampling on his very neck! 90
 And on the night-air, wild and clear,
 Rose woman's shriek of more than
 fear;
 For bloodied arms were round her
 thrown,
 And dark cheeks pressed against her
 own!

Then, injured Afric! for the shame
 Of thy own daughters, vengeance
 came
 Full on the scornful hearts of those,
 Who mocked thee in thy nameless woes,

And to thy hapless children gave 99
 One choice, — pollution or the grave!
 Where then was he whose fiery zeal
 Had taught the trampled heart to
 feel,
 Until despair itself grew strong,
 And vengeance fed its torch from
 wrong?
 Now, when the thunderbolt is speed-
 ing;
 Now, when oppression's heart is bleed-
 ing;
 Now, when the latent curse of Time
 Is raining down in fire and blood,
 That curse which, through long years
 of crime,
 Has gathered, drop by drop, its
 flood, 110
 Why strikes he not, the foremost one,
 Where murder's sternest deeds are
 done?

He stood the aged palms beneath,
 That shadowed o'er his humble
 door,
 Listening, with half-suspended breath,
 To the wild sounds of fear and death,
 Toussaint L'Ouverture!
 What marvel that his heart beat high!
 The blow for freedom had been
 given,
 And blood had answered to the cry 120
 Which Earth sent up to Heaven!
 What marvel that a fierce delight
 Smiled grimly o'er his brow of night,
 As groan and shout and bursting flame
 Told where the midnight tempest
 came,
 With blood and fire along its van,
 And death behind! he was a Man!

Yes, dark-souled chieftain! if the
 light
 Of mild Religion's heavenly ray
 Unveiled not to thy mental sight 130
 The lowlier and the purer way,
 In which the Holy Sufferer trod,
 Meekly amidst the sons of crime;
 That calm reliance upon God
 For justice in His own good time;
 That gentleness to which belongs
 Forgiveness for its many wrongs,
 Even as the primal martyr, kneeling
 For mercy on the evil-dealing; 139
 Let not the favored white man name
 Thy stern appeal, with words of blame.

Has he not, with the light of heaven
Broadly around him, made the
same?

Yea, on his thousand war-fields striven,
And gloried in his ghastly shame?
Kneeling amidst his brother's blood,
To offer mockery unto God,
As if the High and Holy One
Could smile on deeds of murder done!
As if a human sacrifice ¹⁵⁰
Were purer in His holy eyes,
Though offered up by Christian hands,
Than the foul rites of Pagan lands!

Sternly, amidst his household band,
His carbine grasped within his hand,
The white man stood, prepared and
still,
Waiting the shock of maddened men,
Unchained, and fierce as tigers, when
The horn winds through their caverned
hill.

And one was weeping in his sight, ¹⁶⁰
The sweetest flower of all the isle,
The bride who seemed but yester-
night

Love's fair embodied smile.
And, clinging to her trembling knee,
Looked up the form of infancy,
With tearful glance in either face
The secret of its fear to trace

"Ha! stand or die!" The white man's
eye

His steady musket gleamed along,
As a tall Negro hastened nigh, ¹⁷⁰
With fearless step and strong.

"What ho, Toussaint!" A moment
more,

His shadow crossed the lighted floor.
"Away!" he shouted; "fly with me,
The white man's bark is on the sea;
Her sails must catch the seaward
wind,

For sudden vengeance sweeps behind.
Our brethren from their graves have
spoken,

The yoke is spurned, the chain is
broken;

On all the hills our fires are glowing,
Through all the vales red blood is
flowing! ¹⁸¹

No more the mocking White shall rest
His foot upon the Negro's breast;
No more, at morn or eve, shall drip

The warm blood from the driver's
whip:

Yet, though Toussaint has vengeance
sworn

For all the wrongs his race have borne,
Though for each drop of Negro blood
The white man's veins shall pour a
flood;

Not all alone the sense of ill ¹⁹⁰
Around his heart is lingering still,
Nor deeper can the white man feel
The generous warmth of grateful zeal.
Friends of the Negro! fly with me,
The path is open to the sea:

Away, for life!" He spoke, and
pressed

The young child to his manly breast,
As, headlong, through the cracking
cane,

Down swept the dark insurgent train,
Drunken and grim, with shout and yell
Howled through the dark, like sounds
from hell. ²⁰¹

Far out, in peace, the white man's sail
Swayed free before the sunrise gale.
Cloud-like that island hung afar,

Along the bright horizon's verge,
O'er which the curse of servile war
Rolled its red torrent, surge on
surge;

And he, the Negro champion, where
In the fierce tumult struggled he?
Go trace him by the fiery glare ²¹⁰

Of dwellings in the midnight air,
The yells of triumph and despair,
The streams that crimson to the sea!

Sleep calmly in thy dungeon-tomb,
Beneath Besançon's alien sky,
Dark Haytien! for the time shall
come,

Yea, even now is nigh,
When, everywhere, thy name shall be
Redeemed from color's infamy; ²¹⁹
And men shall learn to speak of thee
As one of earth's great spirits, born
In servitude, and nursed in scorn,
Casting aside the weary weight
And fetters of its low estate,
In that strong majesty of soul

Which knows no color, tongue, or
clime,

Which still hath spurned the base con-
trol

Of tyrants through all time!

Far other hands than mine may
wreathe 229
The laurel round thy brow of death,
And speak thy praise, as one whose
word
A thousand fiery spirits stirred,
Who crushed his foeman as a worm,
Whose step on human hearts fell firm:
Be mine the better task to find
A tribute for thy lofty mind,
Amidst whose gloomy vengeance
shone
Some milder virtues all thine own,
Some gleams of feeling pure and
warm,
Like sunshine on a sky of storm, 240
Proofs that the Negro's heart retains
Some nobleness amid its chains, —
That kindness to the wronged is never
Without its excellent reward,
Holy to human-kind and ever
Acceptable to God.

THE SLAVE-SHIPS

"That fatal, that perfidious bark,
Built i' the eclipse, and rigged with curses
dark."

MILTON'S *Lycidas*.

"ALL ready?" cried the captain;
"Ay, ay!" the seamen said;
"Heave up the worthless lubbers, —
The dying and the dead."
Up from the slave-ship's prison
Fierce, bearded heads were thrust:
"Now let the sharks look to it, —
Toss up the dead ones first!"

Corpse after corpse came up, —
Death had been busy there; 10
Where every blow is mercy,
Why should the spoiler spare?
Corpse after corpse they cast
Sullenly from the ship,
Yet bloody with the traces
Of fetter-link and whip.

Gloomily stood the captain,
With his arms upon his breast,
With his cold brow sternly knotted
And his iron lip compressed. 20
"Are all the dead dogs over?"
Growled through that matted lip;
"The blind ones are no better,
Let's lighten the good ship."

Hark! from the ship's dark bosom,
The very sounds of hell!
The ringing clank of iron,
The maniac's short, sharp yell!
The hoarse, low curse, throat-stifled;
The starving infant's moan, 30
The horror of a breaking heart
Poured through a mother's groan.

Up from that loathsome prison
The stricken blind ones came;
Below, had all been darkness,
Above, was still the same.
Yet the holy breath of heaven
Was sweetly breathing there,
And the heated brow of fever
Cooled in the soft sea air. 40

"Overboard with them, shipmates!"
Cutlass and dirk were plied;
Fettered and blind, one after one,
Plunged down the vessel's side.
The sabre smote above,
Beneath, the lean shark lay,
Waiting with wide and bloody jaw
His quick and human prey.

God of the earth! what cries
Rang upward unto thee? 50
Voices of agony and blood,
From ship-deck and from sea.
The last dull plunge was heard,
The last wave caught its stain,
And the unsated shark looked up
For human hearts in vain.

Red glowed the western waters,
The setting sun was there,
Scattering alike on wave and cloud
His fiery mesh of hair. 60
Amidst a group in blindness,
A solitary eye
Gazed, from the burdened slaver's
deck,
Into that burning sky.

"A storm," spoke out the gazer,
"Is gathering and at hand;
Curse on 't, I'd give my other eye
For one firm rood of land."
And then he laughed, but only
His echoed laugh replied, 70
For the blinded and the suffering
Alone were at his side.



“God of the earth! what cries!”

Night settled on the waters,
And on a stormy heaven,
While fiercely on that lone ship's
track

The thunder-gust was driven.
“A sail! — thank God, a sail!”
And as the helmsman spoke,
Up through the stormy murmur
A shout of gladness broke.

80

Down came the stranger vessel,
Unheeding on her way,
So near that on the slaver's deck
Fell off her driven spray.
“Ho! for the love of mercy,
We're perishing and blind!”
A wail of utter agony
Came back upon the wind:

“Help us! for we are stricken
With blindness every one;
Ten days we've floated fearfully,
Unnoting star or sun.
Our ship's the slaver Leon, —
We've but a score on board;
Our slaves are all gone over, —
Help, for the love of God!”

90

On livid brows of agony
The broad red lightning shone;
But the roar of wind and thunder
Stifled the answering groan;
Wailed from the broken waters
A last despairing cry,
As, kindling in the stormy light,
The stranger ship went by.

100

.



"The stranger ship went by"

In the sunny Guadeloupe
 A dark-hulled vessel lay,
 With a crew who noted never
 The nightfall or the day.
 The blossom of the orange
 Was white by every stream, 110
 And tropic leaf, and flower, and bird
 Were in the warm sunbeam.

And the sky was bright as ever,
 And the moonlight slept as well,
 On the palm-trees by the hillside,
 And the streamlet of the dell:
 And the glances of the Creole
 Were still as archly deep,
 And her smiles as full as ever
 Of passion and of sleep. 120

But vain were bird and blossom,
 The green earth and the sky,
 And the smile of human faces,
 To the slaver's darkened eye;
 At the breaking of the morning,
 At the star-lit evening time,
 O'er a world of light and beauty
 Fell the blackness of his crime.

EXPOSTULATION

OUR fellow-countrymen in chains!
 Slaves, in a land of light and law!
 Slaves, crouching on the very plains
 Where rolled the storm of Free-
 dom's war!

A groan from Eutaw's haunted wood,
 A wail where Camden's martyrs
 fell,
 By every shrine of patriot blood,
 From Moultrie's wall and Jasper's
 well!

By storied hill and hallowed grot,
 By mossy wood and marshy glen, 10
 Whence rang of old the rifle-shot,
 And hurrying shout of Marion's
 men!

The groan of breaking hearts is there,
 The falling lash, the fetter's clank!
 Slaves, slaves are breathing in that
 air

Which old De Kalb and Sumter
 drank!



Dr. Charles Follen (whose speech suggested these lines).

What ho! our countrymen in chains!
 The whip on woman's shrinking
 flesh!
 Our soil yet reddening with the stains
 Caught from her scourging, warm
 and fresh!
 What! mothers from their children
 riven!
 What! God's own image bought
 and sold!
 Americans to market driven,
 And bartered as the brute for gold!
 Speak! shall their agony of prayer
 Come thrilling to our hearts in vain?

To us whose fathers scorned to bear
 The paltry menace of a chain;
 To us, whose boast is loud and long
 Of holy Liberty and Light;
 Say, shall these writhing slaves of
 Wrong
 Plead vainly for their plundered
 Right?

What! shall we send, with lavish
 breath,
 Our sympathies across the wave,
 Where Manhood, on the field of
 death,
 Strikes for his freedom or a grave?

Shall prayers go up, and hymns be
 sung
 For Greece, the Moslem fetter
 spurning,
 And millions hail with pen and tongue
 Our light on all her altars burn-
 ing? 40

Shall Belgium feel, and gallant France,
 By Vendome's pile and Schoen-
 brun's Wall,
 And Poland, gasping on her lance,
 The impulse of our cheering call?
 And shall the slave, beneath our eye,
 Clank o'er our fields his hateful
 chain?
 And toss his fettered arms on high,
 And groan for Freedom's gift, in
 vain?

Oh, say, shall Prussia's banner be
 A refuge for the stricken slave? 50
 And shall the Russian serf go free
 By Baikal's lake and Neva's wave?
 And shall the wintry-bosomed Dane
 Relax the iron hand of pride,
 And bid his bondmen cast the chain
 From fettered soul and limb aside?

Shall every flap of England's flag
 Proclaim that all around are free,
 From farthest Ind to each blue crag
 That beetles o'er the Western
 Sea? 60
 And shall we scoff at Europe's kings,
 When Freedom's fire is dim with
 us,
 And round our country's altar clings
 The damning shade of Slavery's
 curse?

Go, let us ask of Constantine
 To loose his grasp on Poland's
 throat;
 And beg the lord of Mahmoud's line
 To spare the struggling Suliote;
 Will not the scorching answer come
 From turbaned Turk, and scornful
 Russ: 70
 "Go, loose your fettered slaves at
 home,
 Then turn and ask the like of us!"

Just God! and shall we calmly rest,
 The Christian's scorn, the heathen's
 mirth,

Content to live the lingering jest
 And by-word of a mocking Earth?
 Shall our own glorious land retain
 That curse which Europe scorns to
 bear?
 Shall our own brethren drag the chain
 Which not even Russia's menials
 wear? 80

Up, then, in Freedom's manly part,
 From graybeard eld to fiery youth,
 And on the nation's naked heart
 Scatter the living coals of Truth!
 Up! while ye slumber, deeper yet
 The shadow of our fame is grow-
 ing!
 Up! while ye pause, our sun may
 set
 In blood around our altars flowing!

Oh! rouse ye, ere the storm comes
 forth,
 The gathered wrath of God and
 man, 90
 Like that which wasted Egypt's earth,
 When hail and fire above it ran.
 Hear ye no warnings in the air?
 Feel ye no earthquake underneath?
 Up, up! why will ye slumber where
 The sleeper only wakes in death?

Rise now for Freedom! not in strife
 Like that your sterner fathers
 saw,
 The awful waste of human life,
 The glory and the guilt of war: 100
 But break the chain, the yoke re-
 move,
 And smite to earth Oppression's
 rod,
 With those mild arms of Truth and
 Love,
 Made mighty through the living
 God!

Down let the shrine of Moloch sink,
 And leave no traces where it stood;
 Nor longer let its idol drink
 His daily cup of human blood;
 But rear another altar there,
 To Truth and Love and Mercy
 given, 110
 And Freedom's gift, and Freedom's
 prayer,
 Shall call an answer down from
 Heaven!

HYMN

WRITTEN FOR THE MEETING OF THE
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, AT CHAT-
HAM STREET CHAPEL, NEW YORK,
HELD ON THE 4TH OF THE SEVENTH
MONTH, 1834.

O THOU, whose presence went before
Our fathers in their weary way,
As with Thy chosen moved of yore
The fire by night, the cloud by day!

When from each temple of the free,
A nation's song ascends to Heaven,
Most Holy Father! unto Thee
May not our humble prayer be
given?

Thy children all, though hue and form
Are varied in Thine own good will,
With Thy own holy breathings warm,
And fashioned in Thine image still.

We thank Thee, Father! hill and plain
Around us wave their fruits once
more,
And clustered vine and blossomed
grain
Are bending round each cottage
door.

And peace is here; and hope and love
Are round us as a mantle thrown,
And unto Thee, supreme above,
The knee of prayer is bowed alone.

But oh, for those this day can bring,
As unto us, no joyful thrill;
For those who, under Freedom's
wing,
Are bound in Slavery's fetters still:

For those to whom Thy written word
Of light and love is never given;
For those whose ears have never heard
The promise and the hope of hea-
ven!

For broken heart, and clouded mind,
Whereon no human mercies fall;
Oh, be Thy gracious love inclined,
Who, as a Father, pitiest all!

And grant, O Father! that the time
Of Earth's deliverance may be near,

When every land and tongue and
clime
The message of Thy love shall hear;

When, smitten as with fire from hea-
ven,
The captive's chain shall sink in
dust,
And to his fettered soul be given
The glorious freedom of the just!

THE YANKEE GIRL

SHE sings by her wheel at that low
cottage-door,
Which the long evening shadow is
stretching before,
With a music as sweet as the music
which seems
Breathed softly and faint in the ear of
our dreams!

How brilliant and mirthful the light of
her eye,
Like a star glancing out from the blue
of the sky!
And lightly and freely her dark tresses
play
O'er a brow and a bosom as lovely as
they!

Who comes in his pride to that low
cottage-door,
The haughty and rich to the humble
and poor?
'T is the great Southern planter, the
master who waves
His whip of dominion o'er hundreds
of slaves.

"Nay, Ellen, for shame! Let those
Yankee fools spin,
Who would pass for our slaves with a
change of their skin;
Let them toil as they will at the loom
or the wheel,
Too stupid for shame, and too vulgar
to feel!

"But thou art too lovely and precious
a gem
To be bound to their burdens and
sullied by them;
For shame, Ellen, shame, cast thy
bondage aside,

And away to the South, as my blessing
and pride. 20

“Oh, come where no winter thy foot-
steps can wrong,
But where flowers are blossoming all
the year long,
Where the shade of the palm-tree is
over my home,
And the lemon and orange are white in
their bloom!

“Oh, come to my home, where my serv-
ants shall all
Depart at thy bidding and come at
thy call;
They shall heed thee as mistress with
trembling and awe,
And each wish of thy heart shall be
felt as a law.”

Oh, could ye have seen her — that
pride of our girls —
Arise and cast back the dark wealth of
her curls, 30
With a scorn in her eye which the
gazer could feel,
And a glance like the sunshine that
flashes on steel!

“Go back, haughty Southron! thy
treasures of gold
Are dim with the blood of the hearts
thou hast sold;
Thy home may be lovely, but round it
I hear
The crack of the whip and the foot-
steps of fear!

“And the sky of thy South may be
brighter than ours,
And greener thy landscapes, and
fairer thy flowers;
But dearer the blast round our moun-
tains which raves,
Than the sweet summer zephyr which
breathes over slaves! 40

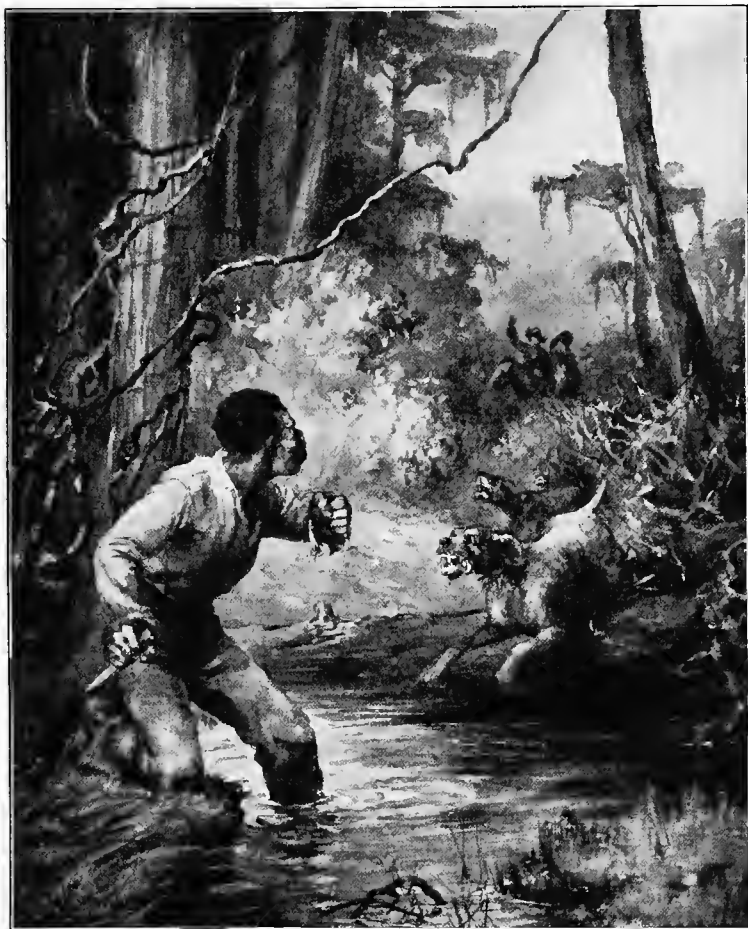
“Full low at thy bidding thy negroes
may kneel,
With the iron of bondage on spirit and
heel;
Yet know that the Yankee girl sooner
would be
In fetters with them, than in freedom
with thee!”

THE HUNTERS OF MEN

HAVE ye heard of our hunting, o'er
mountain and glen,
Through cane-brake and forest, — the
hunting of men?
The lords of our land to this hunting
have gone,
As the fox-hunter follows the sound of
the horn;
Hark! the cheer and the hallo! the
crack of the whip,
And the yell of the hound as he fastens
his grip!
All blithe are our hunters, and noble
their match,
Though hundreds are caught, there
are millions to catch.
So speed to their hunting; o'er moun-
tain and glen,
Through cane-brake and forest, — the
hunting of men! 10

Gay luck to our hunters! how nobly
they ride
In the glow of their zeal, and the
strength of their pride!
The priest with his cassock flung back
on the wind,
Just screening the politic statesman
behind;
The saint and the sinner, with cursing
and prayer,
The drunk and the sober, ride merrily
there.
And woman, kind woman, wife,
widow, and maid,
For the good of the hunted, is lending
her aid:
Her foot's in the stirrup, her hand on
the rein,
How blithely she rides to the hunting
of men! 20

Oh, goodly and grand is our hunting
to see,
In this “land of the brave and this
home of the free.”
Priest, warrior, and statesman, from
Georgia to Maine,
All mounting the saddle, all grasping
the rein;
Right merrily hunting the black man,
whose sin
Is the curl of his hair and the hue of
his skin!



"Woe, now, to the hunted who turns him at bay!"

Woe, now, to the hunted who turns
 him at bay!
 Will our hunters be turned from their
 purpose and prey?
 Will their hearts fail within them?
 their nerves tremble, when
 All roughly they ride to the hunting of
 men?

30

Ho! alms for our hunters! all weary
 and faint,
 Wax the curse of the sinner and
 prayer of the saint.
 The horn is wound faintly, the echoes
 are still,
 Over cane-brake and river, and forest
 and hill.

Haste, alms for our hunters! the
 hunted once more
 Have turned from their flight with
 their backs to the shore:
 What right have they here in the
 home of the white,
 Shadowed o'er by our banner of Free-
 dom and Right?
 Ho! alms for the hunters! or never
 again
 Will they ride in their pomp to the
 hunting of men! 40

Alms, alms for our hunters! why will
 ye delay,
 When their pride and their glory are
 melting away?
 The parson has turned; for, on charge
 of his own,
 Who goeth a warfare, or hunting,
 alone?
 The politic statesman looks back with
 a sigh,
 There is doubt in his heart, there is
 fear in his eye.
 Oh, haste, lest that doubting and fear
 shall prevail,
 And the head of his steed take the
 place of the tail.
 Oh, haste, ere he leave us! for who
 will ride then,
 For pleasure or gain, to the hunting of
 men? 50

1835

STANZAS FOR THE TIMES

Is this the land our fathers loved,
 The freedom which they toiled to
 win?
 Is this the soil whereon they moved?
 Are these the graves they slumber
 in?
 Are we the sons by whom are borne
 The mantles which the dead have
 worn?
 And shall we crouch above these
 graves,
 With craven soul and fettered lip?
 Yoke in with marked and branded
 slaves,
 And tremble at the driver's whip? 10
 Bend to the earth our pliant knees,
 And speak but as our masters please?

Shall outraged Nature cease to feel?
 Shall Mercy's tears no longer flow?
 Shall ruffian threats of cord and steel,
 The dungeon's gloom, the assassin's
 blow,
 Turn back the spirit roused to save
 The Truth, our Country, and the
 slave?

Of human skulls that shrine was
 made, 19
 Round which the priests of Mexico
 Before their loathsome idol prayed;
 Is Freedom's altar fashioned so?
 And must we yield to Freedom's
 God,
 As offering meet, the negro's blood?

Shall tongue be mute, when deeds are
 wrought
 Which well might shame extremest
 bell?
 Shall freemen lock the indignant
 thought?
 Shall Pity's bosom cease to swell?
 Shall Honor bleed? — shall Truth
 succumb?
 Shall pen, and press, and soul be
 dumb? 30

No; by each spot of haunted ground,
 Where Freedom weeps her chil-
 dren's fall;
 By Plymouth's rock, and Bunker's
 mound;
 By Griswold's stained and shat-
 tered wall;
 By Warren's ghost, by Langdon's
 shade;
 By all the memories of our dead!

By their enlarging souls, which burst
 The bands and fetters round them
 set;
 By the free Pilgrim spirit nursed
 Within our inmost bosoms, yet, 40
 By all above, around, below,
 Be ours the indignant answer, — No!

No; guided by our country's laws,
 For truth, and right, and suffering
 man,
 Be ours to strive in Freedom's cause,
 As Christians may, as freemen can!
 Still pouring on unwilling ears
 That truth oppression only fears.

What! shall we guard our neighbor
still,

While woman shrieks beneath his
rod, ⁵⁰

And while he tramples down at will
The image of a common God?

Shall watch and ward be round him
set,

Of Northern nerve and bayonet?

And shall we know and share with him
The danger and the growing
shame?

And see our Freedom's light grow dim,
Which should have filled the world
with flame?

And, writhing, feel, where'er we turn,
A world's reproach around us burn? ⁶⁰

Is't not enough that this is borne?

And asks our haughty neighbor
more?

Must fetters which his slaves have
worn

Clank round the Yankee farmer's
door?

Must he be told, beside his plough,
What he must speak, and when, and
how?

Must he be told his freedom stands
On Slavery's dark foundations
strong;

On breaking hearts and fettered
hands, ⁶⁹

On robbery, and crime, and wrong?
That all his fathers taught is vain, —
That Freedom's emblem is the chain?

Its life, its soul, from slavery drawn!
False, foul, profane! Go, teach as
well

Of holy Truth from Falsehood horn!
Of Heaven refreshed by airs from
Hell!

Of Virtue in the arms of Vice!
Of Demons planting Paradise!

Rail on, then, brethren of the South,
Ye shall not hear the truth the
less; ⁸⁰

No seal is on the Yankee's mouth,
No fetter on the Yankee's press!

From our Green Mountains to the sea,
One voice shall thunder, We are free!

1835

CLERICAL OPPRESSORS

JUST God! and these are they
Who minister at thine altar, God of
Right!

Men who their hands with prayer and
blessing lay
On Israel's Ark of light!

What! preach, and kidnap men?
Give thanks, and rob thy own af-
flicted poor?

Talk of thy glorious liberty, and then
Bolt hard the captive's door?

What! servants of thy own
Merciful Son, who came to seek and
save ¹⁰

The homeless and the outcast, fetter-
ing down
The tasked and plundered slave!

Pilate and Herod, friends!
Chief priests and rulers, as of old, com-
bine!

Just God and holy! is that church,
which lends
Strength to the spoiler, thine?

Paid hypocrites, who turn
Judgment aside, and rob the Holy
Book

Of those high words of truth which
search and burn
In warning and rebuke; ²⁰

Feed fat, ye locusts, feed!
And, in your tasselled pulpits, thank
the Lord

That, from the toiling bondman's
utter need,
Ye pile your own full board.

How long, O Lord! how long
Shall such a priesthood barter truth
away,

And in Thy name, for robbery and
wrong
At Thy own altars pray?

Is not Thy hand stretched forth,
Visibly in the heavens, to awe and
smite? ³⁰

Shall not the living God of all the
earth,
And heaven above, do right? ·

Woe, then, to all who grind
Their brethren of a common Father
down!

To all who plunder from the immortal
mind
Its bright and glorious crown!

Woe to the priesthood! woe
To those whose hire is with the price
of blood;
Perverting, darkening, changing, as
they go,
The searching truths of God! 40

Their glory and their might
Shall perish; and their very names
shall be
Vile before all the people, in the light
Of a world's liberty.

Oh, speed the moment on
When Wrong shall cease, and Liberty
and Love
And Truth and Right throughout the
earth be known
As in their home above.

A SUMMONS

Written on the adoption of Pinckney's
Resolutions in the House of Representa-
tives, and the passage of Calhoun's "Bill
for excluding Papers written or printed,
touching the subject of Slavery, from the
U. S. Post-office," in the Senate of the
United States.

MEN of the North-land! where 's the
manly spirit
Of the true-hearted and the un-
shackled gone?
Sons of old freemen, do we but inherit
Their names alone?

Is the old Pilgrim spirit quenched
within us,
Stoops the strong manhood of our
souls so low,
That Mammon's lure or Party's wile
can win us
To silence now?

Now, when our land to ruin's brink is
verging,
In God's name, let us speak while
there is time! 10

Now, when the padlocks for our lips
are forging,
Silence is crime!

What! shall we henceforth humbly ask
as favors
Rights all our own? In madness
shall we barter,
For treacherous peace, the freedom
Nature gave us,
God and our charter?

Here shall the statesman forge his
human fetters,
Here the false jurist human rights
deny,
And in the church, their proud and
skilled abettors
Make truth a lie? 20

Torture the pages of the hallowed
Bible,
To sanction crime, and robbery, and
blood?
And, in Oppression's hateful service,
libel
Both man and God?

Shall our New England stand erect no
longer,
But stoop in chains upon her down-
ward way,
Thicker to gather on her limbs and
stronger
Day after day?

Oh no; methinks from all her wild,
green mountains;
From valleys where her slumbering
fathers lie; 30
From her blue rivers and her welling
fountains,
And clear, cold sky;

From her rough coast, and isles,
which hungry Ocean
Gnaws with his surges; from the
fisher's skiff,
With white sail swaying to the bil-
low's motion
Round rock and cliff;

From the free fireside of her unbought
farmer;
From her free laborer at his loom
and wheel;

From the brown smith-shop, where,
beneath the hammer,
Rings the red steel; 40

From each and all, if God hath not
forsaken
Our land, and left us to an evil
choice,

Loud as the summer thunderbolt shall
waken
A People's voice.

Startling and stern! the Northern
winds shall bear it
Over Potomac's to St. Mary's
wave;
And buried Freedom shall awake to
hear it
Within her grave.

Oh, let that voice go forth! The bond-
man sighing
By Santee's wave, in Mississippi's
cane, 50
Shall feel the hope, within his bosom
dying,
Revive again.

Let it go forth! The millions who are
gazing
Sadly upon us from afar shall
smile,
And unto God devout thanksgiving
raising,
Bless us the while.

Oh for your ancient freedom, pure and
holy,
For the deliverance of a groaning
earth,
For the wronged captive, bleeding,
crushed, and lowly,
Let it go forth! 60

Sons of the best of fathers! will ye
falter
With all they left ye perilled and at
stake?
Ho! once again on Freedom's holy
altar
The fire awake!

Prayer-strengthened for the trial,
come together,
Put on the harness for the moral
fight,

And, with the blessing of your Hea-
venly Father,
Maintain the right!

TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS
SHIPLEY

GONE to thy Heavenly Father's rest!
The flowers of Eden round thee
blowing,

And on thine ear the murmurs blest
Of Siloa's waters softly flowing!
Beneath that Tree of Life which gives
To all the earth its healing leaves
In the white robe of angels clad,
And wandering by that sacred river,
Whose streams of holiness make glad
The city of our God forever! 10

Gentlest of spirits! not for thee
Our tears are shed, our sighs are
given;

Why mourn to know thou art a free
Partaker of the joys of heaven?
Finished thy work, and kept thy faith
In Christian firmness unto death;
And beautiful as sky and earth,
When autumn's sun is downward
going,

The blessed memory of thy worth
Around thy place of slumber glow-
ing! 20

But woe for us! who linger still
With feebler strength and hearts
less lowly,

And minds less steadfast to the will
Of Him whose every work is holy.
For not like thine, is crucified
The spirit of our human pride:
And at the bondsman's tale of woe,
And for the outcast and forsaken,
Not warm like thine, but cold and
slow,
Our weaker sympathies awaken. 30

Darkly upon our struggling way
The storm of human hate is sweep-
ing;

Hunted and branded, and a prey,
Our watch amidst the darkness
keeping,

Oh, for that hidden strength which
can
Nerve unto death the inner man!

Oh, for thy spirit, tried and true,
 And constant in the hour of trial,
 Prepared to suffer, or to do,
 In meekness and in self-denial. 40

Oh, for that spirit, meek and mild,
 Derided, spurned, yet uncomplaining;

By man deserted and reviled,
 Yet faithful to its trust remaining.
 Still prompt and resolute to save
 From scourge and chain the hunted
 slave;

Unwavering in the Truth's defence,
 Even where the fires of Hate were
 burning,

The unquailing eye of innocence 49
 Alone upon the oppressor turning!

O loved of thousands! to thy grave,
 Sorrowing of heart, thy brethren
 bore thee.

The poor man and the rescued slave
 Wept as the broken earth closed
 o'er thee;

And grateful tears, like summer rain,
 Quickened its dying grass again!

And there, as to some pilgrim-shrine,
 Shall come the outcast and the
 lowly,

Of gentle deeds and words of thine 59
 Recalling memories sweet and holy!

Oh, for the death the righteous die!
 An end, like autumn's day declining,

On human hearts, as on the sky,
 With holier, tenderer beauty shining;

As to the parting soul were given
 The radiance of an opening heaven!
 As if that pure and blessed light,

From off the Eternal altar flowing,
 Were bathing, in its upward flight,
 The spirit to its worship going! 70

THE MORAL WARFARE

WHEN Freedom, on her natal day,
 Within her war-rocked cradle lay,
 An iron race around her stood,
 Baptized her infant brow in blood;
 And, through the storm which round
 her swept,
 Their constant ward and watching kept.

Then, where our quiet herds repose,
 The roar of baleful battle rose,
 And brethren of a common tongue
 To mortal strife as tigers sprung,
 And every gift on Freedom's shrine
 Was man for beast, and blood for
 wine!

Our fathers to their graves have gone;
 Their strife is past, their triumph won;
 But sterner trials wait the race
 Which rises in their honored place;
 A moral warfare with the crime
 And folly of an evil time.

So let it be. In God's own might
 We gird us for the coming fight,
 And, strong in Him whose cause is
 ours

In conflict with unholy powers,
 We grasp the weapons He has given,—
 The Light, and Truth, and Love of
 Heaven.

RITNER

WRITTEN ON READING THE MESSAGE
 OF GOVERNOR RITNER, OF PENNSYLVANIA,
 1836

THANK God for the token! one lip is
 still free,
 One spirit untrammelled, unbending
 one knee!

Like the oak of the mountain, deep-
 rooted and firm,
 Erect, when the multitude bends to
 the storm;

When traitors to Freedom, and Honor,
 and God,
 Are bowed at an Idol polluted with
 blood;

When the recreant North has forgot-
 ten her trust,
 And the lip of her honor is low in the
 dust, —

Thank God, that one arm from the
 shackle has broken!

Thank God, that one man as a free-
 man has spoken! 10

O'er thy crags, Alleghany, a blast has
 been blown!

Down thy tide, Susquehanna, the
 murmur has gone!

To the land of the South, of the charter and chain,
 Of Liberty sweetened with Slavery's pain;
 Where the cant of Democracy dwells on the lips
 Of the forgers of fetters, and wielders of whips!
 Where "chivalric" honor means really no more
 Than scourging of women, and robbing the poor!
 Where the Moloch of Slavery sitteth on high,
 And the words which he utters, are —
 Worship, or die! 20

Right onward, oh, speed it! Wherever the blood
 Of the wronged and the guiltless is crying to God;
 Wherever a slave in his fetters is pining;
 Wherever the lash of the driver is twining;
 Wherever from kindred, torn rudely apart,
 Comes the sorrowful wail of the broken of heart;
 Wherever the shackles of tyranny bind,
 In silence and darkness, the God-given mind;
 There, God speed it onward! its truth will be felt,
 The bonds shall be loosened, the iron shall melt! 30

And oh, will the land where the free soul of Penn
 Still lingers and breathes over mountain and glen;
 Will the land where a Benezet's spirit went forth
 To the peeled and the meted, and out-cast of Earth;
 Where the words of the Charter of Liberty first
 From the soul of the sage and the patriot burst;
 Where first for the wronged and the weak of their kind,
 The Christian and statesman their efforts combined;
 Will that land of the free and the good wear a chain?
 Will the call to the rescue of Freedom be vain? 40

No, Ritner! her "Friends" at thy warning shall stand
 Erect for the truth, like their ancestral band;
 Forgetting the feuds and the strife of past time,
 Counting coldness injustice, and silence a crime;
 Turning back from the cavil of creeds, to unite
 Once again for the poor in defence of the Right;
 Breasting calmly, but firmly, the full tide of Wrong,
 Overwhelmed, but not borne on its surges along;
 Unappalled by the danger, the shame, and the pain,
 And counting each trial for Truth as their gain! 50

And that bold-hearted yeomanry, honest and true,
 Who, haters of fraud, give to labor its due;
 Whose fathers, of old, sang in concert with thine,
 On the banks of Swetara, the songs of the Rhine, —
 The German-born pilgrims, who first dared to brave
 The scorn of the proud in the cause of the slave;
 Will the sons of such men yield the lords of the South
 One brow for the brand, for the padlock one mouth?
 They cater to tyrants? They rivet the chain,
 Which their fathers smote off, on the negro again? 60

No, never! one voice, like the sound in the cloud,
 When the roar of the storm waxes loud and more loud,
 Wherever the foot of the freeman hath pressed
 From the Delaware's marge to the Lake of the West,
 On the South-going breezes shall deepen and grow
 Till the land it sweeps over shall tremble below!
 The voice of a people, uprisen, awake,

Pennsylvania's watchword, with Freedom at stake,
Thrilling up from each valley, flung down from each height,
"Our Country and Liberty! God for the Right!" 70

THE PASTORAL LETTER

So, this is all, — the utmost reach
Of priestly power the mind to fetter!

When laymen think, when women preach,
A war of words, a "Pastoral Letter!"

Now, shame upon ye, parish Popes!
Was it thus with those, your predecessors,
Who sealed with racks, and fire, and ropes
Their loving-kindness to transgressors?

A "Pastoral Letter," grave and dull;
Alas! in hoof and horns and features, 70

How different is your Brookfield bull
From him who bellows from St. Peter's!

Your pastoral rights and powers from harm,
Think ye, can words alone preserve them?

Your wiser fathers taught the arm
And sword of temporal power to serve them.

Oh, glorious days, when Church and State
Were wedded by your spiritual fathers!

And on submissive shoulders sat
Your Wilsons and your Cotton Mathers. 20

No vile "itinerant" then could mar
The beauty of your tranquil Zion,
But at his peril of the scar
Of hangman's whip and branding-iron.

Then, wholesome laws relieved the Church
Of heretic and mischief-maker,

And priest and bailiff joined in search,
By turns, of Papist, witch, and Quaker!

The stocks were at each church's door,
The gallows stood on Boston Common, 30

A Papist's ears the pillory bore, —
The gallows-rope, a Quaker woman!

Your fathers dealt not as ye deal
With "non-professing" frantic teachers;

They bored the tongue with red-hot steel,
And flayed the backs of "female preachers."

Old Hampton, had her fields a tongue,
And Salem's streets could tell their story,

Of fainting woman dragged along,
Gashed by the whip accursed and gory! 40

And will ye ask me, why this taunt
Of memories sacred from the scorner?

And why with reckless hand I plant
A nettle on the graves ye honor?
Not to reproach New England's dead
This record from the past I summon,

Of manhood to the scaffold led,
And suffering and heroic woman.

No, for yourselves alone, I turn
The pages of intolerance over, 50
That, in their spirit, dark and stern,
Ye haply may your own discover!
For, if ye claim the "pastoral right"
To silence Freedom's voice of warning,

And from your precincts shut the light
Of Freedom's day around ye dawning;

If when an earthquake voice of power
And signs in earth and heaven are showing

That forth, in its appointed hour,
The Spirit of the Lord is going! 60
And, with that Spirit, Freedom's light
On kindred, tongue, and people breaking,

Whose slumbering millions, at the sight,

In glory and in strength are waking!

When for the sighing of the poor,
 And for the needy, God hath risen,
 And chains are breaking, and a door
 Is opening for the souls in prison!
 If then ye would, with puny hands,
 Arrest the very work of Heaven, 70
 And bind anew the evil bands
 Which God's right arm of power
 hath riven;

What marvel that, in many a mind,
 Those darker deeds of bigot mad-
 ness
 Are closely with your own combined,
 Yet "less in anger than in sad-
 ness"?
 What marvel, if the people learn
 To claim the right of free opinion?
 What marvel, if at times they spurn
 The ancient yoke of your domin-
 ion? 80

A glorious remnant linger yet,
 Whose lips are wet at Freedom's
 fountains,
 The coming of whose welcome feet
 Is beautiful upon our mountains!
 Men, who the gospel tidings bring
 Of Liberty and Love forever,
 Whose joy is an abiding spring,
 Whose peace is as a gentle river!

But ye, who scorn the thrilling tale
 Of Carolina's high-souled daugh-
 ters, 90
 Which echoes here the mournful wail
 Of sorrow from Edisto's waters,
 Close while ye may the public ear,
 With malice vex, with slander
 wound them,
 The pure and good shall throng to
 hear,
 And tried and manly hearts sur-
 round them.

Oh, ever may the power which led
 Their way to such a fiery trial,
 And strengthened womanhood to tread
 The wine-press of such self-denial,
 Be round them in an evil land, 101
 With wisdom and with strength
 from Heaven,
 With Miriam's voice, and Judith's
 hand,
 And Deborah's song, for triumph
 given!

And what are ye who strive with God
 Against the ark of His salvation,
 Moved by the breath of prayer
 abroad,
 With blessings for a dying nation?
 What, but the stubble and the hay
 To perish, even as flax consum-
 ing, 110
 With all that bars His glorious way,
 Before the brightness of His com-
 ing?

And thou, sad Angel, who so long
 Hast waited for the glorious token,
 That Earth from all her bonds of
 wrong
 To liberty and light has broken, —
 Angel of Freedom! soon to thee
 The sounding trumpet shall be
 given,
 And over Earth's full jubilee
 Shall deeper joy be felt in Hea-
 ven! 120
 1837

HYMN

WRITTEN FOR THE CELEBRATION OF
 THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF BRIT-
 ISH EMANCIPATION, AT THE BROAD-
 WAY TABERNACLE, NEW YORK, FIRST
 OF AUGUST, 1837.

O HOLY FATHER! just and true
 Are all Thy works and words and
 ways,
 And unto Thee alone are due
 Thanksgiving and eternal praise!
 As children of Thy gracious care,
 We veil the eye, we bend the
 knee,
 With broken words of praise and
 prayer,
 Father and God, we come to Thee.

For Thou hast heard, O God of Right,
 The sighing of the island slave;
 And stretched for him the arm of
 might,
 Not shortened that it could not
 save.
 The laborer sits beneath his vine,
 The shackled soul and hand are
 free;
 Thanksgiving! for the work is Thine!
 Praise! for the blessing is of Thee!

And oh, we feel Thy presence here,
Thy awful arm in judgment bare!
Thine eye hath seen the bondman's
tear;

Thine ear hath heard the bond-
man's prayer.

Praise! for the pride of man is low,
The counsels of the wise are naught,
The fountains of repentance flow;

What hath our God in mercy
wrought?

Speed on Thy work, Lord God of
Hosts!

And when the bondman's chain is
riven,

And swells from all our guilty coasts
The anthem of the free to Heaven,
Oh, not to those whom Thou hast
led,

As with Thy cloud and fire before,
But unto Thee, in fear and dread,
Be praise and glory evermore.

THE FAREWELL

OF A VIRGINIA SLAVE MOTHER TO HER
DAUGHTERS SOLD INTO SOUTHERN
BONDAGE

GONE, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone.
Where the slave-whip ceaseless swings,
Where the noisome insect stings,
Where the fever demon strews
Poison with the falling dews,
Where the sickly sunbeams glare
Through the hot and misty air;
Gone, gone, — sold and gone, 9
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters;
Woe is me, my stolen daughters!

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone.
There no mother's eye is near them,
There no mother's ear can hear them;
Never, when the torturing lash
Seams their back with many a gash,
Shall a mother's kindness bless them,
Or a mother's arms caress them. 20

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters;
Woe is me, my stolen daughters!

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone.

Oh, when weary, sad, and slow,
From the fields at night they go,
Faint with toil, and racked with
pain,

To their cheerless homes again, 30
There no brother's voice shall greet
them

There no father's welcome meet
them.

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters;
Woe is me, my stolen daughters!

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone.

From the tree whose shadow lay
On their childhood's place of play; 40
From the cool spring where they
drank;

Rock, and hill, and rivulet bank;
From the solemn house of prayer,
And the holy counsels there;

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters;
Woe is me, my stolen daughters!

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone;
Toiling through the weary day, 51
And at night the spoiler's prey.

Oh, that they had earlier died,
Sleeping calmly, side by side,
Where the tyrant's power is o'er,
And the fetter galls no more!

Gone, gone, — sold and gone,
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters;
Woe is me, my stolen daughters!

Gone, gone, — sold and gone, 61
To the rice-swamp dank and lone.

By the holy love He beareth;
By the bruised reed He spareth;
Oh, may He, to whom alone
All their cruel wrongs are known,
Still their hope and refuge prove,
With a more than mother's love.

Gone, gone, — sold and gone, 69
To the rice-swamp dank and lone,
From Virginia's hills and waters;
Woe is me, my stolen daugh-
ters!

PENNSYLVANIA HALL

Nor with the splendors of the days of
 old,
 The spoil of nations, and barbaric gold;
 No weapons wrested from the fields of
 blood,
 Where dark and stern the unyielding
 Roman stood,
 And the proud eagles of his cohorts saw
 A world, war-wasted, crouching to his
 law;
 Nor blazoned car, nor banners floating
 gay,
 Like those which swept along the Ap-
 pian Way,
 When, to the welcome of imperial
 Rome,
 The victor warrior came in triumph
 home,
 And trumpet peal, and shoutings wild
 and high,
 Stirred the blue quiet of the Italian
 sky;
 But calm and grateful, prayerful and
 sincere,
 As Christian freemen only, gathering
 here,
 We dedicate our fair and lofty Hall,
 Pillar and arch, entablature and wall,
 As Virtue's shrine, as Liberty's abode,
 Sacred to Freedom, and to Freedom's
 God!
 Far staterial Halls, 'neath brighter
 skies than these,
 Stood darkly mirrored in the Ægean
 seas,
 Pillar and shrine, and life-like statues
 seen,
 Graceful and pure, the marble shafts
 between;
 Where glorious Athens from her rocky
 hill
 Saw Art and Beauty subject to her will;
 And the chaste temple, and the classic
 grove,
 The hall of sages, and the bowers of
 love,
 Arch, fane, and column, graced the
 shores, and gave
 Their shadows to the blue Saronic
 wave;
 And staterial rose on Tiber's winding
 side,
 The Pantheon's dome, the Coliseum's
 pride,

The Capitol, whose arches backward
 flung
 The deep, clear cadence of the Ro-
 man tongue,
 Whence stern decrees, like words of
 fate, went forth
 To the awed nations of a conquered
 earth,
 Where the proud Cæsars in their glory
 came,
 And Brutus lightened from his lips of
 flame!
 Yet in the porches of Athena's halls,
 And in the shadow of her stately
 walls,
 Lurked the sad bondman, and his tears
 of woe
 Wet the cold marble with unheeded
 flow;
 And fetters clanked beneath the silver
 dome
 Of the proud Pantheon of imperious
 Rome.
 Oh, not for him, the chained and
 stricken slave,
 By Tiber's shore, or blue Ægina's
 wave,
 In the thronged forum, or the sages'
 seat,
 The bold lip pleaded, and the warm
 heart beat;
 No soul of sorrow melted at his pain,
 No tear of pity rusted on his chain!

 But this fair Hall to Truth and Free-
 dom given,
 Pledged to the Right before all Earth
 and Heaven,
 A free arena for the strife of mind,
 To caste, or sect, or color unconfined,
 Shall thrill with echoes such as ne'er
 of old
 From Roman hall or Grecian temple
 rolled;
 Thoughts shall find utterance such as
 never yet
 The Propylea or the Forum met.
 Beneath its roof no gladiator's strife
 Shall win applauses with the waste of
 life;
 No lordly lictor urge the barbarous
 game,
 No wanton Lais glory in her shame.
 But here the tear of sympathy shall
 flow,
 As the ear listens to the tale of woe;

Here in stern judgment of the oppressor's wrong
 Shall strong rebukings thrill on Freedom's tongue,
 No partial justice hold th' unequal scale,
 No pride of caste a brother's rights assail,
 No tyrant's mandates echo from this wall,
 Holy to Freedom and the Rights of All!
 But a fair field, where mind may close with mind,
 Free as the sunshine and the chainless wind;
 Where the high trust is fixed on Truth alone,
 And bonds and fetters from the soul are thrown;
 Where wealth, and rank, and worldly pomp, and might,
 Yield to the presence of the True and Right.

And fitting is it that this Hall should stand
 Where Pennsylvania's Founder led his band,
 From thy blue waters, Delaware! — to press
 The virgin verdure of the wilderness.
 Here, where all Europe with amazement saw
 The soul's high freedom trammelled by no law;
 Here, where the fierce and warlike forest-men
 Gathered, in peace, around the home of Penn,
 Awed by the weapons Love alone had given
 Drawn from the holy armory of Heaven;
 Where Nature's voice against the bondman's wrong
 First found an earnest and indignant tongue;
 Where Lay's bold message to the proud was borne;
 And Keith's rebuke, and Franklin's manly scorn!
 Fitting it is that here, where Freedom first
 From her fair feet shook off the Old World's dust,

Spread her white pinions to our Western blast,
 And her free tresses to our sunshine cast,
 One Hall should rise redeemed from Slavery's ban,
 One Temple sacred to the Rights of Man!

Oh! if the spirits of the parted come,
 Visiting angels, to their olden home;
 If the dead fathers of the land look forth
 From their fair dwellings, to the things of earth,
 Is it a dream, that with their eyes of love,
 They gaze now on us from the bowers above?
 Lay's ardent soul, and Benezet the mild,
 Steadfast in faith, yet gentle as a child,
 Meek-hearted Woolman, and that brother-band,
 The sorrowing exiles from their "FATHERLAND,"
 Leaving their homes in Krieshiem's bowers of vine,
 And the blue beauty of their glorious Rhine,
 To seek amidst our solemn depths of wood
 Freedom from man, and holy peace with God;
 Who first of all their testimonial gave
 Against the oppressor, for the outcast slave,
 Is it a dream that such as these look down,
 And with their blessing our rejoicings crown?
 Let us rejoice, that while the pulpit's door
 Is barred against the pleaders for the poor;
 While the Church, wrangling upon points of faith,
 Forgets her bondmen suffering unto death;
 While crafty Traffic and the lust of Gain
 Unite to forge Oppression's triple chain,
 One door is open, and one Temple free,
 As a resting-place for hunted Liberty!



The Pantheon

Where men may speak, unshackled
 and unawed,
 High words of Truth, for Freedom and
 for God.
 And when that truth its perfect work
 hath done,
 And rich with blessings o'er our land
 hath gone;
 When not a slave beneath his yoke
 shall pine,
 From broad Potomac to the far Sa-
 bine:
 When unto angel lips at last is given
 The silver trump of Jubilee in Hea-
 ven;
 And from Virginia's plains, Ken-
 tucky's shades,
 And through the dim Floridian ever-
 glades,

130

Rises, to meet that angel-trumpet's
 sound,
 The voice of millions from their chains
 unbound;
 Then, though this Hall be crumbling
 in decay,
 Its strong walls blending with the
 common clay,
 Yet round the ruins of its strength
 shall stand
 The best and noblest of a ransomed
 land —
 Pilgrims, like these who throng around
 the shrine
 Of Mecca, or of holy Palestine!
 A prouder glory shall that ruin
 own
 Than that which lingers round the
 Parthenon.

140

Here shall the child of after years be
taught
The works of Freedom which his fa-
thers wrought;
Told of the trials of the present hour,
Our weary strife with prejudice and
power;
How the high errand quickened wo-
man's soul,
And touched her lip as with a living
coal;
How Freedom's martyrs kept their
lofty faith
True and unwavering, unto bonds and
death;
The pencil's art shall sketch the
ruined Hall,
The Muses' garland crown its aged
wall,
And History's pen for after times re-
cord
Its consecration unto Freedom's God!

THE NEW YEAR

ADDRESSED TO THE PATRONS OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA FREEMAN

THE wave is breaking on the shore,
The echo fading from the chime;
Again the shadow moveth o'er
The dial-plate of time!

O seer-seen Angel! waiting now
With weary feet on sea and shore,
Impatient for the last dread vow
That time shall be no more!

Once more across thy sleepless eye
The semblance of a smile has
passed:
The year departing leaves more nigh¹⁰
Time's fearfullest and last.

Oh, in that dying year hath been
The sum of all since time began;
The birth and death, the joy and pain,
Of Nature and of Man.

Spring, with her change of sun and
shower,
And streams released from Winter's
chain,
And bursting bud, and opening flower,
And greenly growing grain;²⁰

And Summer's shade, and sunshine
warm,
And rainbows o'er her hill-tops
bowed,
And voices in her rising storm;
God speaking from His cloud!

And Autumn's fruits and clustering
sheaves,
And soft, warm days of golden light,
The glory of her forest leaves,
And harvest-moon at night;

And Winter with her leafless grove,
And prisoned stream, and drifting
snow,
The brilliance of her heaven above³⁰
And of her earth below:

And man, in whom an angel's mind
With earth's low instincts finds
abode,
The highest of the links which bind
Brute nature to her God;

His infant eye hath seen the light,
His childhood's merriest laughter
rung,
And active sports to manlier might
The nerves of boyhood strung!⁴⁰

And quiet love, and passion's fires,
Have soothed or burned in man-
hood's breast,
And lofty aims and low desires
By turns disturbed his rest.

The wailing of the newly-born
Has mingled with the funeral knell;
And o'er the dying's ear has gone
The merry marriage-bell.

And Wealth has filled his halls with
mirth,
While Want, in many a humble
shed,⁵⁰
Toiled, shivering by her cheerless
hearth,
The live-long night for bread.

And worse than all, the human slave,
The sport of lust, and pride, and
scorn!
Plucked off the crown his Maker
gave,
His regal manhood gone!

- Oh, still, my country! o'er thy plains,
Blackened with slavery's blight and
ban,
That human chattel drags his chains,
An uncreated man! 60
- And still, where'er to sun and breeze,
My country, is thy flag unrolled,
With scorn, the gazing stranger sees
A stain on every fold.
- Oh, tear the gorgeous emblem down!
It gathers scorn from every eye,
And despots smile and good men
frown
Whene'er it passes by.
- Shame! shame! its starry splendors
glow
Above the slaver's loathsome jail; 70
Its folds are ruffling even now
His crimson flag of sale.
- Still round our country's proudest hall
The trade in human flesh is driven,
And at each careless hammer-fall
A human heart is riven.
- And this, too, sanctioned by the men
Vested with power to shield the right,
And throw each vile and robber den
Wide open to the light. 80
- Yet, shame upon them! there they sit,
Men of the North, subdued and still;
Meek, pliant poltroons, only fit
To work a master's will.
- Sold, bargained off for Southern votes,
A passive herd of Northern mules,
Just braying through their purchased
throats
Whate'er their owner rules.
- And he, the basest of the base,
The vilest of the vile, whose name, 90
Embalmed in infinite disgrace,
Is deathless in its shame!
- A tool, to bolt the people's door
Against the people clamoring there
An ass, to trample on their floor
A people's right of prayer!
- Nailed to his self-made gibbet fast,
Self-pilloried to the public view,
- A mark for every passing blast
Of scorn to whistle through; 100
- There let him hang, and hear the boast
Of Southrons o'er their pliant
tool,—
A new Stylites on his post,
"Sacred to ridicule!"
- Look we at home! our noble hall,
To Freedom's holy purpose given,
Now rears its black and ruined wall
Beneath the wintry heaven,
- Telling the story of its doom,
The fiendish mob, the prostrate
law, 110
The fiery jet through midnight's
gloom,
Our gazing thousands saw.
- Look to our State! the poor man's
right
Torn from him: and the sons of those
Whose blood in Freedom's sternest
fight
Sprinkled the Jersey snows,
- Outlawed within the land of Penn,
That Slavery's guilty fears might
cease,
And those whom God created men
Toil on as brutes in peace. 120
- Yet o'er the blackness of the storm
A bow of promise bends on high,
And gleams of sunshine, soft and warm,
Break through our clouded sky.
- East, West, and North, the shout is
heard,
Of freemen rising for the right:
Each valley hath its rallying word,
Each hill its signal light.
- O'er Massachusetts' rocks of gray
The strengthening light of freedom
shines, 130
Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay,
And Vermont's snow-hung pines!
- From Hudson's frowning palisades
To Alleghany's laurelled crest,
O'er lakes and prairies, streams and
glades,
It shines upon the West.

Speed on the light to those who dwell
 In Slavery's land of woe and sin,
 And through the blackness of that
 Hell
 Let Heaven's own light break in. 140

So shall the Southern conscience quake
 Before that light poured full and
 strong,
 So shall the Southern heart awake
 To all the bondman's wrong.

And from that rich and sunny land
 The song of grateful millions rise,
 Like that of Israel's ransomed band
 Beneath Arabia's skies:

And all who now are bound beneath
 Our banner's shade, our eagle's
 wing, 150
 From Slavery's night of moral death
 To light and life shall spring.

Broken the bondman's chain, and
 gone
 The master's guilt, and hate, and
 fear,
 And unto both alike shall dawn
 A New and Happy Year.

THE RELIC

Written on receiving a cane wrought
 from a fragment of the wood-work of Penn-
 sylvania Hall which the fire had spared.

TOKEN of friendship true and tried,
 From one whose fiery heart of youth
 With mine has beaten, side by side,
 For Liberty and Truth;
 With honest pride the gift I take,
 And prize it for the giver's sake.

But not alone because it tells
 Of generous hand and heart sincere;
 Around that gift of friendship dwells
 A memory doubly dear; 10
 Earth's noblest aim, man's holiest
 thought,
 With that memorial frail inwrought!

Pure thoughts and sweet like flowers
 unfold,
 And precious memories round it
 cling,

Even as the Prophet's rod of old
 In beauty blossoming:
 And buds of feeling, pure and good,
 Spring from its cold unconscious wood.

Relic of Freedom's shrine! a brand
 Plucked from its burning! let it be
 Dear as a jewel from the hand 21
 Of a lost friend to me!
 Flower of a perished garland left,
 Of life and beauty unbereft!

Oh, if the young enthusiast bears,
 O'er weary waste and sea, the stone
 Which crumbled from the Forum's
 stairs,

Or round the Parthenon;
 Or olive-bough from some wild tree
 Hung over old Thermopylæ: 30

If leaflets from some hero's tomb,
 Or moss-wreath torn from ruins
 hoary;

Or faded flowers whose sisters bloom
 On fields renowned in story;
 Or fragment from the Alhambra's
 crest,
 Or the gray rock by Druids blessed;

Sad Erin's shamrock greenly growing
 Where Freedom led her stalwart
 kern,

Or Scotia's "rough bur thistle" blow-
 ing

On Bruce's Bannockburn; 40
 Or Runnymede's wild English rose,
 Or lichen plucked from Sempach's
 snows!

If it be true that things like these
 To heart and eye bright visions bring,
 Shall not far holier memories

To this memorial cling?
 Which needs no mellowing mist of
 time

To hide the crimson stains of crime!

Wreck of a temple, unprofaned;
 Of courts where Peace with Free-
 dom trod, 50

Lifting on high, with hands unstained,
 Thanksgiving unto God;

Where Mercy's voice of love was plead-
 ing

For human hearts in bondage bleed-
 ing!

Where, midst the sound of rushing
feet

And curses on the night-air flung,
That pleading voice rose calm and
sweet

From woman's earnest tongue;
And Riot turned his scowling glance,
Awed, from her tranquil counte-
nance! 60

That temple now in ruin lies!

The fire-stain on its shattered wall,
And open to the changing skies
Its black and roofless hall,
It stands before a nation's sight,
A gravestone over buried Right!

But from that ruin, as of old,

The fire-scorched stones them-
selves are crying,
And from their ashes white and cold
Its timbers are replying! 70
A voice which slavery cannot kill
Speaks from the crumbling arches
still!

And even this relic from thy shrine,

O holy Freedom! hath to me
A potent power, a voice and sign
To testify of thee;
And, grasping it, methinks I feel
A deeper faith, a stronger zeal.

And not unlike that mystic rod,

Of old stretched o'er the Egyptian
wave, 80
Which opened, in the strength of God,
A pathway for the slave,
It yet may point the bondman's way,
And turn the spoiler from his prey.

THE WORLD'S CONVENTION

OF THE FRIENDS OF EMANCIPATION,
HELD IN LONDON IN 1840

Yes, let them gather! Summon forth
The pledged philanthropy of Earth.
From every land, whose hills have
heard

The bugle blast of Freedom waking;
Or shrieking of her symbol-bird

From out his cloudy eyrie breaking:
Where Justice hath one worshipper,
Or truth one altar built to her;

Where'er a human eye is weeping
O'er wrongs which Earth's sad chil-
dren know; 10

Where'er a single heart is keeping
Its prayerful watch with human
woe:

Thence let them come, and greet each
other,

And know in each a friend and bro-
ther!

Yes, let them come! from each green
vale

Where England's old baronial halls
Still bear upon their storied walls
The grim crusader's rusted mail,
Battered by Paynim spear and brand
On Malta's rock or Syria's sand! 20
And mouldering pennon-staves once
set

Within the soil of Palestine,

By Jordan and Gennesaret;
Or, borne with England's battle
line,

O'er Acre's shattered turrets stooping,
Or, midst the camp their banners
drooping,

With dews from hallowed Hermon
wet,

A holier summons now is given
Than that gray hermit's voice of old,
Which unto all the winds of heaven 30

The banners of the Cross unrolled!
Not for the long-deserted shrine;

Not for the dull unconscious sod,
Which tells not by one lingering sign
That there the hope of Israel trod;
But for that truth, for which alone

In pilgrim eyes are sanctified
The garden moss, the mountain stone,
Whereon His holy sandals pressed, —
The fountain which His lip hath
blessed, — 40

Whate'er hath touched His garment's
hem

At Bethany or Bethlehem,
Or Jordan's river-side.

For Freedom in the name of Him
Who came to raise Earth's drooping
poor,

To break the chain from every limb,
The bolt from every prison door!
For these, o'er all the earth hath passed
An ever-deepening trumpet blast,
As if an angel's breath had lent 50
Its vigor to the instrument.

And Wales, from Snowdon's mountain wall,
 Shall startle at that thrilling call,
 As if she heard her bards again;
 And Erin's "harp on Tara's wall"
 Give out its ancient strain,
 Mirthful and sweet, yet sad withal, —
 The melody which Erin loves,
 When o'er that harp, 'mid bursts of gladness
 And slogan cries and lyke-wake sadness,
 The hand of her O'Connell moves!
 Scotland, from lake and tarn and rill,
 And mountain hold, and heathery hill,
 Shall catch and echo back the note,
 As if she heard upon the air
 Once more her Cameronian's prayer
 And song of Freedom float.
 And cheering echoes shall reply
 From each remote dependency,
 Where Britain's mighty sway is known,
 In tropic sea or frozen zone;
 Where'er her sunset flag is furling,
 Or morning gun-fire's smoke is curling;
 From Indian Bengal's groves of palm
 And rosy fields and gales of balm,
 Where Eastern pomp, and power are rolled
 Through regal Ava's gates of gold;
 And from the lakes and ancient woods
 And dim Canadian solitudes,
 Whence, sternly from her rocky throne,
 Queen of the North, Quebec looks down;
 And from those bright and ransomed Isles
 Where all unwonted Freedom smiles,
 And the dark laborer still retains
 The scar of slavery's broken chains!
 From the hoar Alps, which sentinel
 The gateways of the land of Tell,
 Where morning's keen and earliest glance
 On Jura's rocky wall is thrown,
 And from the olive bowers of France
 And vine groves garlanding the Rhone, —
 "Friends of the Blacks," as true and tried
 As those who stood by Oge's side,

And heard the Haytien's tale of wrong,
 Shall gather at that summons strong;
 Broglie, Passy, and he whose song
 Breathed over Syria's holy sod,
 And in the paths which Jesus trod,
 And murmured midst the hills which hem
 Crownless and sad Jerusalem,
 Hath echoes wheresoe'er the tone
 Of Israel's prophet-lyre is known.

Still let them come; from Quito's walls,
 And from the Orinoco's tide,
 From Lima's Inca-haunted halls,
 From Santa Fé and Yucatan, —
 Men who by swart Guerrero's side
 Proclaimed the deathless rights of man,
 Broke every bond and fetter off,
 And hailed in every sable serf
 A free and brother Mexican!
 Chiefs who across the Andes' chain
 Have followed Freedom's flowing pennon,
 And seen on Junin's fearful plain,
 Glare o'er the broken ranks of Spain
 The fire-burst of Bolivar's cannon!
 And Hayti, from her mountain land,
 Shall send the sons of those who hurled
 Defiance from her blazing strand,
 The war-gage from her Petion's hand,
 Alone against a hostile world.

Nor all unmindful, thou, the while,
 Land of the dark and mystic Nile!
 Thy Moslem mercy yet may shame
 All tyrants of a Christian name,
 When in the shade of Gizeh's pile,
 Or, where, from Abyssinian hills
 El Gerek's upper fountain fills,
 Or where from Mountains of the Moon
 El Abiad bears his watery boon,
 Where'er thy lotus blossoms swim
 Within their ancient hallowed waters;
 Where'er is heard the Coptic hymn,
 Or song of Nubia's sable daughters;
 The curse of slavery and the crime,
 Thy bequest from remotest time,
 At thy dark Mehemet's decree
 Forevermore shall pass from thee;



"Or Jordan's river-side"

And chains forsake each captive's
limb ¹³⁹
Of all those tribes, whose hills around
Have echoed back the cymbal sound
And victor horn of Ibrahim.

And thou whose glory and whose crime
To earth's remotest bound and clime,
In mingled tones of awe and scorn,
The echoes of a world have borne,
My country! glorious at thy birth,
A day-star flashing brightly forth,
The herald-sign of Freedom's dawn!
Oh, who could dream that saw thee
then, ¹⁵⁰

And watched thy rising from afar,
That vapors from oppression's fen
Would cloud the upward tending
star?

Or, that earth's tyrant powers, which
heard,
Awe-struck, the shout which hailed
thy dawning,
Would rise so soon, prince, peer, and
king,

To mock thee with their welcoming,
Like Hades when her thrones were
stirred

To greet the down-cast Star of
Morning!

"Aha! and art thou fallen thus? ¹⁶⁰
Art thou become as one of us?"

Land of my fathers! there will stand,
Amidst that world-assembled band,
Those owning thy maternal claim
Unweakened by thy crime and shame;
The sad reprovers of thy wrong;
The children thou hast spurned so long.
Still with affection's fondest yearning
To their unnatural mother turning.
No traitors they! but tried and
leal, ¹⁷⁰

Whose own is but thy general weal,
Still blending with the patriot's zeal
The Christian's love for human kind,
To caste and climate unconfined.

A holy gathering! peaceful all:
No threat of war, no savage call

For vengeance on an erring brother!
But in their stead the godlike plan
To teach the brotherhood of man
To love and reverence one another, 180

As sharers of a common blood,
The children of a common God!
Yet, even at its lightest word,
Shall Slavery's darkest depths be stirred:

Spain, watching from her Moro's keep
Her slave-ships traversing the deep,
And Rio, in her strength and pride,
Lifting, along her mountain-side,
Her snowy battlements and towers,
Her lemon-groves and tropic bowers,
With bitter hate and sullen fear 191
Its freedom-giving voice shall hear;
And where my country's flag is flowing,

On breezes from Mount Vernon blowing,

Above the Nation's council halls,
Where Freedom's praise is loud and long,

While close beneath the outward walls

The driver plies his reeking thong,
The hammer of the man-thief falls,
O'er hypocritic cheek and brow 200

The crimson flush of shame shall glow:
And all who for their native land
Are pledging life and heart and hand,
Worn watchers o'er her changing weal,
Who for her tarnished honor feel,
Through cottage door and council-hall
Shall thunder an awakening call.

The pen along its page shall burn
With all intolerable scorn;
An eloquent rebuke shall go 210
On all the winds that Southward blow;

From priestly lips, now sealed and dumb,

Warning and dread appeal shall come,
Like those which Israel heard from him,

The Prophet of the Cherubim;
Or those which sad Esaias hurled
Against a sin-accursed world!
Its wizard leaves the Press shall fling
Unceasing from its iron wing,
With characters inscribed thereon, 220

As fearful in the despot's hall
As to the pomp of Babylon
The fire-sign on the palace wall!

And, from her dark iniquities,
Methinks I see my country rise:
Not challenging the nations round
To note her tardy justice done;
Her captives from their chains unbound,

Her prisons opening to the sun:
But tearfully her arms extending 230
Over the poor and unoffending;

Her regal emblem now no longer
A bird of prey, with talons reeking,
Above the dying captive shrieking,
But, spreading out her ample wing,
A broad, impartial covering,
The weaker sheltered by the stronger!

Oh, then to Faith's anointed eyes
The promised token shall be given;
And on a nation's sacrifice, 240
Atoning for the sin of years,
And wet with penitential tears,
The fire shall fall from Heaven!

MASSACHUSETTS TO VIRGINIA

Written on reading an account of the proceedings of the citizens of Norfolk, Va., in reference to George Latimer, the alleged fugitive slave, who was seized in Boston without warrant at the request of James B. Grey, of Norfolk, claiming to be his master. The case caused great excitement North and South.

THE blast from Freedom's Northern hills,
upon its Southern way,
Bears greeting to Virginia from Massachusetts Bay:
No word of haughty challenging, nor
battle bugle's peal,
Nor steady tread of marching files,
nor clang of horsemen's steel.

No trains of deep-mouthed cannon
along our highways go;
Around our silent arsenals untrodden
lies the snow;
And to the land-breeze of our ports,
upon their errands far,
A thousand sails of commerce swell,
but none are spread for war.

We hear thy threats, Virginia! thy
stormy words and high
Swell harshly on the Southern winds
which melt along our sky; 10



Mount Vernon

Yet, not one brown, hard hand fore-
goes its honest labor here,
No hewer of our mountain oaks sus-
pends his axe in fear.

Wild are the waves which lash the
reefs along St. George's bank;
Cold on the shores of Labrador the fog
lies white and dank;
Through storm, and wave, and blind-
ing mist, stout are the hearts
which man
The fishing-smacks of Marblehead, the
sea-boats of Cape Ann.

The cold north light and wintry sun
glare on their icy forms,
Bent grimly o'er their straining lines
or wrestling with the storms;
Free as the winds they drive before,
rough as the waves they roam,
They laugh to scorn the slaver's threat
against their rocky home. 20

What means the Old Dominion? Hath
she forgot the day
When o'er her conquered valleys
swept the Briton's steel array?

How side by side, with sons of hers,
the Massachusetts men
Encountered Tarleton's charge of fire,
and stout Cornwallis, then?

Forgets she how the Bay State, in an-
swer to the call
Of her old House of Burgesses, spoke
out from Faneuil Hall?
When, echoing back her Henry's cry
came pulsing on each breath
Of Northern winds the thrilling sounds
of "Liberty or Death!"

What asks the Old Dominion? If now
her sons have proved
False to their fathers' memory, false
to the faith they loved; 30
If she can scoff at Freedom, and its
great charter spurn,
Must we of Massachusetts from truth
and duty turn?

We hunt your bondmen, flying from
Slavery's hateful hell;
Our voices, at your bidding, take up
the bloodhound's yell;

We gather, at your summons, above
our fathers' graves,
From Freedom's holy altar-horns to
tear your wretched slaves!

Thank God! not yet so vilely can
Massachusetts bow;
The spirit of her early time is with her
even now;
Dream not because her Pilgrim blood
moves slow and calm and cool,
She thus can stoop her chainless neck,
a sister's slave and tool! 40

All that a sister State should do, all
that a free State may,
Heart, hand, and purse we proffer, as
in our early day;
But that one dark loathsome burden
ye must stagger with alone,
And reap the bitter harvest which ye
yourselves have sown!

Hold, while ye may, your struggling
slaves, and burden God's free
air
With woman's shriek beneath the lash,
and manhood's wild despair;
Cling closer to the "cleaving curse"
that writes upon your plains
The blasting of Almighty wrath
against a land of chains.

Still shame your gallant ancestry, the
cavaliers of old,
By watching round the shambles
where human flesh is sold; 50
Gloat o'er the new-born child, and
count his market value, when
The maddened mother's cry of woe
shall pierce the slaver's den!

Lower than plummet soundeth, sink
the Virginia name;
Plant, if ye will, your fathers' graves
with rankest weeds of shame;
Be, if ye will, the scandal of God's fair
universe;
We wash our hands forever of your sin
and shame and curse.

A voice from lips whereon the coal
from Freedom's shrine hath
been,
Thrilled, as but yesterday, the hearts
of Berkshire's mountain men:

The echoes of that solemn voice are
sadly lingering still
In all our sunny valleys, on every
wind-swept hill. 60

And when the prowling man-thief
came hunting for his prey
Beneath the very shadow of Bunker's
shaft of gray,
How, through the free lips of the son,
the father's warning spoke;
How, from its bonds of trade and sect,
the Pilgrim city broke!

A hundred thousand right arms were
lifted up on high,
A hundred thousand voices sent back
their loud reply;
Through the thronged towns of Essex
the startling summons rang,
And, up from bench and loom and
wheel her young mechanics
sprang!

The voice of free, broad Middlesex, of
thousands as of one,
The shaft of Bunker calling to that of
Lexington; 70
From Norfolk's ancient villages, from
Plymouth's rocky bound
To where Nantucket feels the arms of
ocean close her round;

From rich and rural Worcester, where
through the calm repose
Of cultured vales and fringing woods
the gentle Nashua flows,
To where Wachuset's wintry blasts the
mountain larches stir,
Swelled up to Heaven the thrilling cry
of "God save Latimer!"

And sandy Barnstable rose up, wet
with the salt sea spray;
And Bristol sent her answering shout
down Narragansett Bay!
Along the broad Connecticut old
Hampden felt the thrill,
And the cheer of Hampshire's wood-
men swept down from Hol-
yoke Hill. 80

The voice of Massachusetts! Of her
free sons and daughters,
Deep calling unto deep aloud, the
sound of many waters!

Against the burden of that voice what
tyrant power shall stand?
No fetters in the Bay State! No slave
upon her land!

Look to it well, Virginians! In calm-
ness we have borne,
In answer to our faith and trust, your
insult and your scorn;
You've spurned our kindest counsels;
you've hunted for our lives;
And shaken round our hearths and
homes your manacles and
gyves!

We wage no war, we lift no arm, we
fling no torch within
The fire-damps of the quaking mine
beneath your soil of sin; °°
We leave ye with your bondmen, to
wrestle, while ye can,
With the strong upward tendencies
and godlike soul of man!

But for us and for our children, the
vow which we have given
For freedom and humanity is regis-
tered in heaven;
No slave-hunt in our borders, — no
pirate on our strand!
No fetters in the Bay State, — no
slave upon our land!

THE CHRISTIAN SLAVE

In a publication of L. F. Tasistro — *Random Shots and Southern Breezes* — is a description of a slave auction at New Orleans, at which the auctioneer recommended the woman on the stand as "A GOOD CHRISTIAN!"

A CHRISTIAN! going, gone!
Who bids for God's own image? for
his grace,
Which that poor victim of the market-
place
Hath in her suffering won?

My God! can such things be?
Hast Thou not said that whatsoever is
done
Unto Thy weakest and Thy humblest
one
Is even done to Thee?

In that sad victim, then,
Child of Thy pitying love, I see Thee
stand; °°
Once more the jest-word of a mock-
ing band,
Bound, sold, and scourged
again!

A Christian up for sale!
Wet with her blood your whips, o'er-
task her frame,
Make her life loathsome with your
wrong and shame,
Her patience shall not fail!

A heathen hand might deal
Back on your heads the gathered
wrong of years:
But her low, broken prayer and
nightly tears,
Ye neither heed nor feel. °°

Con well thy lesson o'er,
Thou prudent teacher, tell the toiling
slave
No dangerous tale of Him who came to
save
The outcast and the poor.

But wisely shut the ray
Of God's free Gospel from her simple
heart,
And to her darkened mind alone im-
part
One stern command, Obey!

So shalt thou deftly raise
The market price of human flesh; and
while °°
On thee, their pampered guest, the
planters smile,
Thy church shall praise.

Grave, reverend men shall tell
From Northern pulpits how thy work
was blest,
While in that vile South Sodom first
and best,
Thy poor disciples sell.

Oh, shame! the Moslem thrall,
Who, with his master, to the Prophet
kneels,
While turning to the sacred Kebla
feels
His fetters break and fall. °°

Cheers for the turbaned Bey
Of robber-peopled Tunis! he hath
torn
The dark slave-dungeons open, and
hath borne
Their inmates into day:

But our poor slave in vain
Turns to the Christian shrine his ach-
ing eyes;
Its rites will only swell his market
price,
And rivet on his chain.

God of all right! how long
Shall priestly robbers at Thine altar
stand,⁵⁰
Lifting in prayer to Thee the bloody
hand
And haughty brow of wrong?

Oh, from the fields of cane,
From the low rice-swamp, from the
trader's cell;
From the black slave-ship's foul and
loathsome hell,
And coffle's weary chain;

Hoarse, horrible, and strong,
Rises to Heaven that agonizing cry,
Filling the arches of the hollow sky,
How long, O God, how long?⁶⁰

THE SENTENCE OF JOHN L. BROWN

Ho! thou who seekest late and long
A License from the Holy Book
For brutal lust and fiendish wrong,
Man of the Pulpit, look!
Lift up those cold and atheist eyes,
This ripe fruit of thy teaching see;
And tell us how to heaven will rise
The incense of this sacrifice —
This blossom of the gallows tree!

Search out for slavery's hour of need⁷⁰
Some fitting text of sacred writ;
Give heaven the credit of a deed
Which shames the nether pit.
Kneel, smooth blasphemers, unto Him
Whose truth is on thy lips a lie;
Ask that His bright winged cherubim
May bend around that scaffold grim
To guard and bless and sanctify.

O champion of the people's cause!
Suspend thy loud and vain rebuke
Of foreign wrong and Old World's
laws,²¹
Man of the Senate, look!
Was this the promise of the free,
The great hope of our early time,
That slavery's poison vine should be
Upborne by Freedom's prayer-nursed
tree
O'erclustering with such fruits of
crime?

Send out the summons East and
West,
And South and North, let all be
there
Where he who pitied the oppressed³⁰
Swings out in sun and air.
Let not a Democratic hand
The grisly hangman's task refuse;
There let each loyal patriot stand,
Awaiting slavery's command,
To twist the rope and draw the
noose!

But vain is irony — unmeet
Its cold rebuke for deeds which
start
In fiery and indignant beat
The pulses of the heart.⁴⁰
Leave studied wit and guarded phrase
For those who think but do not feel;
Let men speak out in words which
raise
Where'er they fall, an answering blaze
Like flints which strike the fire from
steel.

Still let a mousing priesthood ply
Their garbled text and gloss of sin,
And make the lettered scroll deny
Its living soul within:
Still let the place-fed, titled knave⁵⁰
Plead robbery's right with pur-
chased lips,
And tell us that our fathers gave
For Freedom's pedestal, a slave,
The frieze and moulding, chains and
whips!

But ye who own that Higher Law
Whose tablets in the heart are set,
Speak out in words of power and
awe
That God is living yet!

Breathe forth once more those tones
sublime

Which thrilled the burdened prophet's lyre, 60
And in a dark and evil time
Smote down on Israel's fast of crime
And gift of blood, a rain of fire!

Oh, not for us the graceful lay
To whose soft measures lightly move
The footsteps of the faun and fay,
O'er-locked by mirth and love!
But such a stern and startling strain
As Britain's hunted bards flung down
From Snowden to the conquered plain, 70
Where harshly clanked the Saxon chain
On trampled field and smoking town.

By Liberty's dishonored name,
By man's lost hope and failing trust,
By words and deeds which bow with shame
Our foreheads to the dust,
By the exulting strangers' sneer,
Borne to us from the Old World's
thrones,
And by their victim's grief who hear,
In sunless mines and dungeons
dear, 80
How Freedom's land her faith dis-
owns!

Speak out in acts. The time for words
Has passed, and deeds suffice alone;
In vain against the clang of swords
The wailing pipe is blown!
Act, act in God's name, while ye may!
Smite from the church her leprous
limb!

Throw open to the light of day
The bondman's cell, and break away
The chains the state has bound on
him! 90

Ho! every true and living soul,
To Freedom's perilled altar bear
The Freeman's and the Christian's
whole
Tongue, pen, and vote, and prayer!
One last, great battle for the right —
One short, sharp struggle to be free!
To do is to succeed — our fight
Is waged in Heaven's approving sight;
The smile of God is Victory.

TEXAS

VOICE OF NEW ENGLAND

The five poems immediately following indicate the intense feeling of the friends of freedom in view of the annexation of Texas, with its vast territory sufficient, as was boasted, for six new slave States.

Up the hillside, down the glen,
Rouse the sleeping citizen;
Summon out the might of men!

Like a lion growling low,
Like a night-storm rising slow,
Like the tread of unseen foe;

It is coming, it is nigh!
Stand your homes and altars by;
On your own free thresholds die.

Clang the bells in all your spires; 10
On the gray hills of your sires
Fling to heaven your signal-fires.

From Wachuset, lone and bleak,
Unto Berkshire's tallest peak,
Let the flame-tongued heralds speak.

Oh, for God and duty stand,
Heart to heart and hand to hand
Round the old graves of the land.

Whoso shrinks or falters now,
Whoso to the yoke would bow, 20
Brand the craven on his brow!

Freedom's soil hath only place
For a free and fearless race,
None for traitors false and base.

Perish party, perish clan;
Strike together while ye can,
Like the arm of one strong man.

Like that angel's voice sublime,
Heard above a world of crime,
Crying of the end of time; 30

With one heart and with one mouth,
Let the North unto the South
Speak the word befitting both:

"What though Issachar be strong!
Ye may load his back with wrong
Over much and over long:

"Patience with her cup o'errun,
With her weary thread outspun,
Murmurs that her work is done.

"Make our Union-bond a chain, 40
Weak as tow in Freedom's strain
Link by link shall snap in twain.

"Vainly shall your sand-wrought rope
Bind the starry cluster up,
Shattered over heaven's blue cope!

"Give us bright though broken rays,
Rather than eternal haze,
Clouding o'er the full-orbed blaze.

"Take your land of sun and bloom;
Only leave to Freedom room 50
For her plough, and forge, and loom;

"Take your slavery-blackened vales;
Leave us but our own free gales,
Blowing on our thousand sails.

"Boldly, or with treacherous art,
Strike the blood-wrought chain apart;
Break the Union's mighty heart;

"Work the ruin, if ye will;
Pluck upon your heads an ill
Which shall grow and deepen still. 60

"With your bondman's right arm
bare,
With his heart of black despair,
Stand alone, if stand ye dare!

"Onward with your fell design;
Dig the gulf and draw the line:
Fire beneath your feet the mine:

"Deeply, when the wide abyss
Yawns between your land and this,
Shall ye feel your helplessness.

"By the hearth, and in the bed, 70
Shaken by a look or tread,
Ye shall own a guilty dread.

"And the curse of unpaid toil,
Downward through your generous soil
Like a fire shall burn and spoil.

"Our bleak hills shall bud and blow,
Vines our rocks shall overgrow,
Plenty in our valleys flow; —

"And when vengeance clouds your
skies,
Hither shall ye turn your eyes, 80
As the lost on Paradise!

"We but ask our rocky strand,
Freedom's true and brother band,
Freedom's strong and honest hand;

"Valleys by the slave untrod,
And the Pilgrim's mountain sod,
Blessed of our fathers' God!"

TO FANEUIL HALL

1844

MEN! if manhood still ye claim,
If the Northern pulse can thrill,
Roused by wrong or stung by shame,
Freely, strongly still;
Let the sounds of traffic die;
Shut the mill-gate, leave the stall,
Fling the axe and hammer by;
Throng to Faneuil Hall!

Wrongs which freemen never brooked,
Dangers grim and fierce as they, 10
Which, like couching lions, looked
On your fathers' way;
These your instant zeal demand,
Shaking with their earthquake-call
Every rood of Pilgrim land,
Ho, to Faneuil Hall!

From your capes and sandy bars,
From your mountain-ridges cold,
Through whose pines the westerling
stars
Stoop their crowns of gold; 20
Come, and with your footsteps wake
Echoes from that holy wall;
Once again, for Freedom's sake,
Rock your fathers' hall!

Up, and tread beneath your feet
Every cord by party spun:
Let your hearts together beat
As the heart of one.
Banks and tariffs, stocks and trade,
Let them rise or let them fall: 30
Freedom asks your common aid, —
Up, to Faneuil Hall!

Up, and let each voice that speaks
Ring from thence to Southern plains,



Faneuil Hall

Sharply as the blow which breaks
 Prison-bolts and chains!
 Speak as well becomes the free:
 Dreaded more than steel or ball,
 Shall your calmest utterance be,
 Heard from Faneuil Hall! 40

Have they wronged us? Let us then
 Render back nor threats nor pray-
 ers;
 Have they chained our free-born men?
 Let us unchain theirs!
 Up, your banner leads the van,
 Blazoned, "Liberty for all!"
 Finish what your sires began!
 Up, to Faneuil Hall!

TO MASSACHUSETTS

1844

WHAT though around thee blazes
 No fiery rallying sign?
 From all thy own high places,
 Give heaven the light of thine!

What though unthrilled, unmoving,
 The statesman stand apart,
 And comes no warm approving
 From Mammon's crowded mart?

Still let the land be shaken
 By a summons of thine own! 10
 By all save truth forsaken,
 Stand fast with that alone!
 Shrink not from strife unequal!
 With the best is always hope;
 And ever in the sequel
 God holds the right side up!

But when, with thine uniting,
 Come voices long and loud,
 And far-off hills are writing
 Thy fire-words on the cloud; 20
 When from Penobscot's fountains
 A deep response is heard,
 And across the Western moun-
 tains
 Rolls back thy rallying word;

Shall thy line of battle falter,
 With its allies just in view?

Oh, by hearth and holy altar,
 My fatherland, be true!
 Fling abroad thy scrolls of Freedom!
 Speed them onward far and fast! 30
 Over hill and valley speed them,
 Like the sibyl's on the blast!

Lo! the Empire State is shaking
 The shackles from her hand;
 With the rugged North is waking
 The level sunset land!
 On they come, the free battalions!
 East and West and North they come,
 And the heart-beat of the millions
 Is the beat of Freedom's drum. 40

"To the tyrant's plot no favor!
 No heed to place-fed knaves!
 Bar and bolt the door forever
 Against the land of slaves!"
 Hear it, mother Earth, and hear it,
 The heavens above us spread!
 The land is roused, — its spirit
 Was sleeping, but not dead!

NEW HAMPSHIRE

1845

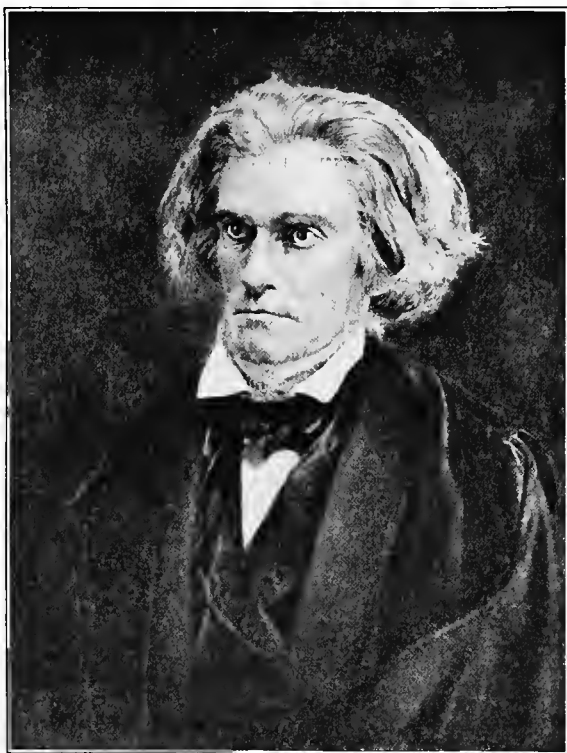
Gon bless New Hampshire! from her
 granite peaks
 Once more the voice of Stark and
 Langdon speaks.
 The long-bound vassal of the exulting
 South
 For very shame her self-forged chain
 has broken;
 Torn the black seal of slavery from her
 mouth,
 And in the clear tones of her old
 time spoken!
 Oh, all undreamed-of, all unhopd-for
 changes!
 The tyrant's ally proves his sternest
 foe;
 To all his biddings, from her mountain
 ranges,
 New Hampshire thunders an indig-
 nant No!
 Who is it now despairs? Oh, faint of
 heart,
 Look upward to those Northern
 mountains cold,
 Flouted by Freedom's victor-flag
 unrolled,

And gather strength to bear a manlier
 part!
 All is not lost. The 'angel of God's
 blessing
 Encamps with Freedom on the field
 of fight;
 Still to her banner, day by day, are
 pressing
 Unlooked-for allies, striking for the
 right!
 Courage, then, Northern hearts! Be
 firm, be true:
 What one brave State hath done, can
 ye not also do?

THE PINE-TREE

1846

LIFT again the stately emblem on the
 Bay State's rusted shield,
 Give to Northern winds the Pine-Tree
 on our banner's tattered field.
 Sons of men who sat in council with
 their Bibles round the board,
 Answering England's royal missive
 with a firm, "Thus saith the
 Lord!"
 Rise again for home and freedom! set
 the battle in array!
 What the fathers did of old time we
 their sons must do to-day
 Tell us not of banks and tariffs, cease
 your paltry pedler cries;
 Shall the good State sink her honor that
 your gambling stocks may rise?
 Would ye barter man for cotton? That
 your gains may sum up higher
 Must we kiss the feet of Moloch, pass
 our children through the fire?
 Is the dollar only real? God and truth
 and right a dream?
 Weighed against your lying ledgers
 must our manhood kick the
 beam?
 O my God! for that free spirit, which
 of old in Boston town
 Smote the Province House with ter-
 ror, struck the crest of Andros
 down!
 For another strong-voiced Adams in
 the city's streets to cry,
 "Up for God and Massachusetts! Set
 your feet on Mammon's lie!



John C. Calhoun

Perish banks and perish traffic, spin
 your cotton's latest pound,
 But in Heaven's name keep your
 honor, keep the heart o' the
 Bay State sound!"

Where's the man for Massachusetts?
 Where's the voice to speak her
 free?

Where's the hand to light up bonfires
 from her mountains to the
 sea?

Beats her Pilgrim pulse no longer?
 Sits she dumb in her des-
 pair?

Has she none to break the silence?
 Has she none to do and dare?

O my God! for one right worthy to
 lift up her rusted shield,
 And to plant again the Pine-Tree in
 her banner's tattered field!

TO A SOUTHERN STATESMAN

1846

Is this thy voice whose treble notes of
 fear

Wail in the wind? And dost thou
 shake to hear,
 Actæon-like, the bay of thine own
 hounds,

Spurning the leash, and leaping o'er
 their bounds?

Sore-baffled statesman! when thy
 eager hand,
 With game afoot, unslipped the hun-
 gry pack,
 To hunt down Freedom in her chosen
 land,
 Hadst thou no fear, that, erelong,
 doubling back,
 These dogs of thine might snuff on
 Slavery's track?
 Where's now the boast, which even
 thy guarded tongue, ¹⁰
 Cold, calm, and proud, in the teeth o'
 the Senate flung,
 O'er the fulfilment of thy baleful plan,
 Like Satan's triumph at the fall of
 man?
 How stood'st thou then, thy feet on
 Freedom planting,
 And pointing to the lurid heaven afar,
 Whence all could see, through the
 south windows slanting,
 Crimson as blood, the beams of that
 Lone Star!
 The Fates are just; they give us but
 our own;
 Nemesis ripens what our hands have
 sown.
 There is an Eastern story, not un-
 known, ²⁰
 Doubtless, to thee, of one whose
 magic skill
 Called demons up his water-jars to
 fill;
 Deftly and silently, they did his will,
 But, when the task was done, kept
 pouring still.
 In vain with spell and charm the wiz-
 ard wrought,
 Faster and faster were the buckets
 brought,
 Higher and higher rose the flood
 around,
 Till the fiends clapped their hands
 above their master drowned!
 So, Carolinian, it may prove with
 thee, ³⁰
 For God still overrules man's schemes,
 and takes
 Craftiness in its self-set snare, and
 makes
 The wrath of man to praise Him. It
 may be,
 That the roused spirits of Democracy
 May leave to freer States the same
 wide door

Through which thy slave-cursed Texas
 entered in,
 From out the blood and fire, the wrong
 and sin,
 Of the stormed city and the ghastly
 plain,
 Beat by hot hail, and wet with bloody
 rain,
 The myriad-handed pioneer may pour,
 And the wild West with the roused
 North combine ⁴¹
 And heave the engineer of evil with
 his mine.

AT WASHINGTON

Suggested by a visit to the city of Wash-
 ington, in the 12th month of 1845.

WITH a cold and wintry noon-light
 On its roofs and steeples shed,
 Shadows weaving with the sunlight
 From the gray sky overhead,
 Broadly, vaguely, all around me, lies
 the half-built town outspread.

Through this broad street, restless
 ever,
 Ebbs and flows a human tide,
 Wave on wave a living river;
 Wealth and fashion side by side;
 Toiler, idler, slave and master, in the
 same quick current glide. ¹⁰

Underneath yon dome, whose coping
 Springs above them, vast and tall,
 Grave men in the dust are groping
 For the largess, base and small,
 Which the hand of Power is scatter-
 ing, crumbs which from its
 table fall.

Base of heart! They vilely barter
 Honor's wealth for party's place;
 Step by step on Freedom's charter
 Leaving footprints of disgrace;
 For to-day's poor pittance turning
 from the great hope of their
 race. ²⁰

Yet, where festal lamps are throw-
 ing
 Glory round the dancer's hair,
 Gold-tressed, like an angel's, flow-
 ing

Backward on the sunset air;
And the low quick pulse of music beats
its measure sweet and rare:

There to-night shall woman's glances,
Star-like, welcome give to them;

Fawning fools with shy advances
Seek to touch their garments' hem,
With the tongue of flattery glozing

deeds which God and Truth condemn. 30

From this glittering lie my vision

Takes a broader, sadder range,
Full before me have arisen

Other pictures dark and strange;
From the parlor to the prison must
the scene and witness change.

Hark! the heavy gate is swinging

On its hinges, harsh and slow;
One pale prison lamp is flinging

On a fearful group below
Such a light as leaves to terror what-
soever it does not show. 40

Pitying God! Is that a woman

On whose wrist the shackles
clash?

Is that shriek she utters human,
Underneath the stinging lash?

Are they men whose eyes of madness
from that sad procession flash?

Still the dance goes gayly onward!

What is it to Wealth and Pride

That without the stars are looking
On a scene which earth should hide?

That the slave-ship lies in waiting,
rocking on Potomac's tide! 50

Vainly to that mean Ambition

Which, upon a rival's fall,
Winds above its old condition,

With a reptile's slimy crawl,
Shall the pleading voice of sorrow,
shall the slave in anguish call.

Vainly to the child of Fashion,

Giving to ideal woe

Graceful luxury of compassion,
Shall the stricken mourner go;

Hateful seems the earnest sorrow,
beautiful the hollow show! 60

Nay, my words are all too sweep-
ing;

In this crowded human mart,
Feeling is not dead, but sleepeth;
Man's strong will and woman's
heart,

In the coming strife for Freedom, yet
shall bear their generous part.

And from yonder sunny valleys,
Southward in the distance lost,

Freedom yet shall summon allies
Worthier than the North can
boast,

With the Evil by their hearth-stones
grappling at severer cost. 70

Now, the soul alone is willing:

Faint the heart and weak the
knee;

And as yet no lip is thrilling

With the mighty words, "Be
Free!"

Tarrieth long the land's Good Angel,
but his advent is to be!

Meanwhile, turning from the revel

To the prison-cell my sight,

For intenser hate of evil,

For a keener sense of right,

Shaking off thy dust, I thank thee,
City of the Slaves, to-night! 80

"To thy duty now and ever!

Dream no more of rest or stay:

Give to Freedom's great endeavor

All thou art and hast to-day:"

Thus, above the city's murmur, saith
a Voice, or seems to say.

Ye with heart and vision gifted

To discern and love the right,

Whose worn faces have been lifted

To the slowly-growing light, 80

Where from Freedom's sunrise drifted
slowly back the murk of night!

Ye who through long years of trial

Still have held your purpose fast,

While a lengthening shade the dial

From the westering sunshine cast,

And of hope each hour's denial
seemed an echo of the last!

O my brothers! O my sisters!

Would to God that ye were near.

Gazing with me down the vistas
Of a sorrow strange and drear;
Would to God that ye were listeners to
the Voice I seem to hear! 100

With the storm above us driving,
With the false earth mined below,
Who shall marvel if thus striving
We have counted friend as foe;
Unto one another giving in the darkness
blow for blow.

Well it may be that our natures
Have grown sterner and more hard,
And the freshness of their features
Somewhat harsh and battle-scarred,
And their harmonies of feeling over-
tasked and rudely jarred. 110

Be it so. It should not swerve us
From a purpose true and brave;
Dearer Freedom's rugged service
Than the pastime of the slave;
Better is the storm above it than the
quiet of the grave.

Let us then, uniting, bury
All our idle feuds in dust,
And to future conflicts carry
Mutual faith and common trust;
Always he who most forgiveth in his
brother is most just. 120

From the eternal shadow rounding
All our sun and starlight here,
Voices of our lost ones sounding
Bid us be of heart and cheer,
Through the silence, down the spaces,
falling on the inward ear.

Know we not our dead are looking
Downward with a sad surprise,
All our strife of words rebuking
With their mild and loving eyes?
Shall we grieve the holy angels? Shall
we cloud their blessed skies? 130

Let us draw their mantles o'er us
Which have fallen in our way;
Let us do the work before us,
Cheerly, bravely, while we may,
Ere the long night-silence cometh, and
with us it is not day!

THE BRANDED HAND

1846

WELCOME home again, brave seaman!
with thy thoughtful brow and
gray,
And the old heroic spirit of our earlier,
better day;
With that front of calm endurance, on
whose steady nerve in vain
Pressed the iron of the prison, smote
the fiery shafts of pain!

Is the tyrant's brand upon thee? Did
the brutal cravens aim
To make God's truth thy falsehood,
His holiest work thy shame?
When, all blood-quenched, from the
torture the iron was with-
drawn,
How laughed their evil angel the baf-
fled fools to scorn!

They change to wrong the duty which
God hath written out
On the great heart of humanity, too
legible for doubt! 10
They, the loathsome moral lepers,
blotched from footsole up to
crown,
Give to shame what God hath given
unto honor and renown!

Why, that brand is highest honor!
than its traces never yet
Upon old armorial hatchments was a
prouder blazon set;
And thy unborn generations, as they
tread our rocky strand,
Shall tell with pride the story of their
father's branded hand!

As the Templar home was welcome,
bearing back from Syrian wars
The scars of Arab lances and of Pay-
nim scimitars,
The pallor of the prison, and the
shackle's crimson span,
So we meet thee, so we greet thee,
truest friend of God and man.

He suffered for the ransom of the dear
Redeemer's grave, 21
Thou for His living presence in the
bound and bleeding slave;

He for a soil no longer by the feet of
angels trod,
Thou for the true Shechinah, the pre-
sent home of God!

For, while the jurist, sitting with the
slave-whip o'er him swung,
From the tortured truths of freedom
the lie of slavery wrung,
And the solemn priest to Moloch, on
each God-deserted shrine,
Broke the bondman's heart for bread,
poured the bondman's blood
for wine;

While the multitude in blindness to a
far-off Saviour knelt,
And spurned, the while, the temple
where a present Saviour
dwelt;
Thou beheld'st Him in the task-field,
in the prison shadows dim, 31
And thy mercy to the bondman, it
was mercy unto Him!

In thy lone and long night-watches,
sky above and wave below,
Thou didst learn a higher wisdom than
the babbling schoolmen know;
God's stars and silence taught thee, as
His angels only can,
That the one sole sacred thing beneath
the cope of heaven is Man!

That he who treads profanely on the
scrolls of law and creed,
In the depth of God's great goodness
may find mercy in his need;
But woe to him who crushes the soul
with chain and rod,
And herds with lower natures the
awful form of God! 40

Then lift that manly right-hand, bold
ploughman of the wave!
Its branded palm shall prophesy, "Sal-
vation to the Slave!"
Hold up its fire-wrought language,
that whoso reads may feel
His heart swell strong within him, his
sinews change to steel.

Hold it up before our sunshine, up
against our Northern air;
Ho! men of Massachusetts, for the
love of God, look there!

Take it henceforth for your standard,
like the Bruce's heart of yore,
In the dark strife closing round ye, let
that hand be seen before!

And the masters of the slave-land
shall tremble at that sign,
When it points its finger Southward
along the Puritan line: 50
Can the craft of State avail them!
Can a Christless church with-
stand,
In the van of Freedom's onset, the
coming of that hand?

THE FREED ISLANDS

1846

A few brief years have passed away
Since Britain drove her million
slaves
Beneath the tropic's fiery ray:
God willed their freedom; and to-day
Life blooms above those island
graves!

He spoke! across the Carib Sea,
We heard the clash of breaking
chains,
And felt the heart-throb of the free,
The first strong pulse of liberty
Which thrilled along the bondman's
veins. 10

Though long delayed, and far, and
slow,
The Briton's triumph shall be ours:
Wears slavery here a prouder brow
Than that which twelve short years ago
Scowled darkly from her island
bowers?

Mighty alike for good or ill
With Mother-land, we fully share
The Saxon strength, the nerve of
steel,
The tireless energy of will,
The power to do, the pride to dare.

What she has done can we not do? 21
Our hour and men are both at hand;
The blast which Freedom's angel blew
O'er her green islands, echoes through
Each valley of our forest land.

Hear it, old Europe! we have sworn
The death of slavery. When it falls,
Look to your vassals in their turn,
Your poor dumb millions, crushed
and worn,
Your prisons and your palace
walls! 30

O kingly mockers! scoffing show
What deeds in Freedom's name we
do;

Yet know that every taunt ye throw
Across the waters, goads our slow
Progression towards the right and
true.

Not always shall your outraged poor,
Appalled by democratic crime,
Grind as their fathers ground before;
The hour which sees our prison door
Swing wide shall be their triumph
time. 40

On then my brothers! every blow
Ye deal is felt the wide earth
through;

Whatever here uplifts the low
Or humbles Freedom's hateful foe,
Blesses the Old World through the
New.

Take heart! The promised hour draws
near;

I hear the downward beat of wings,
And Freedom's trumpet sounding
clear:

"Joy to the people! woe and fear
To new-world tyrants, old-world
kings!" 50

A LETTER

'T is over, Moses! All is lost!
I hear the bells a-ringing;
Of Pharaoh and his Red Sea host
I hear the Free-Wills singing.
We're routed, Moses, horse and foot,
If there be truth in figures,
With Federal Whigs in hot pursuit,
And Hale, and all the "niggers."

Alack! alas! this month or more
We've felt a sad foreboding; 10
Our very dreams the burden bore
Of central cliques exploding;

Before our eyes a furnace shone
Where heads of dough were roast-
ing,
And one we took to be your own
The traitor Hale was toasting!

Our Belknap brother heard with awe
The Congo minstrels playing;
At Pittsfield Reuben Leavitt saw
The ghost of Storrs a-praying; 20
And Carroll's woods were sad to see,
With black-winged crows a-dart-
ing;
And Black Snout looked on Ossipee,
New-glossed with Day and Martin.

We thought the "Old Man of the
Notch"

His face seemed changing wholly —
His lips seemed thick; his nose seemed
flat;

His misty hair looked woolly;
And Coob's teamsters, shrieking, fled
From the metamorphosed figure. 30
"Look there!" they said, "the Old
Stone Head
Himself is turning nigger!"

The schoolhouse, out of Canaan
hauled,

Seemed turning on its track again,
And like a great swamp-turtle crawled
To Canaan village back again,
Shook off the mud and settled flat
Upon its underpinning;

A nigger on its ridge-pole sat,
From ear to ear a-grinning. 40

Gray H——d heard o' nights the sound
Of rail-cars onward faring;
Right over Democratic ground
The iron horse came tearing.
A flag waved o'er that spectral train,
As high as Pittsfield steeple;
Its emblem was a broken chain,
Its motto: "To the people!"

I dreamed that Charley took his bed,
With Hale for his physician; 50
His daily dose an old "unread
And unreferr'd" petition.
There Hayes and Tuck as nurses sat,
As near as near could be, man;
They leached him with the "Demo-
crat;"

They blistered with the "Freeman."

Ah! grisly portents! What avail
 Your terrors of forewarning?
 We wake to find the nightmare Hale
 Astride our breasts at morning! 60
 From Portsmouth lights to Indian
 stream
 Our foes their throats are trying;
 The very factory-spindles seem
 To mock us while they're flying.

The hills have bonfires; in our streets
 Flags flout us in our faces;
 The newsboys, peddling off their
 sheets,
 Are hoarse with our disgraces.
 In vain we turn, for gibing wit
 And shoutings follow after, 70
 As if old Kearsarge had split
 His granite sides with laughter!

What boots it that we pelted out
 The anti-slavery women,
 And bravely strewed their hall about
 With tattered lace and trimming?
 Was it for such a sad reverse
 Our mobs became peacemakers,
 And kept their tar and wooden horse
 For Englishmen and Quakers? 80

For this did shifty Atherton
 Make gag rules for the Great House?
 Wiped we for this our feet upon
 Petitions in our State House?
 Plied we for this our axe of doom,
 No stubborn traitor sparing,
 Who scoffed at our opinion loom,
 And took to homespun wearing?

Ah, Moses! hard it is to scan
 These crooked providences, 90
 Deducing from the wisest plan
 The saddest consequences!
 Strange that, in trampling as was meet
 The nigger-men's petition,
 We sprung a mine beneath our feet
 Which opened up perdition.

How goodly, Moses, was the game
 In which we've long been actors,
 Supplying freedom with the name
 And slavery with the practice! 100
 Our smooth words fed the people's
 mouth,
 Their ears our party rattle;
 We kept them headed to the South,
 As drovers do their cattle.

But now our game of politics
 The world at large is learning;
 And men grown gray in all our tricks
 State's evidence are turning.
 Votes and preambles subtly spun
 They cram with meanings louder, 110
 And load the Democratic gun
 With abolition powder.

The ides of June! Woe worth the day
 When, turning all things over,
 The traitor Hale shall make his hay
 From Democratic clover!
 Who then shall take him in the law,
 Who punish crime so flagrant?
 Whose hand shall serve, whose pen
 shall draw,
 A writ against that "vagrant"? 120

Alas! no hope is left us here,
 And one can only pine for
 The envied place of overseer
 Of slaves in Carolina!
 Pray, Moses, give Calhoun the wink,
 And see what pay he's giving!
 We've practised long enough, we
 think,
 To know the art of driving.

And for the faithful rank and file,
 Who know their proper stations, 130
 Perhaps it may be worth their while
 To try the rice plantations.
 Let Hale exult, let Wilson scoff,
 To see us southward scamper;
 The slaves, we know, are "better off
 Than laborers in New Hampshire"!

LINES

FROM A LETTER TO A YOUNG CLERICAL
 FRIEND

A STRENGTH Thy service cannot tire,
 A faith which doubt can never dim,
 A heart of love, a lip of fire,
 O Freedom's God! be Thou to him!

Speak through him words of power
 and fear,
 As through Thy prophet bards of
 old,

And let a scornful people hear
 Once more Thy Sinai-thunders
 rolled.

For lying lips Thy blessing seek,
 And hands of blood are raised to
 Thee,
 And on Thy children, crushed and
 weak,
 The oppressor plants his kneeling
 knee.

Let then, O God! Thy servant dare
 Thy truth in all its power to tell,
 Unmask the priestly thieves, and tear
 The Bible from the grasp of hell!

From hollow rite and narrow span
 Of law and sect by Thee released
 Oh, teach him that the Christian man
 Is holier than the Jewish priest.

Chase back the shadows, gray and old,
 Of the dead ages from his way,
 And let his hopeful eyes behold
 The dawn of Thy millennial day;

That day when fettered limb and
 mind
 Shall know the truth which maketh
 free,
 And he alone who loves his kind
 Shall, childlike, claim the love of
 Thee!

DANIEL NEALL

I

FRIEND of the Slave, and yet the
 friend of all;
 Lover of peace, yet ever foremost
 when
 The need of battling Freedom called
 for men
 To plant the banner on the outer wall;
 Gentle and kindly, ever at distress
 Melted to more than woman's tender-
 ness,
 Yet firm and steadfast, at his duty's
 post
 Fronting the violence of a maddened
 host,
 Like some gray rock from which the
 waves are tossed!
 Knowing his deeds of love, men ques-
 tioned not
 The faith of one whose walk and
 word were right;

Who tranquilly in Life's great task-
 field wrought,
 And, side by side with evil, scarcely
 caught
 A stain upon his pilgrim garb of
 white:
 Prompt to redress another's wrong,
 his own
 Leaving to Time and Truth and Peni-
 tence alone.

II

Such was our friend. Formed on the
 good old plan,
 A true and brave and downright hon-
 est man!
 He blew no trumpet in the market-
 place,
 Nor in the church with hypocritic face
 Supplied with cant the lack of Chris-
 tian grace;
 Loathing pretence, he did with cheer-
 ful will
 What others talked of while their
 hands were still;
 And, while "Lord, Lord!" the pious
 tyrants cried,
 Who, in the poor, their Master cruci-
 fied,
 His dally prayer, far better under-
 stood
 In acts than words, was simply doing
 good.
 So calm, so constant was his rectitude,
 That by his loss alone we know its
 worth,
 And feel how true a man has walked
 with us on earth.

SONG OF SLAVES IN THE
 DESERT

WHERE are we going? where are we
 going,
 Where are we going, Rubee?
 Lord of peoples, lord of lands,
 Look across these shining sands,
 Through the furnace of the noon,
 Through the white light of the moon.
 Strong the Ghiblee wind is blowing,
 Strange and large the world is grow-
 ing!
 Speak and tell us where we are going,
 Where are we going, Rubee? 10

Bornou land was rich and good,
Wells of water, fields of food,
Dourra fields, and bloom of bean,
And the palm-tree cool and green:
Bornou land we see no longer,
Here we thirst and here we hunger,
Here the Moor-man smites in anger:
Where are we going, Rubee?

When we went from Bornou land,
We were like the leaves and sand,
We were many, we are few; ²¹
Life has one, and death has two:
Whitened bones our path are showing,
Thou All-seeing, thou All-knowing!
Hear us, tell us, where are we going,
Where are we going, Rubee?

Moons of marches from our eyes
Bornou land behind us lies;
Stranger round us day by day
Bends the desert circle gray; ³⁰
Wild the waves of sand are flowing,
Hot the winds above them blowing, —
Lord of all things! where are we
going?
Where are we going, Rubee?

We are weak, but Thou art strong;
Short our lives, but Thine is long;
We are blind, but Thou hast eyes;
We are fools, but Thou art wise!
Thou, our morrow's pathway knowing
Through the strange world round us
growing, ⁴⁰
Hear us, tell us where are we going,
Where are we going, Rubee?

TO DELAWARE

Written during the discussion in the Legislature of that State, in the winter of 1846-47, of a bill for the abolition of slavery.

THRICE welcome to thy sisters of the
East,
To the strong tillers of a rugged
home,
With spray-wet locks to Northern
winds released,
And hardy feet o'erswept by ocean's
foam;
And to the young nymphs of the golden
West,
Whose harvest mantles, fringed
with prairie bloom,

Trail in the sunset, — O redeemed and
blest,
To the warm welcome of thy sisters
come!
Broad Pennsylvania, down her sail-
white bay
Shall give thee joy, and Jersey from
her plains,
And the great lakes, where echo, free
always,
Moaned never shoreward with the
clank of chains,
Shall weave new sun-bows in their
tossing spray,
And all their waves keep grateful holi-
day.
And, smiling on thee through her
mountain rains,
Vermont shall bless thee; and the
granite peaks,
And vast Katahdin o'er his woods,
shall wear
Their snow-crowns brighter in the
cold, keen air;
And Massachusetts, with her rug-
ged cheeks
O'errun with grateful tears, shall turn
to thee,
When, at thy bidding, the electric
wire
Shall tremble northward with its
words of fire;
Glory and praise to God! another
State is free!

YORKTOWN

FROM Yorktown's ruins, ranked and
still,
Two lines stretch far o'er vale and
hill:
Who curbs his steed at head of one?
Hark! the low murmur: Washing-
ton!
Who bends his keen, approving
glance,
Where down the gorgeous line of
France
Shine knightly star and plume of
snow?
Thou too art victor, Rochambeau!
The earth which bears this calm array
Shook with the war-charge yester-
day, ¹⁰

Ploughed deep with hurrying hoof and
wheel,
Shot-sown and bladed thick with
steel;
October's clear and noonday sun
Paled in the breath-smoke of the gun,
And down night's double blackness
fell,
Like a dropped star, the blazing shell.

Now all is hushed: the gleaming lines
Stand moveless as the neighboring
pines;
While through them, sullen, grim, and
slow,
The conquered hosts of England go: 20
O'Hara's brow belies his dress,
Gay Tarleton's troop rides bannerless:
Shout, from thy fired and wasted
homes,
Thy scourge, Virginia, captive comes!

Nor thou alone: with one glad voice
Let all thy sister States rejoice;
Let Freedom, in whatever clime
She waits with sleepless eye her time,
Shouting from cave and mountain
wood
Make glad her desert solitude, 30
While they who hunt her quail with
fear;
The New World's chain lies broken
here!

But who are they, who, cowering,
wait
Within the shattered fortress gate?
Dark tillers of Virginia's soil,
Classed with the battle's common
spoil,
With household stuffs, and fowl, and
swine,
With Indian weed and planters' wine,
With stolen beeves, and foraged
corn, —
Are they not men, Virginian born? 40

Oh, veil your faces, young and brave!
Sleep, Scammel, in thy soldier grave!
Sons of the Northland, ye who set
Stout hearts against the bayonet,
And pressed with steady footfall near
The moated battery's blazing tier,
Turn your scarred faces from the
sight,
Let shame do homage to the right!

Lo! fourscore years have passed; and
where
The Gallic bugles stirred the air, 50
And, through breached batteries, side
by side,
To victory stormed the hosts allied,
And brave foes grounded, pale with
pain,
The arms they might not lift again,
As abject as in that old day
The slave still toils his life away.

Oh, fields still green and fresh in story,
Old days of pride, old names of glory,
Old marvels of the tongue and pen,
Old thoughts which stirred the hearts
of men, 60
Ye spared the wrong; and over all
Behold the avenging shadow fall!
Your world-wide honor stained with
shame, —
Your freedom's self a hollow name!

Where's now the flag of that old
war?
Where flows its stripe? Where burns
its star?
Bear witness, Palo Alto's day,
Dark Vale of Palms, red Monterey,
Where Mexic Freedom, young and
weak,
Fleashes the Northern eagle's beak; 70
Symbol of terror and despair,
Of chains and slaves, go seek it there!

Laugh, Prussia, midst thy iron ranks!
Laugh, Russia, from thy Neva's
banks!
Brave sport to see the fledgling born
Of Freedom by its parent torn!
Safe now is Spielberg's dungeon cell,
Safe drear Siberia's frozen hell: 78
With Slavery's flag o'er both unrolled,
What of the New World fears the Old?

RANDOLPH OF ROANOKE

O MOTHER EARTH! upon thy lap
Thy weary ones receiving,
And o'er them, silent as a dream,
Thy grassy mantle weaving,
Fold softly in thy long embrace
That heart so worn and broken,
And cool its pulse of fire beneath
Thy shadows old and oaken.



The Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown

Shut out from him the bitter word
 And serpent hiss of scorning; 10
 Nor let the storms of yesterday
 Disturb his quiet morning.
 Breathe over him forgetfulness
 Of all save deeds of kindness,
 And, save to smiles of grateful
 eyes,
 Press down his lids in blindness.

There, where with living ear and
 eye
 He heard Potomac's flowing,
 And, through his tall ancestral trees,
 Saw autumn's sunset glowing, 20
 He sleeps, still looking to the west,
 Beneath the dark wood shadow,
 As if he still would see the sun
 Sink down on wave and meadow.

Bard, Sage, and Tribune! in himself
 All moods of mind contrasting, —
 The tenderest wail of human woe,
 The scorn like lightning blasting;
 The pathos which from rival eyes
 Unwilling tears could summon, 30
 The stinging taunt, the fiery burst
 Of hatred scarcely human!

Mirth, sparkling like a diamond
 shower,
 From lips of life-long sadness;
 Clear picturings of majestic thought
 Upon a ground of madness;
 And over all Romance and Song
 A classic beauty throwing,
 And laurelled Clio at his side
 Her storied pages showing. 40

All parties feared him: each in turn
 Beheld its schemes disjointed,
 As right or left his fatal glance
 And spectral finger pointed.
 Sworn foe of Cant, he smote it down
 With trenchant wit unsparing,
 And, mocking, rent with ruthless
 hand
 The robe Pretence was wearing.

Too honest or too proud to feign
 A love he never cherished, 50
 Beyond Virginia's border line
 His patriotism perished.
 While others hailed in distant skies
 Our eagle's dusky pinion,
 He only saw the mountain bird
 Stoop o'er his Old Dominion!

Still through each change of fortune
strange,

Racked nerve, and brain all burn-
ing,

His loving faith in Mother-land
Knew never shade of turning; 60

By Britain's lakes, by Neva's tide,
Whatever sky was o'er him,
He heard her rivers' rushing sound,
Her blue peaks rose before him.

He held his slaves, yet made withal
No false and vain pretences,

Nor paid a lying priest to seek
For Scriptural defences.

His harshest words of proud rebuke,
His bitterest taunt and scorning, 70
Fell fire-like on the Northern brow
That bent to him in fawning.

He held his slaves; yet kept the while
His reverence for the Human;

In the dark vassals of his will
He saw but Man and Woman!

No hunter of God's outraged poor
His Roanoke valley entered;
No trader in the souls of men
Across his threshold ventured. 80

And when the old and wearied man
Lay down for his last sleeping,

And at his side, a slave no more,
His brother-man stood weeping,
His latest thought, his latest breath,
To Freedom's duty giving,
With failing tongue and trembling
hand

The dying blest the living.

Oh, never bore his ancient State
A truer son or braver! 90

None trampling with a calmer scorn
On foreign hate or favor.

He knew her faults, yet never stooped
His proud and manly feeling
To poor excuses of the wrong
Or meanness of concealing.

But none beheld with clearer eye
The plague-spot o'er her spread-
ing,

None heard more sure the steps of
Doom

Along her future treading. 100

For her as for himself he spake,
When, his gaunt frame upbracing,

He traced with dying hand 'Re-
morse!'

And perished in the tracing.

As from the grave where Henry sleeps,
From Vernon's weeping willow,
And from the grassy pall which hides
The Sage of Monticello,
So from the leaf-strewn burial-stone
Of Randolph's lowly dwelling, 110
Virginia! o'er thy land of slaves
A warning voice is swelling!

And hark! from thy deserted fields
Are sadder warnings spoken,

From quenched hearths, where thy
exiled sons

Their household gods have broken.
The curse is on thee, — wolves for
men,

And briers for corn-sheaves giving!
Oh, more than all thy dead renown
Were now one hero living! 120

THE LOST STATESMAN

WRITTEN ON HEARING OF THE DEATH
OF SILAS WRIGHT OF NEW YORK

As they who, tossing midst the storm
at night,

While turning shoreward, where a
beacon shone,

Meet the walled blackness of the
heaven alone,

So, on the turbulent waves of party
tossed,

In gloom and tempest, men have seen
thy light

Quenched in the darkness. At thy
hour of noon,

While life was pleasant to thy un-
dimmed sight,

And, day by day, within thy spirit
grew

A holier hope than young Ambition
knew,

As through thy rural quiet, not in
vain,

Pierced the sharp thrill of Freedom's
cry of pain,

Man of the millions, thou art lost
too soon!

Portents at which the bravest stand
aghast, —

The birth-throes of a Future, strange
and vast,
Alarm the land; yet thou, so wise
and strong,
Suddenly summoned to the burial bed,
Lapped in its slumbers deep and
ever long,
Hear'st not the tumult surging over-
head.
Who now shall rally Freedom's scat-
tering host?
Who wear the mantle of the leader
lost?
Who stay the march of slavery? He
whose voice
Hath called thee from thy task-field
shall not lack
Yet bolder champions, to beat
bravely back
The wrong which, through his poor
ones, reaches Him:
Yet firmer hands shall Freedom's
torchlights trim,
And wave them high across the
abysmal black,
Till bound, dumb millions there shall
see them and rejoice.

THE SLAVES OF MARTINIQUE

BEAMS of noon, like burning lances,
through the tree-tops flash and
glisten,
As she stands before her lover, with
raised face to look and listen.
Dark, but comely, like the maiden in
the ancient Jewish song:
Scarcely has the toil of task-fields done
her graceful beauty wrong.
He, the strong one and the manly,
with the vassal's garb and hue,
Holding still his spirit's birthright, to
his higher nature true;
Hiding deep the strengthening pur-
pose of a freeman in his heart,
As the gregree holds his Fetich from
the white man's gaze apart.
Ever foremost of his comrades, when
the driver's morning horn
Calls away to stifling mill-house, to the
fields of cane and corn: 10

Fall the keen and burning lashes never
on his back or limb;
Scarce with look or word of censure,
turns the driver unto him.
Yet, his brow is always thoughtful,
and his eye is hard and stern;
Slavery's last and humblest lesson he
has never deigned to learn.
And, at evening, when his comrades
dance before their master's
door,
Folding arms and knitting forehead,
stands he silent evermore.
God be praised for every instinct
which rebels against a lot
Where the brute survives the human,
and man's upright form is
not!
As the serpent-like bejucu winds his
spiral fold on fold
Round the tall and stately ceiba, till it
withers in his hold; 20
Slow decays the forest monarch, closer
girds the fell embrace,
Till the tree is seen no longer, and the
vine is in its place;
So a base and bestial nature round the
vassal's manhood twines,
And the spirit wastes beneath it, like
the ceiba choked with vines.
God is Love, saith the Evangel; and
our world of woe and sin
Is made light and happy only when a
Love is shining in.
Ye whose lives are free as sunshine,
finding, wheresoe'er ye roam,
Smiles of welcome, looks of kindness,
making all the world like home;
In the veins of whose affections kin-
dred blood is but a part
Of one kindly current throbbing from
the universal heart; 30
Can ye know the deeper meaning of a
love in Slavery nursed,
Last flower of a lost Eden, blooming in
that Soil accursed?

Love of Home, and Love of Woman!
— dear to all, but doubly dear
To the heart whose pulses elsewhere
measure only hate and fear.

All around the desert circles, under-
neath a brazen sky,
Only one green spot remaining where
the dew is never dry!

From the horror of that desert, from
its atmosphere of hell,
Turns the fainting spirit thither, as
the diver seeks his bell.

'T is the fervid tropic noontime; faint
and low the sea-waves beat;
Hazy rise the inland mountains
through the glimmer of the
heat, — 40

Where, through mingled leaves and
blossoms, arrowy sunbeams
flash and glisten,
Speaks her lover to the slave-girl, and
she lifts her head to listen: —

"We shall live as slaves no longer!
Freedom's hour is close at hand!
Rocks her bark upon the waters, rests
the boat upon the strand!

"I have seen the Haytien Captain; I
have seen his swarthy crew,
Haters of the pallid faces, to their race
and color true.

"They have sworn to wait our coming
till the night has passed its noon,
And the gray and darkening waters
roll above the sunken moon!"

Oh, the blessed hope of freedom! how
with joy and glad surprise,
For an instant throbs her bosom, for
an instant beam her eyes! 50

But she looks across the valley, where
her mother's hut is seen,
Through the snowy bloom of coffee,
and the lemon-leaves so green.

And she answers, sad and earnest: "It
were wrong for thee to stay:
God hath heard thy prayer for freedom,
and His finger points the way.

"Well I know with what endurance,
for the sake of me and mine,
Thou hast borne too long a burden
never meant for souls like thine.

"Go; and at the hour of midnight,
when our last farewell is o'er,
Kneeling on our place of parting, I
will bless thee from the shore.

"But for me, my mother, lying on her
sick-bed all the day,
Lifts her weary head to watch me,
coming through the twilight
gray. 60

"Should I leave her sick and helpless,
even freedom, shared with thee,
Would be sadder far than bondage,
lonely toil, and stripes to me.

"For my heart would die within me,
and my brain would soon be
wild;
I should hear my mother calling
through the twilight for her
child!"

Blazing upward from the ocean, shines
the sun of morning-time,
Through the coffee-trees in blossom,
and green hedges of the lime.

Side by side, amidst the slave-gang,
toil the lover and the maid;
Wherefore looks he o'er the waters,
leaning forward on his spade?

Sadly looks he, deeply sighs he: 't is
the Haytien's sail he sees,
Like a white cloud of the mountains,
driven seaward by the breeze!

But his arm a light hand presses, and
he hears a low voice call: 70
Hate of Slavery, hope of Freedom,
Love is mightier than all.

THE CURSE OF THE CHARTER- BREAKERS

In Westminster's royal halls,
Robed in their pontificals,
England's ancient prelates stood
For the people's right and good.

Closed around the waiting crowd,
Dark and still, like winter's cloud;
King and council, lord and knight,
Squire and yeoman, stood in sight;

Stood to hear the priest rehearse,
In God's name, the Church's curse, 10
By the tapers round them lit,
Slowly, sternly uttering it.

Silent, while that curse was said,
Every bare and listening head 30
Bowed in reverent awe, and then
All the people said, Amen!

Seven times the bells have tolled,
For the centuries gray and old,
Since that stoled and mitred band
Cursed the tyrants of their land.



The Great Hall of Westminster

“Right of voice in framing laws,
Right of peers to try each cause;
Peasant homestead, mean and
small,
Sacred as the monarch's hall, —

“Whoso lays his hand on these,
England's ancient liberties;
Whoso breaks, by word or deed,
England's vow at Runnymede; 20

“Be he Prince or belted knight,
Whatso'er his rank or might,
If the highest, then the worst,
Let him live and die accursed.

“Thou, who to Thy Church hast
given
Keys alike of hell and heaven,
Make our word and witness sure,
Let the curse we speak endure!”

Since the priesthood, like a tower,
Stood between the poor and power;
And the wronged and trodden
down
Blessed the abbot's shaven crown. 40

Gone, thank God, their wizard spell,
Lost their keys of heaven and
hell;
Yet I sigh for men as bold
As those bearded priests of old.

Now too oft the priesthood wait
At the threshold of the state;
Waiting for the beck and nod
Of its power as law and God.

Fraud exults, while solemn words
Sanctify his stolen hoards; 50
Slavery laughs, while ghostly lips
Bless his manacles and whips.

Not on them the poor rely,
 Not to them looks liberty,
 Who with fawning falsehood cower
 To the wrong, when clothed with
 power.

Oh, to see them meanly cling,
 Round the master, round the king,
 Sported with, and sold and bought, —
 Pitifuller sight is not! 60

Tell me not that this must be:
 God's true priest is always free;
 Free the needed truth to speak,
 Right the wronged, and raise the
 weak.

Not to fawn on wealth and state,
 Leaving Lazarus at the gate;
 Not, to peddle creeds like wares;
 Not to mutter hireling prayers;

Nor to paint the new life's bliss
 On the sable ground of this; 70
 Golden streets for idle knave,
 Sabbath rest for weary slave!

Not for words and works like these,
 Priest of God, thy mission is;
 But to make earth's desert glad,
 In its Eden greenness clad;

And to level manhood bring
 Lord and peasant, serf and king;
 And the Christ of God to find
 In the humblest of thy kind! 80

Thine to work as well as pray,
 Clearing thorny wrongs away;
 Plucking up the weeds of sin,
 Letting heaven's warm sunshine in;

Watching on the hills of Faith;
 Listening what the spirit saith,
 Of the dim-seen light afar,
 Growing like a nearing star.

God's interpreter art thou
 To the waiting ones below; 90
 'Twixt them and its light midway
 Heraldng the better day;

Catching gleams of temple spires,
 Hearing notes of angel choirs,
 Where, as yet unseen of them,
 Comes the New Jerusalem!

Like the seer of Patmos gazing,
 On the glory downward blazing;
 Till upon Earth's grateful sod
 Rests the City of our God! 100

PÆAN

1848

Now, joy and thanks forevermore!
 The dreary night has wellnigh
 passed,
 The slumbers of the North are o'er,
 The Giant stands erect at last!

More than we hoped in that dark time
 When, faint with watching, few and
 worn,
 We saw no welcome day-star climb
 The cold gray pathway of the morn'!

O weary hours! O night of years!
 What storms our darkling pathway
 swept, 10
 Where, beating back our thronging
 fears,
 By Faith alone our march we kept.

How jeered the scoffing crowd behind,
 How mocked before the tyrant train,
 As, one by one, the true and kind
 Fell fainting in our path of pain!

They died, their brave hearts breaking
 slow,
 But, self-forgetful to the last,
 In words of cheer and bugle blow
 Their breath upon the darkness
 passed. 20

A mighty host, on either hand,
 Stood waiting for the dawn of day
 To crush like reeds our feeble band;
 The morn has come, and where are
 they?

Troop after troop their line forsakes;
 With peace-white banners waving
 free,
 And from our own the glad shout
 breaks,
 Of Freedom and Fraternity!

Like mist before the growing light,
 The hostile cohorts melt away; 30

Our frowning foemen of the night
Are brothers at the dawn of day!

As unto these repentant ones
We open wide our toil-worn ranks,
Along our line a murmur runs
Of song, and praise, and grateful
thanks.

Sound for the onset! Blast on blast!
Till Slavery's minions cower and
quail;

One charge of fire shall drive them fast
Like chaff before our Northern
gale! 40

O prisoners in your house of pain,
Dumb, toiling millions, bound and
sold,

Look! stretched o'er Southern vale
and plain,

The Lord's delivering hand behold!

Above the tyrant's pride of power,
His iron gates and guarded wall,
The bolts which shattered Shinar's
tower

Hang, smoking, for a fiercer fall.

Awake! awake! my Fatherland!
It is thy Northern light that
shines; 50

This stirring march of Freedom's band
The storm-song of thy mountain
pines.

Wake, dwellers where the day expires!
And hear, in winds that sweep your
lakes

And fan your prairies' roaring fires,
The signal-call that Freedom makes!

THE CRISIS

WRITTEN ON LEARNING THE TERMS
OF THE TREATY WITH MEXICO

Across the Stony Mountains, o'er the
desert's drouth and sand,
The circles of our empire touch the
western ocean's strand;

From slumberous Timpanogos, to
Gila, wild and free,

Flowing down from Nuevo-Leon to
California's sea;

And from the mountains of the east, to
Santa Rosa's shore,
The eagles of Mexitli shall beat the air
no more.

O Vale of Rio Bravo! Let thy simple
children weep;

Close watch about their holy fire let
maids of Pecos keep;

Let Taos send her cry across Sierra
Madre's pines,

And Santa Barbara toll her bells
amidst her corn and vines; 10

For lo! the pale land-seekers come,
with eager eyes of gain,

Wide scattering, like the bison herds
on broad Salada's plain.

Let Sacramento's herdsmen heed
what sound the winds bring
down

Of footsteps on the crisping snow,
from cold Nevada's crown!

Full hot and fast the Saxon rides, with
rein of travel slack,

And, bending o'er his saddle, leaves
the sunrise at his back;

By many a lonely river, and gorge of
fir and pine,

On many a wintry hill-top, his nightly
camp-fires shine.

O countrymen and brothers! that land
of lake and plain,

Of salt wastes alternating with valleys
fat with grain; 20

Of mountains white with winter, look-
ing downward, cold, serene,

On their feet with spring-vines tan-
gled and lapped in softest
green;

Swift through whose black volcanic
gates, o'er many a sunny
vale,

Wind-like the Arapahoe sweeps the
bison's dusty trail!

Great spaces yet untravell'd, great
lakes whose mystic shores

The Saxon rifle never heard, nor dip of
Saxon oars;

Great herds that wander all un-
watched, wild steeds that none
have tamed,

Strange fish in unknown streams, and
birds the Saxon never named;

Deep mines, dark mountain crucibles,
where Nature's chemic powers

Work out the Great Designer's will;
all these ye say are ours! 30

Forever ours! for good or ill, on us the
burden lies:

God's balance, watched by angels, is
hung across the skies.

Shall Justice, Truth, and Freedom
turn the poised and trembling
scale?

Or shall the Evil triumph, and robber
Wrong prevail?

Shall the broad land o'er which our
flag in starry splendor waves,

Forego through us its freedom, and
bear the tread of slaves?

The day is breaking in the East of
which the prophets told,

And brightens up the sky of Time the
Christian Age of Gold;

Old Might to Right is yielding, battle
blade to clerkly pen,

Earth's monarchs are her peoples, and
her serfs stand up as men; 40

The isles rejoice together, in a day are
nations born,

And the slave walks free in Tunis, and
by Stamboul's Golden Horn!

Is this, O countrymen of mine! a day
for us to sow

The soil of new-gained empire with
slavery's seeds of woe?

To feed with our fresh life-blood the
Old World's cast-off crime,

Dropped, like some monstrous early
birth, from the tired lap of
Time?

To run anew the evil race the old lost
nations ran,

And die like them of unbelief of God,
and wrong of man?

Great Heaven! Is this our mission?
End in this the prayers and
tears,

The toil, the strife, the watchings of
our younger, better years? 50

Still as the Old World rolls in light,
shall ours in shadow turn,

A beamless Chaos, cursed of God,
through outer darkness borne?

Where the far nations looked for light,
a blackness in the air?

Where for words of hope they listened,
the long wail of despair?

The Crisis presses on us; face to face
with us it stands,

With solemn lips of question, like the
Sphinx in Egypt's sands!

This day we fashion Destiny, our web
of Fate we spin;

This day for all hereafter choose we
holiness or sin;

Even now from starry Gerizim, or
Ebal's cloudy crown,

We call the dews of blessing or the
bolts of cursing down! 60

By all for which the martyrs bore their
agony and shame;

By all the warning words of truth with
which the prophets came;

By the Future which awaits us; by all
the hopes which cast

Their faint and trembling beams
across the blackness of the Past;

And by the blessed thought of Him
who for Earth's freedom died,

O my people! O my brothers! let us
choose the righteous side.

So shall the Northern pioneer go joyful
on his way;

To wed Penobscot's waters to San
Francisco's bay,

To make the rugged places smooth,
and sow the vales with grain;

And bear, with Liberty and Law, the
Bible in his train: 70

The mighty West shall bless the East,
and sea shall answer sea,

And mountain unto mountain call,
Praise God, for we are free!

LINES ON THE PORTRAIT OF A CELEBRATED PUBLISHER

A MOONY breadth of virgin face,
By thought unviolated;

A patient mouth, to take from scorn
The hook with bank-notes baited!

Its self-complacent sleekness shows
How thrift goes with the fawner;

An unctuous unconcern of all
Which nice folks call dishonor!



Grace Greenwood

“Alas! a woman slew us!” (See note p. 640.)

A pleasant print to peddle out
 In lands of rice and cotton; 10
 The model of that face in dough
 Would make the artist's fortune.
 For Fame to thee has come un-
 sought,
 While others vainly woo her,
 In proof how mean a thing can make
 A great man of its doer.

To whom shall men thyself compare,
 Since common models fail 'em,
 Save classic goose of ancient Rome,
 Or sacred ass of Balaam? 20
 The gabble of that wakeful goose
 Saved Rome from sack of Brennus;
 The braying of the prophet's ass
 Betrayed the angel's menace!

So when Guy Fawkes, in petticoats,
 And azure-tinted hose on,
 Was twisting from thy love-lorn sheets
 The slow-match of explosion —
 An earthquake blast that would have
 tossed
 The Union as a feather, 30
 Thy instinct saved a perilled land
 And perilled purse together.

Just think of Carolina's sage
 Sent whirling like a Dervis,
 Of Quattlebum in middle air
 Performing strange drill-service!
 Doomed like Assyria's lord of old,
 Who fell before the Jewess,
 Or sad Abimelech, to sigh,
 “Alas! a woman slew us!” 40

Thou saw'st beneath a fair disguise
 The danger darkly lurking,
 And maiden bodice dreaded more
 Than warrior's steel-wrought jer-
 kin.
 How keen to scent the hidden plot!
 How prompt wert thou to balk it,
 With patriot zeal and pedler thrift,
 For country and for pocket!

Thy likeness here is doubtless well,
 But higher honor's due it; 50
 On auction-block and negro-jail
 Admiring eyes should view it.
 Or, hung aloft, it well might grace
 The nation's senate-chamber —
 A greedy Northern bottle-fly
 Preserved in Slavery's amber!

DERNE

NIGHT on the city of the Moor!
 On mosque and tomb, and white-
 walled shore,
 On sea-waves, to whose ceaseless
 knock
 The narrow harbor-gates unlock,
 On corsair's galley, carack tall,
 And plundered Christian caraval!
 The sounds of Moslem life are still;
 No mule-bell tinkles down the hill;
 Stretched in the broad court of the
 khan,
 The dusty Bornou caravan 10
 Lies heaped in slumber, beast and
 man;
 The Sheik is dreaming in his tent,
 His noisy Arab tongue o'erspent;
 The kiosk's glimmering lights are gone,
 The merchant with his wares with-
 drawn;
 Rough pillowed on some pirate breast,
 The dancing-girl has sunk to rest;
 And, save where measured footsteps
 fall
 Along the Bashaw's guarded wall,
 Or where, like some bad dream, the
 Jew 20
 Creeps stealthily his quarter through,
 Or counts with fear his golden heaps,
 The City of the Corsair sleeps!

But where yon prison long and low
 Stands black against the pale star-
 glow,

Chafed by the ceaseless wash of
 waves,
 There watch and pine the Christian
 slaves;
 Rough-bearded men, whose far-off
 wives
 Wear out with grief their lonely lives;
 And youth, still flashing from his
 eyes 30
 The clear blue of New England skies,
 A treasured lock of whose soft hair
 Now wakes some sorrowing mother's
 prayer;
 Or, worn upon some maiden breast,
 Stirs with the loving heart's unrest!

A bitter cup each life must drain,
 The groaning earth is cursed with
 pain,
 And, like the scroll the angel bore
 The shuddering Hebrew seer before,
 O'erwrit alike, without, within, 40
 With all the woes which follow sin;
 But, bitterest of the ills beneath
 Whose load man totters down to
 death,
 Is that which plucks the regal crown
 Of Freedom from his forehead down,
 And snatches from his powerless hand
 The sceptred sign of self-command,
 Effacing with the chain and rod
 The image and the seal of God;
 Till from his nature, day by day, 50
 The manly virtues fall away,
 And leave him naked, blind and mute,
 The godlike merging in the brute!

Why mourn the quiet ones who die
 Beneath affection's tender eye,
 Unto their household and their kin
 Like ripened corn-sheaves gathered
 in?

O weeper, from that tranquil sod,
 That holy harvest-home of God,
 Turn to the quick and suffering, shed
 Thy tears upon the living dead! 61
 Thank God above thy dear ones'
 graves,
 They sleep with Him, they are not
 slaves.

What dark mass, down the mountain-
 sides
 Swift-pouring, like a stream divides?
 A long, loose, straggling caravan,
 Camel and horse and armed man.

The moon's low crescent, glimmering
o'er

Its grave of waters to the shore,
Lights up that mountain cavalcade,
And gleams from gun and spear and
blade

Near and more near! now o'er them
falls

The shadow of the city walls.
Hark to the sentry's challenge,
drowned

In the fierce trumpet's charging
sound!

The rush of men, the musket's peal,
The short, sharp clang of meeting
steel!

Vain, Moslem, vain thy lifeblood
poured

So freely on thy foeman's sword!
Not to the swift nor to the strong 80
The battles of the right belong;
For he who strikes for Freedom wears
The armor of the captive's prayers,
And Nature proffers to his cause
The strength of her eternal laws;
While he whose arm essays to bind
And herd with common brutes his
kind

Strives evermore at fearful odds
With Nature and the jealous gods,
And dares the dread recoil which late
Or soon their right shall vindicate. 91

'T is done, the horned crescent falls!
The star-flag flouts the broken walls!
Joy to the captive husband! joy
To thy sick heart, O brown-locked boy!
In sullen wrath the conquered Moor
Wide open flings your dungeon-door,
And leaves ye free from cell and chain,
The owners of yourselves again.
Dark as his allies desert-born, 100
Soiled with the battle's stain, and worn
With the long marches of his band
Through hottest wastes of rock and
sand,

Scorched by the sun and furnace-
breath

Of the red desert's wind of death,
With welcome words and grasping
hands,

The victor and deliverer stands!

The tale is one of distant skies;
The dust of half a century lies

Upon it; yet its hero's name 110
Still lingers on the lips of Fame.

Men speak the praise of him who gave
Deliverance to the Moorman's slave,
Yet dare to brand with shame and
crime

The heroes of our land and time, —
The self-forgetful ones, who stake
Home, name, and life for Freedom's
sake.

God mend his heart who cannot feel
The impulse of a holy zeal,

And sees not, with his sordid eyes, 120
The beauty of self-sacrifice!

Though in the sacred place he stands,
Uplifting consecrated hands,

Unworthy are his lips to tell
Of Jesus' martyr-miracle,

Or name aright that dread embrace
Of suffering for a fallen race!

A SABBATH SCENE

SCARCE had the solemn Sabbath-bell
Ceased quivering in the steeple,
Scarce had the parson to his desk
Walked stately through his people,

When down the summer-shaded street
A wasted female figure,
With dusky brow and naked feet,
Came rushing wild and eager.

She saw the white spire through the
trees,

She heard the sweet hymn swell-
ing: 10

O pitying Christ! a refuge give
That poor one in Thy dwelling!

Like a scared fawn before the hounds,
Right up the aisle she glided,
While close behind her, whip in hand,
A lank-haired hunter strided.

She raised a keen and bitter cry,
To Heaven and Earth appealing;
Were manhood's generous pulses
dead?

Had woman's heart no feeling? 20

A score of stout hands rose between
The hunter and the flying;

Age clenched his staff, and maiden eyes
Flashed tearful, yet defying.

"Who dares profane this house and day?"

Cried out the angry pastor.

"Why, bless your soul, the wench's a slave,

And I'm her lord and master!

"I've law and gospel on my side,
And who shall dare refuse me?" 30

Down came the parson, bowing low,
"My good sir, pray excuse me!

"Of course I know your right divine
To own and work and whip her;
Quick, deacon, throw that Polyglott
Before the wench, and trip her!"

Plump dropped the holy tome, and o'er

Its sacred pages stumbling,
Bound hand and foot, a slave once more,
The hapless wretch lay trembling. 40

I saw the parson tie the knots,
The while his flock addressing,
The Scriptural claims of slavery
With text on text impressing.

"Although," said he, "on Sabbath day

All secular occupations
Are deadly sins, we must fulfil
Our moral obligations:

"And this commends itself as one
To every conscience tender; 50
As Paul sent back Onesimus,
My Christian friends, we send her!"

Shriek rose on shriek, — the Sabbath air

Her wild cries tore asunder;
I listened, with hushed breath, to hear
God answering with his thunder!

All still! the very altar's cloth
Had smothered down her shrieking,
And, dumb, she turned from face to face,
For human pity seeking! 60

I saw her dragged along the aisle,
Her shackles harshly clanking;
I heard the parson, over all,
The Lord devoutly thanking!

My brain took fire: "Is 'this," I cried,

"The end of prayer and preaching?

Then down with pulpit, down with priest,
And give us Nature's teaching!

"Foul shame and scorn be on ye all

Who turn the good to evil, 70
And steal the Bible from the Lord,
To give it to the Devil!

"Than garbled text or parchment law

I own a statute higher;
And God is true, though every book
And every man's a liar!"

Just then I felt the deacon's hand
In wrath my coat-tail seize on;

I heard the priest cry, "Infidel!"
The lawyer mutter, "Treason!" 80

I started up, — where now were church,

Slave, master, priest, and people?
I only heard the supper-bell,
Instead of clanging steeple.

But, on the open window's sill,
O'er which the white blooms drifted,
The pages of a good old Book
The wind of summer lifted,

And flower and vine, like angel wings
Around the Holy Mother, 90
Waved softly there, as if God's truth
And Mercy kissed each other.

And freely from the cherry-bough
Above the casement swinging,
With golden bosom to the sun,
The oriole was singing.

As bird and flower made plain of old
The lesson of the Teacher,
So now I heard the written Word
Interpreted by Nature! 100

For to my ear methought the breeze
Bore Freedom's blessed word on;
Thus saith the Lord: Break every yoke,
Undo the heavy burden!

IN THE EVIL DAYS

1850

THE evil days have come, the poor
Are made a prey;
Bar up the hospitable door,
Put out the fire-lights, point no more
The wanderer's way.

For Pity now is crime; the chain
Which binds our States
Is melted at her hearth in twain,
Is rusted by her tears' soft rain:
Close up her gates. 10

Our Union, like a glacier stirred
By voice below,
Or hell of kine, or wing of bird,
A beggar's crust, a kindly word
May overthrow!

Poor, whispering tremblers! yet we
boast
Our blood and name;
Bursting its century-bolted frost,
Each gray cairn on the Northman's
coast
Cries out for shame! 20

Oh for the open firmament,
The prairie free,
The desert hillside, cavern-rent,
The Pawnee's lodge, the Arab's tent,
The Bushman's tree!

Than web of Persian loom most
rare,
Or soft divan,
Better the rough rock, bleak and
bare,
Or hollow tree, which man may share
With suffering man. 30

I hear a voice: "Thus saith the Law,
Let Love be dumb;
Clasping her liberal hands in awe,
Let sweet-lipped Charity withdraw
From hearth and home."

I hear another voice: "The poor
Are thine to feed;
Turn not the outcast from thy door,
Nor give to bonds and wrong once
more
Whom God hath freed." 40

Dear Lord! between that law and
Thee

No choice remains;
Yet not untrue to man's decree,
Though spurning its rewards, is he
Who bears its pains.

Not mine Sedition's trumpet-blast
And threatening word;
I read the lesson of the Past,
That firm endurance wins at last
More than the sword. 50

O clear-eyed Faith, and Patience thou
So calm and strong!
Lend strength to weakness, teach us
how
The sleepless eyes of God look through
This night of wrong!

MOLOCH IN STATE STREET

THE moon has set: while yet the dawn
Breaks cold and gray,
Between the midnight and the morn
Bear off your prey!

On, swift and still! the conscious
street
Is panged and stirred;
Tread light! that fall of serried feet
The dead have heard!

The first drawn blood of Freedom's
veins
Gushed where ye tread; 10
Lo! through the dusk the martyr-
stains
Blush darkly red!

Beneath the slowly-waning stars
And whitening day,
What stern and awful presence bars
That sacred way?

What faces frown upon ye, dark
With shame and pain?
Come these from Plymouth's Pilgrim
bark?
Is that young Vane? 20

Who, dimly beckoning, speed ye on
With mocking cheer?
Lo! spectral Andros, Hutchinson,
And Gage are here!



State Street about 1840

For ready mart of favoring blast
 Through Moloch's fire,
 Flesh of his flesh, unsparing, passed
 The Tyrian sire.

Ye make that ancient sacrifice
 Of Man to Gain, ³⁰
 Your traffic thrives, where Freedom
 dies,
 Beneath the chain.

Ye sow to-day; your harvest, scorn
 And hate, is near;
 How think ye freemen, mountain-born,
 The tale will hear?

Thank God! our mother State can yet
 Her fame retrieve;
 To you and to your children let
 The scandal cleave. ⁴⁰

Chain Hall and Pulpit, Court and Press,
 Make gods of gold;

Let honor; truth, and manliness
 Like wares be sold.

Your hoards are great, your walls are
 strong,
 But God is just;
 The gilded chambers built by wrong
 Invite the rust.

What! know ye not the gains of Crime
 Are dust and dross; ⁵⁰
 Its ventures on the waves of time
 Foredoomed to loss!

And still the Pilgrim State remains
 What she hath been;
 Her inland hills, her seaward plains,
 Still nurture men!

Nor wholly lost the fallen mart;
 Her olden blood
 Through many a free and generous heart
 Still pours its flood. ⁶⁰

That brave old blood, quick-flowing
 yet,
 Shall know no check,
 Till a free people's foot is set
 On Slavery's neck.

Even now, the peal of hell and gun,
 And hills aflame,
 Tell of the first great triumph won
 In Freedom's name.

The long night dies: the welcome
 gray
 Of dawn we see; ⁷⁰
 Speed up the heavens thy perfect day,
 God of the free!
 1851

OFFICIAL PIETY

SUGGESTED BY READING A STATE PA-
 PER, WHEREIN THE HIGHER LAW IS
 INVOKED TO SUSTAIN THE LOWER
 ONE

A PIOUS magistrate! sound his praise
 throughout
 The wondering churches. Who shall
 henceforth doubt
 That the long-wished millennium
 draweth nigh?
 Sin in high places has become de-
 vout,
 Tithes mint, goes painful-faced, and
 prays its lie
 Straight up to Heaven, and calls it
 piety!

The pirate, watching from his bloody
 deck
 The weltering galleon, heavy with
 the gold
 Of Acapulco, holding death in check
 While prayers are said, brows
 crossed, and beads are told;
 The robber, kneeling where the way-
 side cross
 On dark Abruzzo tells of life's dread
 loss
 From his own carbine, glancing still
 abroad
 For some new victim, offering thanks
 to God!
 Rome, listening at her altars to the
 cry

Of midnight Murder, while her hounds
 of hell
 Scour France, from baptized cannon
 and holy bell
 And thousand-throated priesthood,
 loud and high,
 Pealing Te Deums to the shudder-
 ing sky,
 "Thanks to the Lord, who giveth
 victory!"
 What prove these, but that crime was
 ne'er so black
 As ghostly cheer and pious thanks to
 lack?
 Satan is modest. At Heaven's door he
 lays
 His evil offspring, and, in Scriptural
 phrase
 And saintly posture, gives to God the
 praise
 And honor of the monstrous pro-
 geny.
 What marvel, then, in our own time
 to see
 His old devices, smoothly acted
 o'er,—
 Official piety, locking fast the door
 Of Hope against three million souls of
 men,—
 Brothers, God's children, Christ's re-
 deemed,— and then,
 With uprolled eyeballs and on bended
 knee,
 Whining a prayer for help to hide the
 key!

THE RENDITION

I HEARD the train's shrill whistle call,
 I saw an earnest look beseech,
 And rather by that look than
 speech
 My neighbor told me all.
 And, as I thought of Liberty
 Marched handcuffed down that
 sworded street,
 The solid earth beneath my feet
 Reeled fluid as the sea.
 I felt a sense of bitter loss,—
 Shame, tearless grief, and stifling
 wrath,
 And loathing fear, as if my path
 A serpent stretched across.

All love of home, all pride of place,
 All generous confidence and trust,
 Sank smothering in that deep disgust
 And anguish of disgrace.

Down on my native hills of June,
 And home's green quiet, hiding all,
 Fell sudden darkness like the fall
 Of midnight upon noon!

And Law, an unloosed maniac, strong,
 Blood-drunken, through the blackness trod,
 Hoarse-shouting in the ear of God
 The blasphemy of wrong.

"O Mother, from thy memories proud,
 Thy old renown, dear Commonwealth,
 Lend this dead air a breeze of health,
 And smite with stars this cloud.

"Mother of Freedom, wise and brave,
 Rise awful in thy strength," I said;
 Ah me! I spake but to the dead;
 I stood upon her grave!
 6th mo., 1854

ARISEN AT LAST

ON THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE AGAINST THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT

I SAID I stood upon thy grave,
 My Mother State, when last the moon
 Of blossoms clomb the skies of June,

And, scattering ashes on my head,
 I wore, undreaming of relief,
 The sackcloth of thy shame and grief.

Again that moon of blossoms shines
 On leaf and flower and folded wing,
 And thou hast risen with the spring!

Once more thy strong maternal arms
 Are round about thy children flung, —
 A lioness that guards her young!

No threat is on thy closèd lips,
 But in thine eye a power to smite
 The mad wolf backward from its light.

Southward the baffled robber's track
 Henceforth runs only; hereaway,
 The fell lycanthrope finds no prey.

Henceforth, within thy sacred gates,
 His first low howl shall downward draw
 The thunder of thy righteous law.

Not mindless of thy trade and gain,
 But, acting on the wiser plan,
 Thou'rt grown conservative of man.

So shalt thou clothe with life the hope,
 Dream-painted on the sightless eyes
 Of him who sang of Paradise, —

The vision of a Christian man,
 In virtue, as in stature great,
 Embodied in a Christian State.

And thou, amidst thy sisterhood
 Forbearing long, yet standing fast,
 Shalt win their grateful thanks at last;

When North and South shall strive no more,
 And all their feuds and fears be lost
 In Freedom's holy Pentecost.

THE HASCHISH

OF all that Orient lands can vaunt
 Of marvels with our own competing,
 The strangest is the Haschish plant,
 And what will follow on its eating.

What pictures to the taster rise,
 Of Dervish or of Almeh dances!
 Of Eblis, or of Paradise,
 Set all aglow with Houri glances!

The poppy visions of Cathay,
 The heavy beer-trance of the Suanbian;
 The wizard lights and demon play
 Of nights Walpurgis and Arabian!

The Mollah and the Christian dog
 Change place in mad metempsychosis;
 The Muezzin climbs the synagogue,
 The Rabbi shakes his beard at Moses!

The Arab by his desert well
 Sits choosing from some Caliph's daughters,
 And hears his single camel's bell 19
 Sound welcome to his regal quarters.

The Koran's reader makes complaint
 Of Shitan dancing on and off it;

The man of peace, about whose dreams
 The sweet millennial angels cluster,
 Tastes the mad weed, and plots and schemes,
 A raving Cuban filibuster!

The noisiest Democrat, with ease,
 It turns to Slavery's parish beadle;
 The shrewdest statesman eats and sees
 Due southward point the polar needle. 40

The Judge partakes, and sits erelong
 Upon his bench a railing blackguard;
 Decides off-hand that right is wrong,



The Kansas Emigrants

The robber offers alms, the saint
 Drinks Tokay and blasphemes the Prophet.

Such scenes that Eastern plant awakes;
 But we have one ordained to beat it,
 The Haschish of the West, which makes
 Or fools or knaves of all who eat it.

The preacher eats, and straight appears
 His Bible in a new translation; 30
 Its angels negro overseers,
 And Heaven itself a snug plantation!

And reads the ten commandments
 backward.

O potent plant! so rare a taste
 Has never Turk or Gento gotten;
 The hempen Haschish of the East
 Is powerless to our Western Cotton!

THE KANSAS EMIGRANTS

We cross the prairie as of old
 The pilgrims crossed the sea,
 To make the West, as they the East,
 The homestead of the free!

We go to rear a wall of men
On Freedom's southern line,
And plant beside the cotton-tree
The rugged Northern pine!

We're flowing from our native hills
As our free rivers flow:
The blessing of our Mother-land
Is on us as we go.

We go to plant her common schools
On distant prairie swells,
And give the Sabbaths of the wild
The music of her bells.

Upbearing, like the Ark of old,
The Bible in our van,
We go to test the truth of God
Against the fraud of man.

No pause, nor rest, save where the
streams
That feed the Kansas run,
Save where our Pilgrim gonfalon
Shall flout the setting sun!

We'll tread the prairie as of old
Our fathers sailed the sea,
And make the West, as they the East,
The homestead of the free!

FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE

INSCRIBED TO FRIENDS UNDER ARREST
FOR TREASON AGAINST THE SLAVE
POWER

The age is dull and mean. Men creep,
Not walk; with blood too pale and
tame

To pay the debt they owe to shame;
Buy cheap, sell dear; eat, drink, and
sleep

Down-pillowed, deaf to moaning
want;

Pay tithes for soul-insurance; keep
Six days to Mammon, one to Cant.

In such a time, give thanks to God,
That somewhat of the holy rage
With which the prophets in their
age

On all its decent seemings trod,
Has set your feet upon the lie,
That man and ox and soul and clod
Are market stock to sell and buy!

The hot words from your lips, my own,
To caution trained, might not repeat;
But if some tares among the wheat
Of generous thought and deed were

sown,
No common wrong provoked your
zeal;

The silken gauntlet that is thrown
In such a quarrel rings like steel.

The brave old strife the fathers saw
For Freedom calls for men again
Like those who battled not in vain
For England's Charter, Alfred's law;
And right of speech and trial just
Wage in your name their ancient war
With venal courts and perjured
trust.

God's ways seem dark, but, soon or
late,

They touch the shining hills of day;
The evil cannot brook delay,
The good can well afford to wait.

Give ermined knaves their hour of
crime;

Ye have the future grand and great,
The safe appeal of Truth to Time!

LETTER

FROM A MISSIONARY OF THE METHOD-
IST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH, IN
KANSAS, TO A DISTINGUISHED POLI-
TICIAN

DOUGLAS MISSION, August, 1854.

LAST week — the Lord be praised
for all His mercies

To His unworthy servant! — I arrived
Safe at the Mission, via Westport,
where

I tarried over night, to aid in forming
A Vigilance Committee, to send back,
In shirts of tar, and feather-doublers
quilted

With forty stripes save one, all Yan-
kee comers,

Uncircumcised and Gentile, aliens
from

The Commonwealth of Israel, who de-
spise

The prize of the high calling of the
saints,

Who plant amidst this heathen wilder-
ness
Pure gospel institutions, sanctified
By patriarchal use. The meeting
opened
With prayer, as was most fitting. Half
an hour,
Or thereaway, I groaned, and strove,
and wrestled,
As Jacob did at Penuel, till the power
Fell on the people, and they cried
"Amen!"
"Glory to God!" and stamped and
clapped their hands;
And the rough river boatmen wiped
their eyes;
"Go it, old hoss!" they cried, and
cursed the niggers — ²⁰
Fulfilling thus the word of prophecy,
"Cursèd be Canaan." After prayer,
the meeting
Chose a committee — good and pious
men —
A Presbyterian Elder, Baptist deacon,
A local preacher, three or four class-
leaders,
Anxious inquirers, and renewed back-
sliders,
A score in all — to watch the river
ferry
(As they of old did watch the fords of
Jordan),
And cut off all whose Yankee tongues
refuse
The Shibboleth of the Nebraska bill. ³⁰
And then, in answer to repeated calls,
I gave a brief account of what I saw
In Washington; and truly many
hearts
Rejoiced to know the President, and
you
And all the Cabinet regularly hear
The gospel message of a Sunday morn-
ing,
Drinking with thirsty souls of the sin-
cere
Milk of the Word. Glory! Amen, and
Selah!

Here, at the Mission, all things have
gone well:
The brother who, throughout my ab-
sence, acted ⁴⁰
As overseer, assures me that the crops
Never were better. I have lost one
negro,

A first-rate hand, but obstinate and
sullen.
He ran away some time last spring,
and hid
In the river timber. There my Indian
converts
Found him, and treed and shot him.
For the rest,
The heathens round about begin to
feel
The influence of our pious ministra-
tions
And works of love; and some of them
already
Have purchased negroes, and are set-
tling down ⁵⁰
As sober Christians! Bless the Lord
for this!
I know it will rejoice you. You, I hear,
Are on the eve of visiting Chicago,
To fight with the wild beasts of Ephe-
sus,
Long John, and Dutch Free-Soilers.
May your arm
Be clothed with strength, and on your
tongue be found
The sweet oil of persuasion. So desires
Your brother and co-laborer. Amen!

P. S. All's lost. Even while I write
these lines,
The Yankee abolitionists are coming
Upon us like a flood — grim, stalwart
men, ⁶¹
Each face set like a flint of Plymouth
Rock
Against our institutions — staking out
Their farm lots on the wooded Waka-
rusa,
Or squatting by the mellow-bottomed
Kansas;
The pioneers of mightier multitudes,
The small rain-patter, ere the thunder
shower
Drowns the dry prairies. Hope from
man is not.
Oh, for a quiet berth at Washington,
Snug naval chaplaincy, or clerkship,
where ⁷⁰
These rumors of free labor and free soil
Might never meet me more. Better to
be
Door-keeper in the White House,
than to dwell
Amidst these Yankee tents, that,
whitening, show

On the green prairie like a fleet be-
calmed.
Methinks I hear a voice come up the
river
From those far bayous where the alli-
gators
Mount guard around the camping fili-
busters:
"Shake off the dust of Kansas. Turn
to Cuba — 79
(That golden orange just about to fall,
O'er-ripe, into the Democratic lap);
Keep pace with Providence, or, as we
say,
Manifest destiny. Go forth and follow
The message of *our* gospel, thither
borne
Upon the point of Quitman's bowie
knife,
And the persuasive lips of Colt's re-
volvers.
There may'st thou, underneath thy
vine and fig-tree,
Watch thy increase of sugar cane and
negroes,
Calm as a patriarch in his eastern
tent!"
Amen: So mote it be. So prays your
friend. 90

BURIAL OF BARBER

BEAR him, comrades, to his grave;
Never over one more brave
Shall the prairie grasses weep,
In the ages yet to come,
When the millions in our room,
What we sow in tears, shall reap.

Bear him up the icy hill,
With the Kansas, frozen still
As his noble heart, below,
And the land he came to till 10
With a freeman's thews and will,
And his poor hut roofed with
snow!

One more look of that dead face,
Of his murder's ghastly trace!
One more kiss, O widowed one!
Lay your left hands on his brow,
Lift your right hands up, and vow
That his work shall yet be done.

Patience, friends! The eye of God

Every path by Murder trod 20
Watches, lidless, day and night;
And the dead man in his shroud,
And his widow weeping loud,
And our hearts, are in His sight.

Every deadly threat that swells
With the roar of gambling hells,
Every brutal jest and jeer,
Every wicked thought and plan
Of the cruel heart of man,
Thought but whispered, He can 30
hear!

We in suffering, they in crime,
Wait the just award of time,
Wait the vengeance that is due;
Not in vain a heart shall break,
Not a tear for Freedom's sake
Fall unheeded: God is true.

While the flag with stars bedecked
Threatens where it should protect,
And the Law shakes hands with
Crime,
What is left us but to wait, 40
Match our patience to our fate,
And abide the better time?

Patience, friends! The human heart
Everywhere shall take our part,
Everywhere for us shall pray;
On our side are nature's laws,
And God's life is in the cause
That we suffer for to-day.

Well to suffer is divine;
Pass the watchword down the line, 50
Pass the countersign: "Endure."
Not to him who rashly dares,
But to him who nobly bears,
Is the victor's garland sure.

Frozen earth to frozen breast,
Lay our slain one down to rest;
Lay him down in hope and faith,
And above the broken sod,
Once again, to Freedom's God,
Pledge ourselves for life or death, 60

That the State whose walls we lay,
In our blood and tears, to-day,
Shall be free from bonds of shame,
And our goodly land untrod
By the feet of Slavery, shod
With cursing as with flame!

Plant the Buckeye on his grave,
 For the hunter of the slave
 In its shadow cannot rest;
 And let martyr mound and tree 70
 Be our pledge and guaranty
 Of the freedom of the West!

TO PENNSYLVANIA

O STATE prayer-founded! never hung
 Such choice upon a people's tongue,
 Such power to bless or ban,
 As that which makes thy whisper
 Fate,
 For which on thee the centuries wait,
 And destinies of man!

Across thy Alleghanian chain,
 With groanings from a land in pain,
 The west-wind finds its way:
 Wild-wailing from Missouri's flood
 The crying of thy children's blood
 Is in thy ears to-day!

And unto thee in Freedom's hour
 Of sorest need God gives the power
 To ruin or to save;
 To wound or heal, to blight or bless
 With fertile field or wilderness,
 A free home or a grave!

Then let thy virtue match the crime,
 Rise to a level with the time;
 And, if a son of thine
 Betray or tempt thee, Brutus-like
 For Fatherland and Freedom strike
 As Justice gives the sign.

Wake, sleeper, from thy dream of ease,
 The great occasion's forelock seize;
 And let the north-wind strong,
 And golden leaves of autumn, be
 Thy coronal of Victory
 And thy triumphal song.
 10th mo., 1856

LE MARAIS DU CYGNE

A BLUSH as of roses
 Where rose never grew!
 Great drops on the bunch-grass,
 But not of the dew!
 A faint in the sweet air
 For wild bees to shun!

A stain that shall never
 Bleach out in the sun!

Back, steed of the prairies!
 Sweet song-bird, fly back! 10
 Wheel hither, bald vulture!
 Gray wolf, call thy pack!
 The foul human vultures
 Have feasted and fled;
 The wolves of the Border
 Have crept from the dead.

From the hearths of their cabins,
 The fields of their corn,
 Unwarned and unweaponed,
 The victims were torn, — 20
 By the whirlwind of murder
 Swooped up and swept on
 To the low, reedy fen-lands,
 The Marsh of the Swan.

With a vain plea for mercy
 No stout knee was crooked;
 In the mouths of the rifles
 Right manly they looked.
 How paled the May sunshine,
 O Marais du Cygne! 30
 On death for the strong life,
 On red grass for green!

In the homes of their rearing,
 Yet warm with their lives,
 Ye wait the dead only,
 Poor children and wives!
 Put out the red forge-fire,
 The smith shall not come;
 Unyoke the brown oxen,
 The ploughman lies dumb. 40

Wind slow from the Swan's Marsh,
 O dreary death-train,
 With pressed lips as bloodless
 As lips of the slain!
 Kiss down the young eyelids,
 Smooth down the gray hairs;
 Let tears quench the curses
 That burn through your prayers.

Strong man of the prairies,
 Mourn bitter and wild! 50
 Wail, desolate woman!
 Weep, fatherless child!
 But the grain of God springs up
 From ashes beneath,
 And the crown of his harvest
 Is life out of death.

Not in vain on the dial
 The shade moves along,
 To point the great contrasts
 Of right and of wrong: 60
 Free homes and free altars,
 Free prairie and flood, —
 The reeds of the Swan's Marsh,
 Whose bloom is of blood!

On the lintels of Kansas
 That blood shall not dry;
 Henceforth the Bad Angel
 Shall harmless go by;
 Henceforth to the sunset,
 Unchecked on her way, 70
 Shall Liberty follow
 The march of the day.

THE PASS OF THE SIERRA

ALL night above their rocky bed
 They saw the stars march slow;
 The wild Sierra overhead,
 The desert's death below.

The Indian from his lodge of bark,
 The gray bear from his den,
 Beyond their camp-fire's wall of dark,
 Glared on the mountain men.

Still upward turned, with anxious
 strain,
 Their leader's sleepless eye, 10
 Where splinters of the mountain chain
 Stood black against the sky.

The night waned slow: at last, a glow,
 A gleam of sudden fire,
 Shot up behind the walls of snow,
 And tipped each icy spire.

"Up, men!" he cried, "yon rocky cone,
 To-day, please God, we'll pass,
 And look from Winter's frozen throne
 On Summer's flowers and grass!" 20

They set their faces to the blast,
 They trod the eternal snow,
 And faint, worn, bleeding, hailed at
 last
 The promised land below.

Behind, they saw the snow-cloud
 tossed
 By many an icy horn;

Before, warm valleys, wood-embossed,
 And green with vines and corn.

They left the Winter at their backs
 To flap his baffled wing, 30
 And downward, with the cataracts,
 Leaped to the lap of Spring.

Strong leader of that mountain band,
 Another task remains,
 To break from Slavery's desert land
 A path to Freedom's plains.

The winds are wild, the way is drear,
 Yet, flashing through the night,
 Lo! icy ridge and rocky spear
 Blaze out in morning light! 40

Rise up, Frémont, and go before;
 The Hour must have its Man;
 Put on the hunting-shirt once more,
 And lead in Freedom's van!
 8th mo., 1856

A SONG FOR THE TIME

UP, laggards of Freedom! — our free
 flag is cast
 To the blaze of the sun and the wings
 of the blast;
 Will ye turn from a struggle so bravely
 begun,
 From a foe that is breaking, a field
 that's half won?

Whoso loves not his kind, and who
 fears not the Lord,
 Let him join that foe's service, ac-
 cursed and abhorred!
 Let him do his base will, as the slave
 only can, —
 Let him put on the bloodhound, and
 put off the Man!

Let him go where the cold blood that
 creeps in his veins
 Shall stiffen the slave-whip, and rust on
 his chains;
 Where the black slave shall laugh in
 his bonds, to behold
 The White Slave beside him, self-fet-
 tered and sold!

But ye, who still boast of hearts beat-
 ing and warm,

Rise, from lake shore and ocean's, like
waves in a storm,
Come, throng round our banner in
Liberty's name,
Like winds from your mountains, like
prairies aflame!

Our foe, hidden long in his ambush of
night,
Now, forced from his covert, stands
black in the light.
Oh, the cruel to Man, and the hateful
to God,
Smite him down to the earth, that is
cursed where he trod!

For deeper than thunder of summer's
loud shower,
On the dome of the sky God is strik-
ing the hour!
Shall we falter before what we've
prayed for so long,
When the Wrong is so weak, and the
Right is so strong?

Come forth all together! come old
and come young,
Freedom's vote in each hand, and her
song on each tongue;
Truth naked is stronger than False-
hood in mail;
The Wrong cannot prosper, the Right
cannot fail!

Like leaves of the summer once num-
bered the foe,
But the hoar-frost is falling, the north-
ern winds blow;
Like leaves of November erelong shall
they fall,
For earth wearies of them and God's
over all!

WHAT OF THE DAY?

A SOUND of tumult troubles all the air,
Like the low thunders of a sultry sky
Far-rolling ere the downright light-
nings glare;
The hills blaze red with warnings;
foes draw nigh,
Treading the dark with challenge
and reply.
Behold the burden of the prophet's
vision;

The gathering hosts, — the Valley of
Decision,
Dusk with the wings of eagles
wheeling o'er.

Day of the Lord, of darkness and not
light!

It breaks in thunder and the whirl-
wind's roar!

Even so, Father! Let Thy will be done;
Turn and o'erturn, end what Thou
hast begun

In judgment or in mercy: as for
me,

If but the least and frailest, let me be
Evermore numbered with the truly
free

Who find Thy service perfect liberty!
I fain would thank Thee that my
mortal life

Has reached the hour (albeit
through care and pain)

When Good and Evil, as for final
strife,

Close dim and vast on Armaged-
don's plain;

And Michael and his angels once again
Drive howling back the Spirits of
the Night.

Oh for the faith to read the signs
aright

And, from the angle of Thy perfect
sight,

See Truth's white banner floating
on before;

And the Good Cause, despite of
venal friends,

And base expedients, move to noble
ends;

See Peace with Freedom make to
Time amends,

And, through its cloud of dust, the
threshing-floor,

Flailed by the thunder, heaped
with chaffless grain!

1857

A SONG

INSCRIBED TO THE FRÉMONT CLUBS

BENEATH thy skies, November!

Thy skies of cloud and rain,
Around our blazing camp-fires

We close our ranks again.

Then sound again the bugles,
Call the muster-roll anew;

If months have well-nigh won the field,
What may not four years do ?

For God be praised! New England
Takes once more her ancient place;
Again the Pilgrim's banner
Leads the vanguard of the race.
Then sound again the bugles, etc.

Along the lordly Hudson,
A shout of triumph breaks;
The Empire State is speaking,
From the ocean to the lakes.
Then sound again the bugles, etc.

The Northern hills are blazing,
The Northern skies are bright;
And the fair young West is turning
Her forehead to the light!
Then sound again the bugles, etc.

Push every outpost nearer,
Press hard the hostile towers!
Another Balaklava,
And the Malakoff is ours!
Then sound again the bugles,
Call the muster-roll anew;
If months have well-nigh won the field,
What may not four years do ?

THE PANORAMA

"A! fredome is a nobill thing!
Fredome mayse man to haif liking.
Fredome all solace to man giffis;
He levys at ese that frely levys!
A nobil hart may haif nane ese
Na ellys nocht that may him plese
Gyff Fredome faillythe."

ARCHDEACON BARBOUR.

THROUGH the long hall the shut-
tered windows shed
A dubious light on every upturned
head;
On locks like those of Absalom the
fair,
On the bald apex ringed with scanty
hair,
On blank indifference and on curious
stare;
On the pale Showman reading from
his stage
The hieroglyphics of that facial page;

Half sad, half scornful, listening to the
bruit
Of restless cane-tap and impatient
foot,
And the shrill call, across the general
din,
"Roll up your curtain! Let the show
begin!"

At length a murmur like the winds
that break
Into green waves the prairie's grassy
lake,
Deepened and swelled to music clear
and loud,
And, as the west-wind lifts a summer
cloud,
The curtain rose, disclosing wide and
far
A green land stretching to the evening
star,
Fair rivers, skirted by primeval trees
And flowers hummed over by the
desert bees,
Marked by tall bluffs whose slopes of
greenness show
Fantastic outcrops of the rock be-
low;
The slow result of patient Nature's
pains,
And plastic fingering of her sun and
rains;
Arch, tower, and gate, grotesquely
windowed hall,
And long escarpment of half-crum-
bled wall,
Huger than those which, from steep
hills of vine,
Stare through their loopholes on the
travelled Rhine;
Suggesting vaguely to the gazer's
mind
A fancy, idle as the prairie wind,
Of the land's dwellers in an age un-
guessed;
The unsung Jotuns of the mystic
West.

Beyond, the prairie's sea-like swells
surpass
The Tartar's marvels of his Land of
Grass,
Vast as the sky against whose sunset
shores
Wave after wave the billowy green-
ness pours;



T. Starr King

(Who read this poem at the opening of a course of lectures in Boston, 1856)

And, onward still, like islands in that
 main,
 Loom the rough peaks of many a
 mountain chain,
 Whence east and west a thousand
 waters run
 From winter lingering under sum-
 mer's sun.
 And, still beyond, long lines of foam
 and sand
 Tell where Pacific rolls his waves
 a-land,
 From many a wide-lapped port and
 land-locked bay,
 Opening with thunderous pomp the
 world's highway
 To Indian isles of spice, and marts of
 far Cathay.

"Such," said the Showman, as the
 curtain fell,

"Is the new Canaan of our Israel;
 The land of promise to the swarming
 North
 Which, hive-like, sends its annual sur-
 plus forth;
 To the poor Southron on his worn-out
 soil,
 Scathed by the curses of unnatural
 toil;
 To Europe's exiles seeking home and
 rest,
 And the lank nomads of the wander-
 ing West,
 Who, asking neither, in their love of
 change
 And the free bison's amplitude of
 range,
 Rear the log-hut, for present shelter
 meant,
 Not future comfort, like an Arab's
 tent."

Then spake a shrewd on-looker.
 "Sir," said he,
 "I like your picture, but I fain would
 see
 A sketch of what your promised land
 will be
 When, with electric nerve and fiery-
 brained, ⁶⁰
 With Nature's forces to its chariot
 chained,
 The future grasping, by the past
 obeyed,
 The twentieth century rounds a new
 decade."

Then said the Showman, sadly:
 "He who grieves
 Over the scattering of the sibyl's
 leaves
 Unwisely mourns. Suffice it, that we
 know
 What needs must ripen from the seeds
 we sow;
 That present time is but the mould
 wherein
 We cast the shapes of holiness and
 sin.
 A painful watcher of the passing
 hour, ⁷⁰
 Its lust of gold, its strife for place and
 power;
 Its lack of manhood, honor, reverence,
 truth,
 Wise-thoughted age, and generous-
 hearted youth;
 Nor yet unmindful of each better sign,
 The low, far lights, which on th' horizon
 shine,
 Like those which sometimes tremble
 on the rim
 Of clouded skies when day is closing
 dim,
 Flashing athwart the purple spears of
 rain
 The hope of sunshine on the hills
 again:
 I need no prophet's word, nor shapes
 that pass ⁸⁰
 Like clouding shadows o'er a magic
 glass;
 For now, as ever, passionless and cold,
 Doth the dread angel of the future
 hold
 Evil and good before us, with no voice
 Or warning look to guide us in our
 choice;

With spectral hands outreaching
 through the gloom
 The shadowy contrasts of the coming
 doom.
 Transferred from these, it now remains
 to give
 The sun and shade of Fate's alterna-
 tive."

Then, with a burst of music, touch-
 ing all ⁹⁰
 The keys of thrifty life, — the mill-
 stream's fall,
 The engine's pant along its quivering
 rails,
 The anvil's ring, the measured beat of
 flails,
 The sweep of scythes, the reaper's
 whistled tune,
 Answering the summons of the bells
 of noon,
 The woodman's hail along the river
 shores,
 The steamboat's signal, and the dip of
 oars:
 Slowly the curtain rose from off a
 land
 Fair as God's garden. Broad on either
 hand
 The golden wheat-fields glimmered in
 the sun, ¹⁰⁰
 And the tall maize its yellow tassels
 spun.
 Smooth highways set with hedge-rows
 living green,
 With steepled towns through shaded
 vistas seen,
 The school-house murmuring with its
 hive-like swarm,
 The brook-bank whitening in the
 grist-mill's storm,
 The painted farm-house shining
 through the leaves
 Of fruited orchards bending at its
 eaves,
 Where live again, around the Western
 hearth,
 The homely old-time virtues of the
 North;
 Where the blithe housewife rises with
 the day, ¹¹⁰
 And well-paid labor counts his task a
 play.
 And, grateful tokens of a Bible
 free,
 And the free Gospel of Humanity,

Of diverse sects and differing names
 the shrines,
 One in their faith, whate'er their out-
 ward signs,
 Like varying strophes of the same
 sweet hymn
 From many a prairie's swell and
 river's brim,
 A thousand church-spires sanctify the
 air
 Of the calm Sabbath, with their sign
 of prayer.

Like sudden nightfall over bloom
 and green ¹²⁰
 The curtain dropped: and, momentarily,
 between
 The clank of fetter and the crack of
 thong,
 Half sob, half laughter, music swept
 along;
 A strange refrain, whose idle words
 and low,
 Like drunken mourners, kept the time
 of woe;
 As if the revellers at a masquerade
 Heard in the distance funeral marches
 played.
 Such music, dashing all his smiles
 with tears,
 The thoughtful voyager on Pontchar-
 train hears,
 Where, through the noonday dusk of
 wooded shores ¹³⁰
 The negro boatman, singing to his oars,
 With a wild pathos borrowed of his
 wrong
 Redeems the jargon of his senseless
 song.
 "Look," said the Showman, sternly,
 as he rolled
 His curtain upward. "Fate's reverse
 behold!"

A village straggling in loose disarray
 Of vulgar newness, premature decay;
 A tavern, crazy with its whiskey brawls,
 With "*Slaves at Auction!*" garnish-
 ing its walls;
 Without, surrounded by a motley
 crowd, ¹⁴⁰
 The shrewd-eyed salesman, garrulous
 and loud,
 A squire or colonel in his pride of place,
 Known at free fights, the caucus, and
 the race;

Prompt to proclaim his honor without
 blot,
 And silence doubters with a ten-pace
 shot;
 Mingling the negro-driving bully's
 rant
 With pious phrase and democratic
 cant;
 Yet never scrupling, with a filthy
 jest,
 To sell the infant from its mother's
 breast,
 Break through all ties of wedlock,
 home, and kin, ¹⁵⁰
 Yield shrinking girlhood up to gray-
 beard sin;
 Sell all the virtues with his human
 stock,
 The Christian graces on his auction-
 block,
 And coolly count on shrewdest bar-
 gains driven
 In hearts regenerate, and in souls
 forgiven!

Look once again! The moving can-
 vas shows
 A slave plantation's slovenly repose,
 Where, in rude cabins rotting midst
 their weeds,
 The human chattel eats, and sleeps,
 and breeds;
 And, held a brute, in practice, as in
 law, ¹⁶⁰
 Becomes in fact the thing he's taken
 for.
 There, early summoned to the hemp
 and corn,
 The nursing mother leaves her child
 new-born;
 There haggard sickness, weak and
 deathly faint,
 Crawls to his task, and fears to make
 complaint;
 And sad-eyed Rachels, childless in de-
 cay,
 Weep for their lost ones sold and torn
 away!
 Of ampler size the master's dwelling
 stands,
 In shabby keeping with his half-tilled
 lands;
 The gates unhinged, the yard with
 weeds unclean, ¹⁷⁰
 The cracked veranda with a tipsy
 lean.

Without, loose-scattered like a wreck
 adrift,
 Signs of misrule and tokens of un-
 thrift;
 Within, profusion to discomfort
 joined,
 The listless body and the vacant
 mind;
 The fear, the hate, the theft and false-
 hood, born
 In menial hearts of toil, and stripes,
 and scorn!
 There, all the vices, which, like birds
 obscene,
 Batten on slavery loathsome and un-
 clean,
 From the foul kitchen to the parlor
 rise, ¹⁸⁰
 Pollute the nursery where the child-
 heir lies,
 Taint infant lips beyond all after cure,
 With the fell poison of a breast im-
 pure;
 Touch boyhood's passions with the
 breath of flame,
 From girlhood's instincts steal the
 blush of shame.
 So swells, from low to high, from weak
 to strong,
 The tragic chorus of the baleful wrong;
 Guilty or guiltless, all within its range
 Feel the blind justice of its sure re-
 venge.

Still scenes like these the moving
 chart reveals. ¹⁹⁰

Up the long western steppes the blight-
 ing steals;
 Down the Pacific slope the evil Fate
 Glides like a shadow to the Golden
 Gate:
 From sea to sea the drear eclipse is
 thrown,
 From sea to sea the *Mauvaises Terres*
 have grown,
 A belt of curses on the New World's
 zone!

The curtain fell. All drew a freer
 breath,
 As men are wont to do when mournful
 death
 Is covered from their sight. The
 Showman stood
 With drooping brow in sorrow's atti-
 tude ²⁰⁰

One moment, then with sudden ges-
 ture shook
 His loose hair back, and with the air
 and look
 Of one who felt, beyond the narrow
 stage
 And listening group, the presence of
 the age,
 And heard the footsteps of the things
 to be,
 Poured out his soul in earnest words
 and free.

"O friends!" he said, "in this poor
 trick of paint
 You see the semblance, incomplete
 and faint,
 Of the two-fronted Future, which, to-
 day,
 Stands dim and silent, waiting in your
 way. ²¹⁰
 To-day your servant, subject to your
 will;
 To-morrow, master, or for good or ill.
 If the dark face of Slavery on you
 turns,
 If the mad curse its paper barrier
 spurns,
 If the world granary of the West is
 made
 The last foul market of the slaver's
 trade,
 Why rail at fate? The mischief is your
 own.
 Why hate your neighbor? Blame
 yourselves alone!

"Men of the North! The South you
 charge with wrong
 Is weak and poor, while you are rich
 and strong. ²²⁰
 If questions, — idle and absurd as
 those
 The old-time monks and Paduan doc-
 tors chose, —
 Mere ghosts of questions, tariffs, and
 dead banks,
 And scarecrow pontiffs, never broke
 your ranks,
 Your thews united could, at once, roll
 back
 The jostled nation to its primal track.
 Nay, were you simply steadfast,
 manly, just,
 True to the faith your fathers left in
 trust,

If stainless honor outweighed in your
scale
A codfish quintal or a factory bale, ²³⁰
Full many a noble heart (and such re-
main
In all the South, like Lot in Siddim's
plain,
Who watch and wait, and from the
wrong's control
Keep white and pure their chastity of
soul);
Now sick to loathing of your weak
complaints,
Your tricks as sinners, and your pray-
ers as saints,
Would half-way meet the frankness of
your tone,
And feel their pulses beating with
your own.

"The North! the South! no geo-
graphic line
Can fix the boundary or the point
define, ²⁴⁰
Since each with each so closely inter-
blends,
Where Slavery rises, and where Free-
dom ends.
Beneath your rocks the roots, far-
reaching, hide
Of the fell Upas on the Southern
side;
The tree whose branches in your north
winds wave
Dropped its young blossoms on Mount
Vernon's grave;
The nursing growth of Monticello's
crest,
Is now the glory of the free North-
west;
To the wise maxims of her olden
school
Virginia listened from thy lips, Ran-
toul; ²⁵⁰
Seward's words of power, and Sum-
ner's fresh renown,
Flow from the pen that Jefferson laid
down!
And when, at length, her years of
madness o'er,
Like the crowned grazer on Euphra-
tes' shore,
From her long lapse to savagery, her
mouth
Bitter with baneful herbage, turns the
South,

Resumes her old attire, and seeks to
smooth
Her unkempt tresses at the glass of
truth,
Her early faith shall find a tongue
again,
New Wytches and Pinckneys swell that
old refrain, ²⁶⁰
Her sons with yours renew the ancient
pact,
The myth of Union prove at last a
fact!
Then, if one murmur mars the wide
content,
Some Northern lip will drawl the last
dissent,
Some Union-saving patriot of your
own
Lament to find his occupation gone.

"Grant that the North's insulted,
scorned, betrayed,
O'erreached in bargains with her
neighbor made,
When selfish thrift and party held the
scales
For peddling dicker, not for honest
sales, — ²⁷⁰
Whom shall we strike? Who most de-
serves our blame?
The braggart Southron, open in his
aim,
And bold as wicked, crashing straight
through all
That bars his purpose, like a cannon-
ball?
Or the mean traitor, breathing north-
ern air,
With nasal speech and puritanic hair,
Whose cant the loss of principle sur-
vives,
As the mud-turtle e'en its head out-
lives;
Who, caught, chin-buried in some foul
offence,
Puts on a look of injured innocence,
And consecrates his baseness to the
cause ²⁸¹
Of constitution, union, and the laws?

"Praise to the place-man who can
hold aloof,
His still unpurchased manhood, office-
proof;
Who on his round of duty walks erect,
And leaves it only rich in self-respect;

As More maintained his virtue's lofty
 port
 In the Eighth Henry's base and
 bloody court.
 But, if exceptions here and there are
 found,
 Who tread thus safely on enchanted
 ground,²⁹⁰
 The normal type, the fitting symbol
 still
 Of those who fatten at the public
 mill,
 Is the chained dog beside his master's
 door,
 Or Circe's victim, feeding on all four!

"Give me the heroes who, at tuck of
 drum,
 Salute thy staff, immortal Quattle-
 bum!
 Or they who, doubly armed with vote
 and gun,
 Following thy lead, illustrious Atchi-
 son,
 Their drunken franchise shift from
 scene to scene,
 As tile-beard Jourdan did his guillo-
 tine!³⁰⁰
 Rather than him who, born beneath
 our skies,
 To Slavery's hand its supplest tool
 supplies;
 The party felon whose unblushing face
 Looks from the pillory of his bribe of
 place,
 And coolly makes a merit of disgrace,
 Points to the footmarks of indignant
 scorn,
 Shows the deep scars of satire's tossing
 horn;
 And passes to his credit side the sum
 Of all that makes a scoundrel's martyr-
 dom!

"Bane of the North, its canker and
 its moth!³¹⁰
 These modern Esaus, bartering rights
 for broth!
 Taxing our justice, with their double
 claim,
 As fools for pity, and as knaves for
 blame;
 Who, urged by party, sect, or trade,
 within
 The fell embrace of Slavery's sphere of
 sin,

Part at the outset with their moral
 sense,
 The watchful angel set for Truth's
 defence;
 Confound all contrasts, good and ill;
 reverse
 The poles of life, its blessing and its
 curse;
 And lose thenceforth from their per-
 verted sight³²⁰
 The eternal difference 'twixt the
 wrong and right;
 To them the Law is but the iron
 span
 That girds the ankles of imbruted
 man;
 To them the Gospel has no higher
 aim
 Than simple sanction of the master's
 claim,
 Dragged in the slime of Slavery's
 loathsome trail,
 Like Chalie's Bible at his ass's tail!

"Such are the men who, with in-
 stinctive dread,
 Whenever Freedom lifts her drooping
 head,
 Make prophet-tripods of their office-
 stools,³³⁰
 And scare the nurseries and the vil-
 lage schools
 With dire presage of ruin grim and
 great,
 A broken Union and a foundered
 State!
 Such are the patriots, self-bound to
 the stake
 Of office, martyrs for their country's
 sake:
 Who fill themselves the hungry jaws
 of Fate,
 And by their loss of manhood save the
 State.
 In the wide gulf themselves like Cur-
 tius throw,
 And test the virtues of cohesive dough;
 As tropic monkeys, linking heads and
 tails,³⁴⁰
 Bridge o'er some torrent of Ecuador's
 vales!

"Such are the men who in your
 churches rave
 To swearing-point, at mention of the
 slave!

When some poor parson, haply un-
 awares,
 Stammers of freedom in his timid
 prayers;
 Who, if some foot-sore negro through
 the town
 Steals northward, volunteer to hunt
 him down.
 Or, if some neighbor, flying from dis-
 ease,
 Courts the mild balsam of the South-
 ern breeze,
 With hue and cry pursue him on his
 track,³⁵⁰
 And write *Free-soiler* on the poor
 man's back.
 Such are the men who leave the ped-
 ler's cart,
 While faring South, to learn the driv-
 er's art,
 Or, in white neckcloth, soothe with
 pious aim
 The graceful sorrows of some languid
 dame,
 Who, from the wreck of her bereave-
 ment, saves
 The double charm of widowhood and
 slaves!
 Pliant and apt, they lose no chance
 to show
 To what base depths apostasy can go;
 Outdo the natives in their readiness
 To roast a negro, or to mob a press;
 Poise a tarred schoolmate on the
 lyncher's rail,³⁶²
 Or make a bonfire of their birthplace
 mail!

"So some poor wretch, whose lips
 no longer hear
 The sacred burden of his mother's
 prayer,
 By fear impelled, or lust of gold en-
 ticed,
 Turns to the Crescent from the Cross
 of Christ,
 And, overacting in superfluous zeal,
 Crawls prostrate where the faithful
 only kneel,
 Out-howls the Dervish, hugs his rags
 to court³⁷⁰
 The squalid Santon's sanctity of dirt;
 And, when beneath the city gateway's
 span
 Files slow and long the Meccan cara-
 van,

And through its midst, pursued by
 Islam's prayers,
 The prophet's Word some favored
 camel bears,
 The marked apostate has his place
 assigned
 The Koran-bearer's sacred rump be-
 hind,
 With brush and pitcher following,
 grave and mute,
 In meek attendance on the holy
 brute!

"Men of the North! beneath your
 very eyes,³⁸⁰
 By hearth and home, your real danger
 lies.
 Still day by day some hold of freedom
 falls
 Through home-bred traitors fed
 within its walls.
 Men whom yourselves with vote and
 purse sustain,
 At posts of honor, influence, and
 gain;
 The right of Slavery to your sons to
 teach,
 And 'South-side' Gospels in your pul-
 pits preach,
 Transfix the Law to ancient freedom
 dear
 On the sharp point of her subverted
 spear,
 And imitate upon her cushion plump
 The mad Missourian lynching from his
 stump;³⁹¹
 Or, in your name, upon the Senate's
 floor
 Yield up to Slavery all it asks, and
 more;
 And, ere your dull eyes open to the
 cheat,
 Sell your old homestead underneath
 your feet!
 While such as these your loftiest out-
 looks hold,
 While truth and conscience with your
 wares are sold,
 While grave-browed merchants band
 themselves to aid
 An annual man-hunt for their South-
 ern trade,
 What moral power within your grasp
 remains⁴⁰⁰
 To stay the mischief on Nebraska's
 plains?

High as the tides of generous impulse
 flow,
 As far rolls back the selfish under-
 tow;
 And all your brave resolves, though
 aimed as true
 As the horse-pistol Balmawhapple
 drew,
 To Slavery's bastions lend as slight a
 shock
 As the poor trooper's shot to Stirling
 rock!

"Yet, while the need of Freedom's
 cause demands
 The earnest efforts of your hearts and
 hands,
 Urged by all motives that can prompt
 the heart ⁴¹⁰
 To prayer and toil and manhood's
 manliest part;
 Though to the soul's deep tocsin Na-
 ture joins
 The warning whisper of her Orphic
 pines,
 The north-wind's anger, and the
 south-wind's sigh,
 The midnight sword-dance of the
 northeru sky,
 And, to the ear that bends above the
 sod
 Of the green grave-mounds in the
 Fields of God,
 In low, deep murmurs of rebuke or
 cheer,
 The land's dead fathers speak their
 hope or fear,
 Yet let not Passion wrest from Rea-
 son's hand ⁴²⁰
 The guiding rein and symbol of com-
 mand.
 Blame not the caution proffering to
 your zeal
 A well-meant drag upon its hurrying
 wheel;
 Nor chide the man whose honest
 doubt extends
 To the means only, not the righteous
 ends;
 Nor fail to weigh the scruples and the
 fears
 Of milder natures and serener years.
 In the long strife with evil which be-
 gan
 With the first lapse of new-created
 man,

Wisely and well has Providence as-
 signed ⁴³⁰
 To each his part,—some forward,
 some behind;
 And they, too, serve who temper and
 restrain
 The o'erwarm heart that sets on fire
 the brain.
 True to yourselves, feed Freedom's
 altar-flame
 With what you have; let others do the
 same.
 Spare timid doubters; set like flint
 your face
 Against the self-sold knaves of gain
 and place:
 Pity the weak; but with unsparing
 hand
 Cast out the traitors who infest the
 land;
 From bar, press, pulpit, cast them
 everywhere, ⁴⁴⁰
 By dint of fasting, if you fail by
 prayer.
 And in their place bring men of an-
 tique mould,
 Like the grave fathers of your Age of
 Gold;
 Statesmen like those who sought the
 primal fount
 Of righteous law, the Sermon on the
 Mount;
 Lawyers who prize, like Quincy (to
 our day
 Still spared, Heaven bless him!)
 honor more than pay,
 And Christian jurists, starry-pure, like
 Jay;
 Preachers like Woolman, or like them
 who bore
 The faith of Wesley to our Western
 shore, ⁴⁵⁰
 And held no convert genuine till he
 broke
 Alike his servants' and the Devil's
 yoke;
 And priests like him who Newport's
 market trod,
 And o'er its slave-ships shook the
 bolts of God!
 So shall your power, with a wise pru-
 dence used,
 Strong but forbearing, firm but not
 abused,
 In kindly keeping with the good of all,
 The nobler maxims of the past recall,

Her natural home-born right to Freedom give,
 And leave her foe his robber-right, —
 to live. ⁴⁶⁰
 Live, as the snake does in his noisome
 fen!
 Live, as the wolf does in his bone-
 strewn den!
 Live, clothed with cursing like a robe
 of flame,
 The focal point of million-fingered
 shame!
 Live, till the Southron, who, with all
 his faults,
 Has many instincts, in his pride re-
 volts,
 Dashes from off him, midst the glad
 world's cheers,
 The hideous nightmare of his dream
 of years,
 And lifts, self-prompted, with his own
 right hand,
 The vile encumbrance from his glori-
 ous land! ⁴⁷⁰

“So, wheresoe'er our destiny sends
 forth
 Its widening circles to the South or
 North,
 Where'er our banner flaunts beneath
 the stars
 Its mimic splendors and its cloudlike
 bars,
 There shall Free Labor's hardy chil-
 dren stand
 The equal sovereigns of a slaveless
 land.
 And when at last the hunted bison tires,
 And dies o'ertaken by the squatter's
 fires;
 And westward, wave on wave, the liv-
 ing flood
 Breaks on the snow-line of majestic
 Hood; ⁴⁸⁰
 And lonely Shasta listening hears the
 tread
 Of Europe's fair-haired children, Hes-
 per-led;
 And, gazing downward through his
 hoar-locks, sees
 The tawny Asian climb his giant
 knees,
 The Eastern sea shall hush his waves
 to hear
 Pacific's surf-beat answer Freedom's
 cheer,

And one long rolling fire of triumph
 run
 Between the sunrise and the sunset
 gun!”

My task is done. The Showman and
 his show,
 Themselves but shadows, into shad-
 ows go; ⁴⁹⁰
 And, if no song of idlesse I have sung,
 Nor tints of beauty on the canvas
 flung;
 If the harsh numbers grate on tender
 ears,
 And the rough picture overwrought
 appears,
 With deeper coloring, with a sterner
 blast,
 Before my soul a voice and vision
 passed,
 Such as might Milton's jarring trump
 require,
 Or glooms of Dante fringed with lurid
 fire.
 Oh, not of choice, for themes of public
 wrong
 I leave the green and pleasant paths of
 song, ⁵⁰⁰
 The mild, sweet words which soften
 and adorn,
 For sharp rebuke and bitter laugh of
 scorn.
 More dear to me some song of private
 worth,
 Some homely idyl of my native North,
 Some summer pastoral of her inland
 vales,
 Or, grim and weird, her winter fireside
 tales
 Haunted by ghosts of unreturning
 sails,
 Lost barks at parting hung from stem
 to helm
 With prayers of love like dreams on
 Virgil's elm.
 Nor private grief nor malice holds my
 pen; ⁵¹⁰
 I owe but kindness to my fellow-men;
 And, South or North, wherever hearts
 of prayer
 Their woes and weakness to our Fa-
 ther bear,
 Wherever fruits of Christian love are
 found
 In holy lives, to me is holy ground.

But the time passes. It were vain to
 crave
 A late indulgence. What I had I gave.
 Forget the poet, but his warning
 heed,
 And shame his poor word with your
 nobler deed.

ON A PRAYER-BOOK

WITH ITS FRONTISPIECE, ARY SCHEFF-
 FER'S "CHRISTUS CONSOLATOR,"
 AMERICANIZED BY THE OMISSION OF
 THE BLACK MAN

O ARY SCHEFFER! when beneath thine
 eye,
 Touched with the light that cometh
 from above,
 Grew the sweet picture of the dear
 Lord's love,
 No dream hadst thou that Christian
 hands would tear
 Therefrom the token of His equal
 care,
 And make thy symbol of His truth
 a lie!
 The poor, dumb slave whose shackles
 fall away
 In His compassionate gaze, grubbed
 smoothly out,
 To mar no more the exercise de-
 vout
 Of sleek oppression kneeling down to
 pray¹⁰
 Where the great oriel stains the Sab-
 bath day!
 Let whoso can before such praying-
 books
 Kneel on his velvet cushion; I, for
 one,
 Would sooner bow, a Parsee, to the
 sun,
 Or tend a prayer-wheel in Thibetan
 brooks,
 Or beat a drum on Yedo's temple-
 floor.
 No fals'er idol man has bowed be-
 fore,
 In Indian groves or islands of the
 sea,
 Than that which through the
 quaint-carved Gothic door
 Looks forth, — a Church without hu-
 manity!²⁰

Patron of pride, and prejudice, and
 wrong, —
 The rich man's charm and fetich of
 the strong,
 The Eternal Fullness meted, clipped,
 and shorn,
 The seamless robe of equal mercy
 torn,
 The dear Christ hidden from His kin-
 dred flesh,
 And, in His poor ones, crucified
 afresh!
 Better the simple Lama scattering
 wide,
 Where sweeps the storm Alechan's
 steppes along,
 His paper horses for the lost to ride,
 And wearying Buddha with his pray-
 ers to make³⁰
 The figures living for the traveller's
 sake,
 Than he who hopes with cheap praise
 to beguile
 The ear of God, dishonoring man the
 while;
 Who dreams the pearl gate's hinges,
 rusty grown,
 Are moved by flattery's oil of tongue
 alone;
 That in the scale Eternal Justice bears
 The generous deed weighs less than
 selfish prayers,
 And words intoned with graceful unc-
 tion move
 The Eternal Goodness more than lives
 of truth and love.
 Alas, the Church! The reverend head
 of Jay,⁴⁰
 Enthaloed with its saintly silvered
 hair,
 Adorns no more the places of her
 prayer;
 And brave young Tyng, too early
 called away,
 Troubles the Haman of her courts
 no more
 Like the just Hebrew at the Assyr-
 ian's door;
 And her sweet ritual, beautiful but
 dead
 As the dry husk from which the
 grain is shed,
 And holy hymns from which the life
 devout
 Of saints and martyrs has well nigh
 gone out,



"Christus Consolator," by Ary Scheffer

Like candles dying in exhausted air,⁵⁰
 For Sabbath use in measured grists
 are ground;
 And, ever while the spiritual mill
 goes round,
 Between the upper and the nether
 stones,
 Unseen, unheard, the wretched
 bondman groans,
 And urges his vain plea, prayer-
 smothered, anthem-drowned!

O heart of mine, keep patience! Look-
 ing forth,
 As from the Mount of Vision, I be-
 hold,
 Pure, just, and free, the Church of
 Christ on earth;
 The martyr's dream, the golden age
 foretold!

And found, at last, the mystic Graal
 I see,⁶⁰
 Brimmed with His blessing, pass
 from lip to lip
 In sacred pledge of human fellow-
 ship;

And over all the songs of angels
 hear;
 Songs of the love that casteth out all
 fear;
 Songs of the Gospel of Humanity!
 Lo! in the midst, with the same
 look He wore,
 Healing and blessing on Gennesa-
 ret's shore,
 Folding together, with the all-tender
 might
 Of His great love, the dark hands and
 the white,
 Stands the Consoler, soothing every
 pain,
 Making all burdens light, and break-⁷⁰
 ing every chain.

THE SUMMONS

My ear is full of summer sounds,
 Of summer sights my languid eye;
 Beyond the dusty village bounds
 I loiter in my daily rounds,
 And in the noon-time shadows lie.

I hear the wild bee wind his horn,
The bird swings on the ripened
wheat,
The long green lances of the corn
Are tilting in the winds of morn,
The locust shrills his song of heat.

Another sound my spirit hears,
A deeper sound that drowns them
all;
A voice of pleading choked with tears,
The call of human hopes and fears,
The Macedonian cry to Paul!

The storm-bell rings, the trumpet
blows;
I know the word and countersign;
Wherever Freedom's vanguard goes,
Where stand or fall her friends or foes,
I know the place that should be
mine.

Shamed be the hands that idly fold,
And lips that woo the reed's accord,
When laggard Time the hour has
toll'd
For true with false and new with old
To fight the battles of the Lord!

O brothers! blest by partial Fate
With power to match the will and
deed,
To him your summons comes too late
Who sinks beneath his armor's weight,
And has no answer but God-speed!

TO WILLIAM H. SEWARD

STATESMAN, I thank thee! and, if yet
dissent
Mingles, reluctant, with my large con-
tent,
I cannot censure what was nobly
meant.
But, while constrained to hold even
Union less
Than Liberty and Truth and Right-
eousness,
I thank thee in the sweet and holy
name
Of peace, for wise calm words that
put to shame
Passion and party. Courage may be
shown
Not in defiance of the wrong alone;

He may be bravest who, unweaponed,
bears
The olive branch, and, strong in jus-
tice, spares
The rash wrong-doer, giving widest
scope
To Christian charity and generous
hope.
If, without damage to the sacred
cause
Of Freedom and the safeguard of its
laws —
If, without yielding that for which
alone
We prize the Union, thou canst save it
now
From a baptism of blood, upon thy
brow
A wreath whose flowers no earthly
soil have known,
Woven of the beatitudes, shall rest,
And the peacemaker be forever blest!

IN WAR TIME

TO SAMUEL E. SEWALL AND
HARRIET W. SEWALL

OF MELROSE

OLOR ISCANUS queries: "Why should
we
Vex at the land's ridiculous miserie?"
So on his Usk banks, in the blood-red
dawn
Of England's civil strife, did careless
Vaughan
Bemock his times. O friends of many
years!
Though faith and trust are stronger
than our fears,
And the signs promise peace with lib-
erty,
Not thus we trifle with our country's
tears
And sweat of agony. The future's
gain
Is certain as God's truth; but, mean-
while, pain
Is bitter and tears are salt: our voices
take
A sober tone; our very household
songs
Are heavy with a nation's griefs and
wrongs;



William H. Seward

And innocent mirth is chastened for
 the sake
 Of the brave hearts that nevermore
 shall beat,
 The eyes that smile no more, the unre-
 turning feet!

THY WILL BE DONE

WE see not, know not; all our way
 Is night, — with Thee alone is day:
 From out the torrent's troubled drift,
 Above the storm our prayers we lift,
 Thy will be done!

The flesh may fail, the heart may
 faint,
 But who are we to make complaint,
 Or dare to plead, in times like these,
 The weakness of our love of ease?
 Thy will be done!

We take with solemn thankfulness
 Our burden up, nor ask it less,
 And count it joy that even we
 May suffer, serve, or wait for Thee,
 Whose will be done!

Though dim as yet in tint and line,
 We trace Thy picture's wise design,

And thank Thee that our age supplies
Its dark relief of sacrifice.
Thy will be done!

And if, in our unworthiness,
Thy sacrificial wine we press;
If from Thy ordeal's heated bars
Our feet are seamed with crimson
scars,
Thy will be done!

If, for the age to come, this hour
Of trial hath vicarious power,
And, blest by Thee, our present pain
Be Liberty's eternal gain,
Thy will be done!

Strike, Thou the Master, we Thy keys,
The anthem of the destinies!
The minor of Thy loftier strain,
Our hearts shall breathe the old re-
frain,
Thy will be done!

A WORD FOR THE HOUR

THE firmament breaks up. In black
eclipse
Light after light goes out. One evil
star,
Luridly glaring through the smoke of
war,
As in the dream of the Apocalypse,
Drags others down. Let us not weakly
weep
Nor rashly threaten. Give us grace to
keep
Our faith and patience; wherefore
should we leap
On one hand into fratricidal fight,
Or, on the other, yield eternal right,
Frame lies of law, and good and ill
confound?
What fear we? Safe on freedom's
vantage-ground
Our feet are planted: let us there re-
main
In unvengeful calm, no means un-
tried
Which truth can sanction, no just
claim denied,
The sad spectators of a suicide!
They break the links of Union: shall
we light

The fires of hell to weld anew the chain
On that red anvil where each blow is
pain?

Draw we not even now a freer breath,
As from our shoulders falls a load of
death

Loathsome as that the Tuscan's vic-
tim bore

When keen with life to a dead horror
bound?

Why take we up the accursed thing
again?

Pity, forgive, but urge them back no
more

Who, drunk with passion, flaunt dis-
union's rag

With its vile reptile-blazon. Let us
press

The golden cluster on our brave old flag
In closer union, and, if numbering less,
Brighter shall shine the stars which
still remain.

16th 1st mo., 1861

"EIN FESTE BURG IST UNSER GOTT"

LUTHER'S HYMN

WE wait beneath the furnace-blast
The pangs of transformation;
Not painlessly doth God recast
And mould anew the nation.
Hot burns the fire
Where wrongs expire;
Nor spares the hand
That from the land
Uproots the ancient evil.

The hand-breadth cloud the sages
feared ¹⁰

Its bloody rain is dropping;
The poison plant the fathers spared
All else is overtopping.

East, West, South, North,

It curses the earth;

All justice dies,

And fraud and lies

Live only in its shadow.

What gives the wheat-field blades of
steel?

What points the rebel cannon? ²⁰

What sets the roaring rabble's heel
On the old star-spangled pennon?

What breaks the oath
Of the men o' the South?
What whets the knife
For the Union's life? —
Hark to the answer: Slavery!

Then waste no blows on lesser foes
In strife, unworthy freemen.
God lifts to-day the veil, and shows 30
The features of the demon!
O North and South,
Its victims both,
Can ye not cry,
"Let slavery die!"
And union find in freedom?

What though the cast-out spirit tear
The nation in his going?
We who have shared the guilt must
share
The pang of his o'erthrowing! 40
Whate'er the loss,
Whate'er the cross,
Shall they complain
Of present pain
Who trust in God's hereafter?

For who that leans on His right arm
Was ever yet forsaken?
What righteous cause can suffer harm
If He its part has taken?
Though wild and loud, 50
And dark the cloud,
Behind its folds
His hand upholds
The calm sky of to-morrow!

Above the maddening cry for blood,
Above the wild war-drumming,
Let Freedom's voice be heard, with good
The evil overcoming.
Give prayer and purse
To stay the Curse 60
Whose wrong we share,
Whose shame we bear,
Whose end shall gladden Heaven!

In vain the bells of war shall ring
Of triumphs and revenges,
While still is spared the evil thing
That severs and estrangements.
But blest the ear
That yet shall hear
The jubilant bell 70
That rings the knell
Of Slavery forever!

Then let the selfish lip be dumb,
And hushed the breath of sighing;
Before the joy of peace must come
The pains of purifying.
God give us grace
Each in his place
To bear his lot,
And, murmuring not, 80
Endure and wait and labor!

TO JOHN C. FRÉMONT

Thy error, Frémont, simply was to
act
A brave man's part, without the
statesman's tact,
And, taking counsel but of common
sense,
To strike at cause as well as conse-
quence.
Oh, never yet since Roland wound his
horn
At Roncesvalles, has a blast been
blown
Far-heard, wide-echoed, startling as
thine own,
Heard from the van of freedom's hope
forlorn!
It had been safer, doubtless, for the
time,
To flatter treason, and avoid offence
To that Dark Power whose underly-
ing crime
Heaves upward its perpetual turbu-
lence.
But if thine be the fate of all who
break
The ground for truth's seed, or fore-
run their years
Till lost in distance, or with stout
hearts make
A lane for freedom through the level
spears,
Still take thou courage! God has
spoken through thee,
Irrevocable, the mighty words, Be
free!
The land shakes with them, and the
slave's dull ear
Turns from the rice-swamp stealthily
to hear.
Who would recall them now must
first arrest
The winds that blow down from the
free Northwest,

Ruffling the Gulf; or like a scroll roll
back
The Mississippi to its upper springs.
Such words fulfil their prophecy, and
lack
But the full time to harden into things.

THE WATCHERS

BESIDE a stricken field I stood;
On the torn turf, on grass and wood,
Hung heavily the dew of blood.

Still in their fresh mounds lay the
slain,
But all the air was quick with pain
And gusty sighs and tearful rain.

Two angels, each with drooping head
And folded wings and noiseless tread,
Watched by that valley of the dead.

The one, with forehead saintly bland
And lips of blessing, not command, 11
Leaned, weeping, on her olive wand.

The other's brows were scarred and
knit,
His restless eyes were watch-fires lit,
His hands for battle-gauntlets fit.

"How long!" — I knew the voice of
Peace, —

"Is there no respite? no release?
When shall the hopeless quarrel cease?"

"O Lord, how long! One human
soul
Is more than any parchment scroll, 20
Or any flag thy winds unroll.

"What price was Ellsworth's, young
and brave?
How weigh the gift that Lyon gave,
Or count the cost of Winthrop's
grave?"

"O brother! if thine eye can see,
Tell how and when the end shall be,
What hope remains for thee and me."

Then Freedom sternly said: "I shun
No strife nor pang beneath the sun,
When human rights are staked and
won. 30

"I knelt with Ziska's hunted flock,
I watched in Toussaint's cell of rock,
I walked with Sidney to the block.

"The moor of Marston felt my tread,
Through Jersey snows the march I led,
My voice Magenta's charges sped.

"But now, through weary day and
night,
I watch a vague and aimless fight
For leave to strike one blow aright.

"On either side my foe they own: 40
One guards through love his ghastly
throne,
And one through fear to reverence
grown.

"Why wait we longer, mocked, be-
trayed,
By open foes, or those afraid
To speed thy coming through my aid?"

"Why watch to see who win or fall?
I shake the dust against them all,
I leave them to their senseless brawl."

"Nay," Peace implored: "yet longer
wait;
The doom is near, the stake is great:
God knoweth if it be too late. 51

"Still wait and watch; the way pre-
pare
Where I with folded wings of prayer
May follow, weaponless and bare."

"Too late!" the stern, sad voice re-
plied,
"Too late!" its mournful echo
sighed.
In low lament the answer died.

A rustling as of wings in flight,
An upward gleam of lessening white,
So passed the vision, sound and sight.

But round me, like a silver bell 61
Rung down the listening sky to tell
Of holy help, a sweet voice fell.

"Still hope and trust," it sang; "the
rod
Must fall, the wine-press must be trod,
But all is possible with God!"

TO ENGLISHMEN

You flung your taunt across the wave;
 We bore it as became us,
 Well knowing that the fettered slave
 Left friendly lips no option save
 To pity or to blame us.

You scoffed our plea. "Mere lack of
 will,
 Not lack of power," you told us:
 We showed our free-state records;
 still
 You mocked, confounding good and
 ill,
 Slave-haters and slaveholders. 10

We struck at Slavery; to the verge
 Of power and means we checked it;
 Lo! — presto, change! its claims you
 urge,
 Send greetings to it o'er the surge,
 And comfort and protect it.

But yesterday you scarce could shake,
 In slave-abhorring rigor,
 Our Northern palms for conscience'
 sake:

To-day you clasp the hands that ache
 With "walloping the nigger"! 20

O Englishmen! — in hope and creed,
 In blood and tongue our brothers!
 We too are heirs of Runnymede;
 And Shakespeare's fame and Crom-
 well's deed
 Are not alone our mother's.

"Thicker than water," in one rill
 Through centuries of story
 Our Saxon blood has flowed, and still
 We share with you its good and ill,
 The shadow and the glory. 30

Joint heirs and kinfolk, leagues of
 wave
 Nor length of years can part us:
 Your right is ours to shrine and grave,
 The common freehold of the brave,
 The gift of saints and martyrs.

Our very sins and follies teach
 Our kindred frail and human:
 We carp at faults with bitter speech,
 The while, for one unshared by each,
 We have a score in common. 40

We bowed the heart, if not the
 knee,
 To England's Queen, God bless
 her!

We praised you when your slaves
 went free:

We seek to unchain ours. Will ye
 Join hands with the oppressor?

And is it Christian England cheers
 The bruiser, not the bruised?
 And must she run, despite the tears
 And prayers of eighteen hundred
 years,
 Amuck in Slavery's crusade? 50

Oh, black disgrace! Oh, shame and
 loss
 Too deep for tongue to phrase on!
 Tear from your flag its holy cross,
 And in your van of battle toss
 The pirate's skull-bone blazon!

MITHRIDATES AT CHIOS

KNOW'ST thou, O slave-cursed
 land!

How, when the Chian's cup of guilt
 Was full to overflow, there came
 God's justice in the sword of
 flame

That, red with slaughter to its hilt,
 Blazed in the Cappadocian victor's
 hand?

The heavens are still and far;
 But, not unheard of awful Jove,
 The sighing of the island slave
 Was answered, when the Ægean
 wave
 The keels of Mithridates clove,
 And the vines shrivelled in the breath
 of war.

"Robbers of Chios! hark,"
 The victor cried, "to Heaven's de-
 cree!
 Pluck your last cluster from the
 vine,
 Drain your last cup of Chian
 wine;
 Slaves of your slaves, your doom
 shall be,
 In Colchian mines by Phasis rolling
 dark."

Then rose the long lament
From the hoar sea-god's dusky
caves:
The priestess rent her hair and
cried,
"Woe! woe! The gods are sleep-
less-eyed!"
And, chained and scourged, the
slaves of slaves,
The lords of Chios into exile went.

"The gods at last pay well,"
So Hellas sang her taunting song,
"The fisher in his net is caught,
The Chian hath his master
bought;"
And isle from isle, with laughter
long,
Took up and sped the mocking para-
ble.

Once more the slow, dumb years
Bring their avenging cycle round,
And, more than Hellas taught of
old,
Our wiser lesson shall be told,
Of slaves uprising, freedom-
crowned,
To break, not wield, the scourge wet
with their blood and tears.

AT PORT ROYAL

THE tent-lights glimmer on the land,
The ship-lights on the sea;
The night-wind smooths with drifting
sand
Our track on lone Tybee.

At last our grating keels outslide,
Our good boats forward swing;
And while we ride the land-locked
tide,
Our negroes row and sing.

For dear the bondman holds his
gifts
Of music and of song: 10
The gold that kindly Nature sifts
Among his sands of wrong;

The power to make his toiling days
And poor home-comforts please;
The quaint relief of mirth that plays
With sorrow's minor keys.

Another glow than sunset's fire
Has filled the west with light,
Where field and garner, barn and
byre,
Are blazing through the night. 20

The land is wild with fear and hate,
The rout runs mad and fast;
From hand to hand, from gate to
gate
The flaming brand is passed.

The lurid glow falls strong across
Dark faces broad with smiles:
Not theirs the terror, hate, and loss
That fire yon blazing piles.

With oar-strokes timing to their
song,
They weave in simple lays 30
The pathos of remembered wrong,
The hope of better days, —

The triumph-note that Miriam sung,
The joy of uncaged birds:
Softening with Afric's mellow tongue
Their broken Saxon words.

SONG OF THE NEGRO BOATMEN

Oh, praise an' tanks! De Lord he
come
To set de people free;
An' massa tink it day ob doom,
An' we ob jubilee. 40
De Lord dat heap de Red Sea waves
He jus' as 'trong as den;
He say de word: we las' night slaves;
To-day, de Lord's free men.
De yam will grow, de cotton
blow,
We'll hab de rice an' corn;
Oh nebber you fear, if nebber you
hear
De driver blow his horn!

Ole massa on he trabbels gone;
He leaf de land behind: 50
De Lord's breff blow him furdur
on,
Like corn-shuck in de wind.
We own de hoe, we own de plough,
We own de hands dat hold;
We sell de pig, we sell de cow,
But nebber chile be sold.

De yam will grow, de cotton
 blow,
 We'll hab de rice an' corn;
 Oh nebber you fear, if nebber you
 hear
 De driver blow his horn! 60

We pray de Lord: he gib us signs
 Dat some day we be free;
 De norf-wind tell it to de pines,
 De wild-duck to de sea;
 We tink it when de church-bell ring,
 We dream it in de dream;
 De rice-bird mean it when he sing,
 De eagle when he scream.
 De yam will grow, de cotton
 blow,
 We'll hab de rice an' corn; 70
 Oh nebber you fear, if nebber you
 hear
 De driver blow his horn!

We know de promise nebber fail,
 An' nebber lie de word;
 So, like de 'postles in de jail,
 We waited for de Lord:
 An' now he open ebery door,
 An' trow away de key;
 He tink we lub him so before,
 We lub him better free. 80
 De yam will grow, de cotton blow,
 He'll gib de rice an' corn;
 Oh nebber you fear, if nebber you
 hear
 De driver blow his horn!

So sing our dusky gondoliers;
 And with a secret pain,
 And smiles that seem akin to tears,
 We hear the wild refrain.

We dare not share the negro's trust,
 Nor yet his hope deny; 90
 We only know that God is just,
 And every wrong shall die.

Rude seems the song; each swarthy
 face,
 Flame-lighted, ruder still:
 We start to think that hapless race
 Must shape our good or ill;

That laws of changeless justice bind
 Oppressor with oppressed;
 And, close as sin and suffering joined,
 We march to Fate abreast. 100

Sing on, poor hearts! your chant shall
 be
 Our sign of blight or bloom,
 The Vala-song of Liberty,
 Or death-rune of our doom!

ASTRÆA AT THE CAPITOL

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DIS-
 TRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1862

WHEN first I saw our banner wave
 Above the nation's council-hall,
 I heard beneath its marble wall
 The clanking fetters of the slave!

In the foul market-place I stood,
 And saw the Christian mother sold,
 And childhood with its locks of gold,
 Blue-eyed and fair with Saxon blood.

I shut my eyes, I held my breath,
 And, smothering down the wrath
 and shame 10
 That set my Northern blood aflame,
 Stood silent, — where to speak was
 death.

Beside me gloomed the prison-cell
 Where wasted one in slow decline
 For uttering simple words of mine,
 And loving freedom all too well.

The flag that floated from the dome
 Flapped menace in the morning air;
 I stood a perilled stranger where
 The human broker made his home. 20

For crime was virtue: Gown and
 Sword
 And Law their threefold sanction
 gave,
 And to the quarry of the slave
 Went hawking with our symbol-bird.

On the oppressor's side was power;
 And yet I knew that every wrong,
 However old, however strong,
 But waited God's avenging hour.

I knew that truth would crush the lie, —
 Somehow, some time, the end
 would be; 30
 Yet scarcely dared I hope to see
 The triumph with my mortal eye.

But now I see it! In the sun
 A free flag floats from yonder dome,
 And at the nation's hearth and
 home
 The justice long delayed is done.

Not as we hoped, in calm of prayer,
 The message of deliverance comes,
 But heralded by roll of drums
 On waves of battle-troubled air! 40

Midst sounds that madden and ap-
 pall,
 The song that Bethlehem's shep-
 herds knew!
 The harp of David melting through
 The demon-agonies of Saul!

Not as we hoped; but what are we?
 Above our broken dreams and
 plans
 God lays, with wiser hand than
 man's,
 The corner-stones of liberty.

I cavil not with Him: the voice
 That freedom's blessed gospel tells
 Is sweet to me as silver bells, 51
 Rejoicing! yea, I will rejoice!

Dear friends still toiling in the sun;
 Ye dearer ones who, gone before,
 Are watching from the eternal
 shore
 The slow work by your hands begun,

Rejoice with me! The chastening
 rod
 Blossoms with love; the furnace
 heat
 Grows cool beneath His blessed
 feet

Whose form is as the Son of God! 60

Rejoice! Our Marah's bitter springs
 Are sweetened; on our ground of
 grief
 Rise day by day in strong relief
 The prophecies of better things.

Rejoice in hope! The day and night
 Are one with God, and one with
 them
 Who see by faith the cloudy hem
 Of judgment fringed with Mercy's
 light!

THE BATTLE AUTUMN OF 1862

THE flags of war like storm-birds fly,
 The charging trumpets blow;
 Yet rolls no thunder in the sky,
 No earthquake strives below.

And, calm and patient, Nature keeps
 Her ancient promise well,
 Though o'er her bloom and greenness
 sweeps
 The battle's breath of hell.

And still she walks in golden hours
 Through harvest-happy farms,
 And still she wears her fruits and
 flowers
 Like jewels on her arms.

What mean the gladness of the plain,
 This joy of eve and morn,
 The mirth that shakes the beard of
 grain
 And yellow locks of corn?

Ah! eyes may well be full of tears,
 And hearts with hate are hot;
 But even-paced come round the years,
 And Nature changes not.

She meets with smiles our bitter grief,
 With songs our groans of pain;
 She mocks with tint of flower and
 leaf
 The war-field's crimson stain.

Still, in the cannon's pause, we hear
 Her sweet thanksgiving-psalm;
 Too near to God for doubt or fear,
 She shares the eternal calm.

She knows the seed lies safe below
 The fires that blast and burn;
 For all the tears of blood we sow
 She waits the rich return.

She sees with clearer eye than ours
 The good of suffering born, —
 The hearts that blossom like her
 flowers,
 And ripen like her corn.

Oh, give to us, in times like these,
 The vision of her eyes;
 And make her fields and fruited trees
 Our golden prophecies!

Oh, give to us her finer ear!
 Above this stormy din,
 We too would hear the bells of cheer
 Ring peace and freedom in.

HYMN

SUNG AT CHRISTMAS BY THE SCHOLARS
 OF ST. HELENA'S ISLAND, S. C.

OH, none in all the world before
 Were ever glad as we!
 We're free on Carolina's shore,
 We're all at home and free.

Thou Friend and Helper of the poor,
 Who suffered for our sake,
 To open every prison door,
 And every yoke to break!

Bend low Thy pitying face and
 mild,
 And help us sing and pray;
 The hand that blessed the little
 child,
 Upon our foreheads lay.

We hear no more the driver's horn,
 No more the whip we fear,
 This holy day that saw Thee born
 Was never half so dear.

The very oaks are greener clad,
 The waters brighter smile;
 Oh, never shone a day so glad
 On sweet St. Helen's Isle.

We praise Thee in our songs to-day,
 To Thee in prayer we call,
 Make swift the feet and straight the
 way
 Of freedom unto all.

Come once again, O blessed Lord!
 Come walking on the sea!
 And let the mainlands hear the word
 That sets the island free!

THE PROCLAMATION

SAINT PATRICK, slave to Milcho of the
 herds
 Of Ballymena, wakened with these
 words:

"Arise, and flee
 Out from the land of bondage, and be
 free!"

Glad as a soul in pain, who hears from
 heaven
 The angels singing of his sins for-
 given,
 And, wondering, sees
 His prison opening to their golden
 keys,

He rose a man who laid him down a
 slave,
 Shook from his locks the ashes of the
 grave,
 And outward trod
 Into the glorious liberty of God.

He cast the symbols of his shame
 away;
 And, passing where the sleeping Mil-
 cho lay,
 Though back and limb
 Smarted with wrong, he prayed,
 "God pardon him!"

So went he forth; but in God's time
 he came
 To light on Uilline's hills a holy flame;
 And, dying, gave
 The land a saint that lost him as a
 slave.

O dark, sad millions, patiently and
 dumb
 Waiting for God, your hour at last
 has come,
 And freedom's song
 Breaks the long silence of your night,
 of wrong!

Arise and flee! shake off the vile re-
 straint
 Of ages; but, like Ballymena's saint,
 The oppressor spare,
 Heap only on his head the coals of
 prayer.

Go forth, like him! like him return
 again,
 To bless the land whereon in bitter
 pain
 Ye toiled at first,
 And heal with freedom what your
 slavery cursed.

ANNIVERSARY POEM

Read before the Alumni of the Friends' Yearly Meeting School, at the Annual Meeting at Newport, R. I., 15th 6th mo., 1863.

ONCE more, dear friends, you meet
beneath
A clouded sky:
Not yet the sword has found its
sheath,
And on the sweet spring airs the
breath
Of war floats by.

Yet trouble springs not from the
ground,
Nor pain from chance;
The Eternal order circles round,
And wave and storm find mete and
bound
In Providence. 10

Full long our feet the flowery ways
Of peace have trod,
Content with creed and garb and
phrase:
A harder path in earlier days
Led up to God.

Too cheaply truths, once purchased
dear,
Are made our own;
Too long the world has smiled to hear
Our boast of full corn in the ear
By others sown; 20

To see us stir the martyr fires
Of long ago,
And wrap our satisfied desires
In the singed mantles that our sires
Have dropped below.

But now the cross our worthies bore
On us is laid;
Profession's quiet sleep is o'er,
And in the scale of truth once more
Our faith is weighed. 30

The cry of innocent blood at last
Is calling down
An answer in the whirlwind-blast,
The thunder and the shadow cast
From Heaven's dark frown.

The land is red with judgments. Who
Stands guiltless forth?

Have we been faithful as we knew,
To God and to our brother true,
To Heaven and Earth? 40

How faint, through din of merchandise
And count of gain,
Have seemed to us the captive's cries!
How far away the tears and sighs
Of souls in pain!

This day the fearful reckoning comes
To each and all;
We hear amidst our peaceful homes
The summons of the conscript drums,
The bugle's call. 50

Our path is plain; the war-net draws
Round us in vain,
While, faithful to the Higher Cause,
We keep our fealty to the laws
Through patient pain.

The levelled gun, the battle-brand,
We may not take:
But, calmly loyal, we can stand
And suffer with our suffering land
For conscience' sake. 60

Why ask for ease where all is pain?
Shall we alone
Be left to add our gain to gain,
When over Armageddon's plain
The trump is blown?

To suffer well is well to serve;
Safe in our Lord
The rigid lines of law shall curve
To spare us; from our heads shall
swerve
Its smiting sword. 70

And light is mingled with the gloom,
And joy with grief;
Divinest compensations come,
Through thorns of judgment mercies
bloom
In sweet relief.

Thanks for our privilege to bless,
By word and deed,
The widow in her keen distress,
The childless and the fatherless,
The hearts that bleed! 80

For fields of duty, opening wide,
Where all our powers

Are tasked the eager steps to guide
Of millions on a path untried:
The slave is ours!

Ours by traditions dear and old,
Which make the race
Our wards to cherish and uphold,
And cast their freedom in the mould
Of Christian grace. 90

And we may tread the sick-bed floors
Where strong men pine,
And, down the groaning corridors,
Pour freely from our liberal stores
The oil and wine.

Who murmurs that in these dark
days
His lot is cast?
God's hand within the shadow lays
The stones whereon His gates of praise
Shall rise at last. 100

Turn and o'erturn, O outstretched
Hand!
Nor stint, nor stay;
The years have never dropped their
sand
On mortal issue vast and grand
As ours to-day.

Already, on the sable ground
Of man's despair
Is Freedom's glorious picture found,
With all its dusky hands unbound
Upraised in prayer. 110

Oh, small shall seem all sacrifice
And pain and loss,
When God shall wipe the weeping
eyes,
For suffering give the victor's prize,
The crown for cross!

BARBARA FRIETCHIE

Up from the meadows rich with corn,
Clear in the cool September morn,

The clustered spires of Frederick stand
Green-walled by the hills of Mary-
land.

Round about them orchards sweep,
Apple and peach tree fruited deep,

Fair as the garden of the Lord
To the eyes of the famished rebel
horde,

On that pleasant morn of the early fall
When Lee marched over the moun-
tain-wall; 10

Over the mountains winding down,
Horse and foot, into Frederick town.

Forty flags with their silver stars,
Forty flags with their crimson bars,

Flapped in the morning wind: the sun
Of noon looked down, and saw not one.

Up rose old Barbara Frietchie then,
Bowed with her fourscore years and
ten;

Bravest of all in Frederick town,
She took up the flag the men hauled
down; 20

In her attic window the staff she set,
To show that one heart was loyal yet.

Up the street came the rebel tread,
Stonewall Jackson riding ahead.

Under his slouched hat left and right
He glanced; the old flag met his
sight.

"Halt!" — the dust-brown ranks
stood fast.

"Fire!" — out blazed the rifle-blast.

It shivered the window, pane and sash;
It rent the banner with seam and
gash. 30

Quick, as it fell, from the broken staff
Dame Barbara snatched the silken
scarf.

She leaned far out on the window-sill,
And shook it forth with a royal will.

"Shoot, if you must, this old gray head,
But spare our country's flag," she
said.

A shade of sadness, a blush of shame,
Over the face of the leader came;



“ Shoot, if you must, this old gray head,
But spare your country’s flag ! ”

The nobler nature within him stirred
To life at that woman’s deed and
word; 40

“ Who touches a hair of yon gray head
Dies like a dog ! March on ! ” he said.

All day long through Frederick street
Sounded the tread of marching feet :

All day long that free flag tost
Over the heads of the rebel host.

Ever its torn folds rose and fell
On the loyal winds that loved it well ;

And through the hill-gaps sunset light
Shone over it with a warm good-
night. 50

Barbara Frietchie's work is o'er,
And the Rebel rides on his raids no
more.

Honor to her! and let a tear
Fall, for her sake, on Stonewall's bier.

Over Barbara Frietchie's grave,
Flag of Freedom and Union, wave!

Peace and order and beauty draw
Round thy symbol of light and law;

And ever the stars above look down
On thy stars below in Frederick
town! 60

WHAT THE BIRDS SAID

THE birds against the April wind
Flew northward, singing as they flew;
They sang, "The land we leave behind
Has swords for corn-blades, blood
for dew."

"O wild-birds, flying from the South,
What saw and heard ye, gazing
down?"

"We saw the mortar's upturned
mouth,
The sickened camp, the blazing
town!

"Beneath the bivouac's starry lamps,
We saw your march-worn children
die; 10
In shrouds of moss, in cypress swamps
We saw your dead uncoffined lie.

"We heard the starving prisoner's sighs
And saw, from line and trench, your
sons
Follow our flight with home-sick eyes
Beyond the battery's smoking guns."

"And heard and saw ye only wrong
And pain," I cried, "O wing-worn
flocks?"

"We heard," they sang, "the freed-
man's song, 10
The crash of Slavery's broken locks!

"We saw from new, uprising States
The treason-nursing mischief
spurned,

As, crowding Freedom's ample gates,
The long-estranged and lost re-
turned.

"O'er dusky faces, seamed and old,
And hands horn-hard with unpaid
toil,
With hope in every rustling fold,
We saw your star-dropt flag uncoil.

"And struggling up through sounds
accursed,
A grateful murmur clomb the air; 30
A whisper scarcely heard at first,
It filled the listening heavens with
prayer.

"And sweet and far, as from a star,
Replied a voice which shall not cease,
Till, drowning all the noise of war,
It sings the blessed song of peace!"

So to me, in a doubtful day
Of chill and slowly greening spring,
Low stooping from the cloudy gray,
The wild-birds sang or seemed to
sing. 40

They vanished in the misty air,
The song went with them in their
flight;
But lo! they left the sunset fair,
And in the evening there was light.

THE MANTLE OF ST. JOHN DE MATHA

A LEGEND OF "THE RED, WHITE, AND
BLUE," A. D. 1154-1864

A STRONG and mighty Angel,
Calm, terrible, and bright,
The cross in blended red and blue
Upon his mantle white!

Two captives by him kneeling,
Each on his broken chain,
Sang praise to God who raiseth
The dead to life again!

Dropping his cross-wrought mantle,
"Wear this," the Angel said; 10
"Take thou, O Freedom's priest, its
sign, —
The white, the blue, and red."

Then rose up John de Matha
 In the strength the Lord Christ
 gave,
 And begged through all the land of
 France
 The ransom of the slave.

The gates of tower and castle
 Before him open flew,
 The drawbridge at his coming fell,
 The door-bolt backward drew. 20

For all men owned his errand,
 And paid his righteous tax;
 And the hearts of lord and peasant
 Were in his hands as wax.

At last, outbound from Tunis,
 His bark her anchor weighed,
 Freighted with seven-score Christian
 souls
 Whose ransom he had paid.

But, torn by Paynim hatred,
 Her sails in tatters hung; 30
 And on the wild waves, rudderless,
 A shattered hulk she swung.

"God save us!" cried the captain,
 "For naught can man avail;
 Oh, woe betide the ship that lacks
 Her rudder and her sail!

"Behind us are the Moormen;
 At sea we sink or strand:
 There's death upon the water,
 There's death upon the land!" 40

Then up spake John de Matha:
 "God's errands never fail!
 Take thou the mantle which I wear,
 And make of it a sail."

They raised the cross-wrought man-
 tle,
 The blue, the white, the red;
 And straight before the wind off-shore
 The ship of Freedom sped.

"God help us!" cried the seamen,
 "For vain is mortal skill: 50
 The good ship on a stormy sea
 Is drifting at its will."

Then up spake John de Matha:
 "My mariners, never fear!

The Lord whose breath has filled her
 sail
 May well our vessel steer!"

So on through storm and darkness
 They drove for weary hours;
 And lo! the third gray morning shone
 On Ostia's friendly towers. 60

And on the walls the watchers
 The ship of mercy knew, —
 They knew far off its holy cross,
 The red, the white, and blue.

And the bells in all the steeples
 Rang out in glad accord,
 To welcome home to Christian soil
 The ransomed of the Lord.

So runs the ancient legend
 By bard and painter told; 70
 And lo! the cycle rounds again,
 The new is as the old!

With rudder foully broken,
 And sails by traitors torn,
 Our country on a midnight sea
 Is waiting for the morn.

Before her, nameless terror;
 Behind, the pirate foe;
 The clouds are black above her,
 The sea is white below. 80

The hope of all who suffer,
 The dread of all who wrong,
 She drifts in darkness and in storm,
 How long, O Lord! how long?

But courage, O my mariners!
 Ye shall not suffer wreck,
 While up to God the freedman's prayers
 Are rising from your deck.

Is not your sail the banner
 Which God hath blest anew, 90
 The mantle that De Matha wore,
 The red, the white, the blue?

Its hues are all of heaven, —
 The red of sunset's dye,
 The whiteness of the moon-lit cloud,
 The blue of morning's sky.

Wait cheerily, then, O mariners,
 For daylight and for land;

The breath of God is in your sail,
Your rudder is His hand. 100

Sail on, sail on, deep-freighted
With blessings and with hopes;
The saints of old with shadowy hands
Are pulling at your ropes.

Behind ye holy martyrs
Uplift the palm and crown;
Before ye unborn ages send
Their benedictions down.

Take heart from John de Matha! —
God's errands never fail! 110
Sweep on through storm and darkness,
The thunder and the hail!

Sail on! The morning cometh,
The port ye yet shall win;
And all the bells of God shall ring
The good ship bravely in!

LAUS DEO!

ON HEARING THE BELLS RING ON THE
PASSAGE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT ABOLISHING SLAVERY

It is done!
Clang of bell and roar of gun
Send the tidings up and down.
How the belfries rock and reel!
How the great guns, peal on peal,
Fling the joy from town to town!

Ring, O bells!
Every stroke exulting tells
Of the burial hour of crime.
Loud and long, that all may hear, 10
Ring for every listening ear
Of Eternity and Time!

Let us kneel:
God's own voice is in that peal,
And this spot is holy ground.
Lord, forgive us! What are we,
That our eyes this glory see,
That our ears have heard the sound!

For the Lord
On the whirlwind is abroad; 20
In the earthquake He has spoken;
He has smitten with His thunder
The iron walls asunder,
And the gates of brass are broken!

Loud and long
Lift the old exulting song;
Sing with Miriam by the sea,
He has cast the mighty down;
Horse and rider sink and drown;
"He hath triumphed gloriously!" 30

Did we dare,
In our agony of prayer,
Ask for more than He has done?
When was ever His right hand
Over any time or land
Stretched as now beneath the sun?

How they pale,
Ancient myth and song and tale,
In this wonder of our days,
When the cruel rod of war 40
Blossoms white with righteous law,
And the wrath of man is praise!

Blotted out!
All within and all about
Shall a fresher life begin;
Freer breathe the universe
As it rolls its heavy curse
On the dead and buried sin!

It is done!
In the circuit of the sun 50
Shall the sound thereof go forth.
It shall bid the sad rejoice,
It shall give the dumb a voice,
It shall belt with joy the earth!

Ring and swing,
Bells of joy! On morning's wing
Send the song of praise abroad!
With a sound of broken chains
Tell the nations that He reigns,
Who alone is Lord and God! 60

HYMN

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF EMANCI-
PATION AT NEWBURYPORT

Not unto us who did but seek
The word that burned within to speak,
Not unto us this day belong
The triumph and exultant song.

Upon us fell in early youth
The burden of unwelcome truth,
And left us, weak and frail and few,
The censor's painful work to do.



An Old House in Newburyport

Thenceforth our life a fight became,
 The air we breathed was hot with
 blame; 10
 For not with gauged and softened tone
 We made the bondman's cause our own.

We bore, as Freedom's hope forlorn,
 The private hate, the public scorn;
 Yet held through all the paths we
 trod
 Our faith in man and trust in God.

We prayed and hoped; but still,
 with awe,
 The coming of the sword we saw;
 We heard the nearing steps of doom,
 We saw the shade of things to come. 20

In grief which they alone can feel
 Who from a mother's wrong appeal,
 With blended lines of fear and hope
 We cast our country's horoscope.

For still within her house of life
 We marked the lurid sign of strife,
 And, poisoning and imbittering all,
 We saw the star of Wormwood fall.

Deep as our love for her became
 Our hate of all that wrought her
 shame, 30
 And if, thereby, with tongue and pen
 We erred, — we were but mortal men.

We hoped for peace; our eyes survey
 The blood-red dawn of Freedom's
 day:
 We prayed for love to loose the chain;
 'T is shorn by battle's axe in twain!

Nor skill nor strength nor zeal of ours
 Has mined and heaved the hostile
 towers;
 Not by our hands is turned the key
 That sets the sighing captives free. 40

A redder sea than Egypt's wave
 Is piled and parted for the slave;
 A darker cloud moves on in light;
 A fiercer fire is guide by night!

The praise, O Lord! is Thine alone,
 In Thy own way Thy work is done!
 Our poor gifts at Thy feet we cast,
 To whom be glory, first and last!

AFTER THE WAR

THE PEACE AUTUMN

WRITTEN FOR THE ESSEX COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL FESTIVAL, 1865

THANK God for rest, where none molest,
And none can make afraid;
For Peace that sits as Plenty's guest
Beneath the homestead shade!

Bring pike and gun, the sword's red
scourge,
The negro's broken chains,
And beat them at the blacksmith's
forge
To ploughshares for our plains.

Alike henceforth our hills of snow,
And vales where cotton flowers; 10
All streams that flow, all winds that
blow,
Are Freedom's motive-powers.

Henceforth to Labor's chivalry
Be knightly honors paid;
For nobler than the sword's shall be
The sickle's accolade.

Build up an altar to the Lord,
O grateful hearts of ours!
And shape it of the greenest sward
That ever drank the showers. 20

Lay all the bloom of gardens there,
And there the orchard fruits;
Bring golden grain from sun and air,
From earth her goodly roots.

There let our banners droop and flow,
The stars uprising and fall;
Our roll of martyrs, sad and slow,
Let sighing breezes call.

Their names let hands of horn and tan
And rough-shod feet applaud, 30
Who died to make the slave a man,
And link with toil reward.

There let the common heart keep
time
To such an anthem sung
As never swelled on poet's rhyme,
Or thrilled on singer's tongue.

Song of our burden and relief,
Of peace and long annoy;
The passion of our mighty grief
And our exceeding joy! 40

A song of praise to Him who filled
The harvests sown in tears,
And gave each field a double yield
To feed our battle-years!

A song of faith that trusts the end
To match the good begun,
Nor doubts the power of Love to
blend
The hearts of men as one!

TO THE THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS

O PEOPLE-CHOSEN! are ye not
Likewise the chosen of the Lord,
To do His will and speak His word?

From the loud thunder-storm of war
Not man alone hath called ye forth,
But He, the God of all the earth!

The torch of vengeance in your hands
He quenches; unto Him belongs
The solemn recompense of wrongs.

Enough of blood the land has seen, 10
And not by cell or gallows-stair
Shall ye the way of God prepare.

Say to the pardon-seekers: Keep
Your manhood, bend no suppliant
knees,
Nor palter with unworthy pleas.

Above your voices sounds the wail
Of starving men; we shut in vain
Our eyes to Pillow's ghastly stain.

What words can drown that bitter
cry?
What tears wash out the stain of
death? 20
What oaths confirm your broken
faith?

From you alone the guaranty
Of union, freedom, peace, we claim;
We urge no conqueror's terms of
shame.

Alas! no victor's pride is ours;
We bend above our triumphs won
Like David o'er his rebel son.

Be men, not beggars. Cancel all
By one brave, generous action;
trust
Your better instincts, and be just!

Make all men peers before the law, ³¹
Take hands from off the negro's
throat,
Give black and white an equal vote.

Keep all your forfeit lives and lands,
But give the common law's redress
To labor's utter nakedness.

Revive the old heroic will;
Be in the right as brave and strong
As ye have proved yourselves in
wrong.

Defeat shall then be victory, ⁴⁰
Your loss the wealth of full amends,
And hate be love, and foes be friends.

Then buried be the dreadful past,
Its common slain be mourned, and
let
All memories soften to regret.

Then shall the Union's mother-heart
Her lost and wandering ones recall,
Forgiving and restoring all, —

And Freedom break her marble trance
Above the Capitolian dome, ⁵⁰
Stretch hands, and bid ye welcome
home!

THE HIVE AT GETTYSBURG

IN the old Hebrew myth the lion's
frame,
So terrible alive,
Bleached by the desert's sun and
wind, became
The wandering wild bees' hive;
And he who, lone and naked-handed,
tore
Those jaws of death apart,
In after time drew forth their honeyed
store
To strengthen his strong heart.

Dead seemed the legend: but it only
slept

To wake beneath our sky;
Just on the spot whence ravening
Treason crept
Back to its lair to die,
Bleeding and torn from Freedom's
mountain bounds,
A stained and shattered drum
Is now the hive where, on their flow-
ery rounds,
The wild bees go and come.

Unchallenged by a ghostly sentinel,
They wander wide and far,
Along green hillsides, sown with shot
and shell,
Through vales once choked with war.
The low reveille of their battle-drum
Disturbs no morning prayer:
With deeper peace in summer noons
their hum
Fills all the drowsy air.

And Samson's riddle is our own to-day,
Of sweetness from the strong,
Of union, peace, and freedom plucked
away
From the rent jaws of wrong.
From Treason's death we draw a
purer life,
As, from the beast he slew,
A sweetness sweeter for his bitter
strife
The old-time athlete drew!

HOWARD AT ATLANTA

RIGHT in the track where Sherman
Ploughed his red furrow,
Out of the narrow cabin,
Up from the cellar's burrow,
Gathered the little black people,
With freedom newly dowered,
Where, beside their Northern teacher,
Stood the soldier, Howard.

He listened and heard the children
Of the poor and long-enslav'd ¹⁰
Reading the words of Jesus,
Singing the songs of David.
Behold! — the dumb lips speaking,
The blind eyes seeing!
Bones of the Prophet's vision
Warmed into being!

The Emancipation Group



Transformed he saw them passing
 Their new life's portal!
 Almost it seemed the mortal
 Put on the immortal. 20
 No more with the beasts of burden,
 No more with stone and clod,
 But crowned with glory and honor
 In the image of God!

There was the human chattel
 Its manhood taking;
 There, in each dark, bronze statue,
 A soul was waking!
 The man of many battles,
 With tears his eyelids pressing, 30
 Stretched over those dusky foreheads
 His one-armed blessing.

And he said: "Who hears can never
 Fear for or doubt you;
 What shall I tell the children
 Up North about you?"
 Then ran round a whisper, a murmur,
 Some answer devising;
 And a little boy stood up: "General,
 Tell 'em we're rising!" 40

O black boy of Atlanta!
 But half was spoken:
 The slave's chain and the master's
 Alike are broken.
 The one curse of the races
 Held both in tether:
 They are rising, — all are rising,
 The black and white together!

O brave men and fair women!
 Ill comes of hate and scorning: 50
 Shall the dark faces only
 Be turned to morning? —
 Make Time your sole avenger,
 All-healing, all-redressing;
 Meet Fate half-way, and make it
 A joy and blessing!

THE EMANCIPATION GROUP

BOSTON, 1879

AMIDST thy sacred effigies
 Of old renown give place,
 O city, Freedom-loved! to his
 Whose hand unchained a race.

Take the worn frame, that rested not
 Save in a martyr's grave;

The care-lined face, that none forgot,
 Bent to the kneeling slave.

Let man be free! The mighty word
 He spake was not his own;
 An impulse from the Highest stirred
 These chiselled lips alone.

The cloudy sign, the fiery guide,
 Along his pathway ran,
 And Nature, through his voice, denied
 The ownership of man.

We rest in peace where these sad eyes
 Saw peril, strife, and pain;
 His was the nation's sacrifice,
 And ours the priceless gain.

O symbol of God's will on earth
 As it is done above!
 Bear witness to the cost and worth
 Of justice and of love.

Stand in thy place and testify
 To coming ages long,
 That truth is stronger than a lie,
 And righteousness than wrong.

THE JUBILEE SINGERS

VOICE of a people suffering long,
 The pathos of their mournful song,
 The sorrow of their night of wrong!

Their cry like that which Israel gave,
 A prayer for one to guide and save,
 Like Moses by the Red Sea's wave!

The stern accord her timbrel lent
 To Miriam's note of triumph sent
 O'er Egypt's sunken armament!

The tramp that startled camp and
 town,
 And shook the walls of slavery down,
 The spectral march of old John Brown!

The storm that swept through battle-
 days,
 The triumph after long delays,
 The hondmen giving God the praise!

Voice of a ransomed race, sing on
 Till Freedom's every right is won,
 And slavery's every wrong undone!

GARRISON

THE storm and peril overpast,
 The hounding hatred shamed and
 still,
 Go, soul of freedom! take at last
 The place which thou alone canst
 fill.

Confirm the lesson taught of old —
 Life saved for self is lost, while they
 Who lose it in His service hold
 The lease of God's eternal day.

Not for thyself, but for the slave
 Thy words of thunder shook the
 world;
 No selfish griefs or hatred gave
 The strength wherewith thy bolts
 were hurled.

From lips that Sinai's trumpet blew
 We heard a tender under song;
 Thy very wrath from pity grew,
 From love of man thy hate of
 wrong.

Now past and present are as one;
 The life below is life above;

Thy mortal years have but begun
 Thy immortality of love.

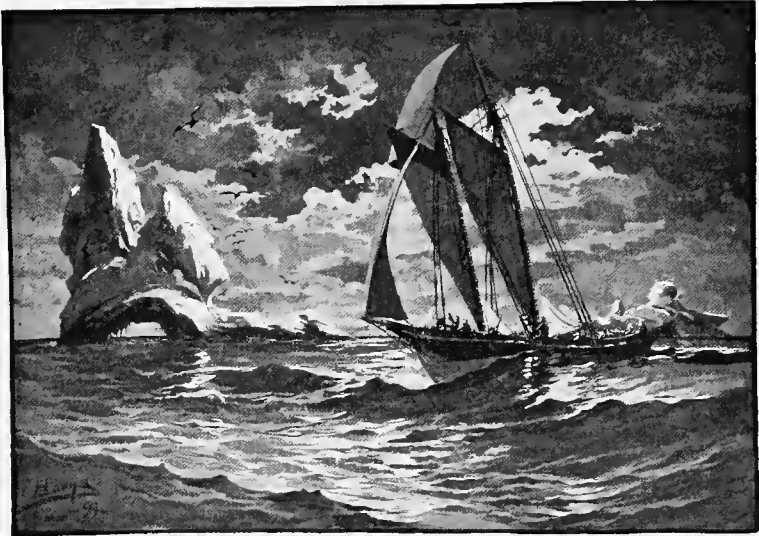
With somewhat of thy lofty faith
 We lay thy outworn garment by,
 Give death but what belongs to death,
 And life the life that cannot die!

Not for a soul like thine the calm
 Of selfish ease and joys of sense;
 But duty, more than crown or
 palm,
 Its own exceeding recompense.

Go up and on! thy day well done,
 Its morning promise well fulfilled,
 Arise to triumphs yet unwon,
 To holier tasks that God has willed.

Go, leave behind thee all that mars
 The work below of man for man;
 With the white legions of the stars
 Do service such as angels can.

Wherever wrong shall right deny
 Or suffering spirits urge their plea,
 Be thine a voice to smite the lie,
 A hand to set the captive free!
 May 24, 1879.



“ Where in mist the rock is hiding,
And the sharp reef lurks below ”

(See p. 440.)

SONGS OF LABOR AND REFORM

THE QUAKER OF THE OLDEN TIME

The Quaker of the olden time!
How calm and firm and true,
Unspotted by its wrong and crime,
He walked the dark earth through.
The lust of power, the love of gain,
The thousand lures of sin
Around him, had no power to stain
The purity within.

With that deep insight which detects
All great things in the small,
And knows how each man's life affects
The spiritual life of all,
He walked by faith and not by sight,
By love and not by law;
The presence of the wrong or right
He rather felt than saw.

He felt that wrong with wrong par-
takes,
That nothing stands alone,
That whoso gives the motive, makes
His brother's sin his own.
And, pausing not for doubtful
choice
Of evils great or small,
He listened to that inward voice
Which called away from all.

O Spirit of that early day,
So pure and strong and true,
Be with us in the narrow way
Our faithful fathers knew.
Give strength the evil to forsake,
The cross of Truth to bear,
And love and reverent fear to
make
Our daily lives a prayer!

DEMOCRACY

"All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." — *Matthew* vii. 12.

BEARER of Freedom's holy light,
Breaker of Slavery's chain and rod,
The foe of all which pains the sight,
Or wounds the generous ear of God!

Beautiful yet thy temples rise,
Though there profaning gifts are
thrown;
And fires unkindled of the skies
Are glaring round thy altar-stone.

Still sacred, though thy name be
breathed
By those whose hearts thy truth
deride; ¹⁰
And garlands, plucked from thee, are
wreathed
Around the haughty brows of Pride.

Oh, ideal of my boyhood's time!
The faith in which my father stood,
Even when the sons of Lust and
Crime
Had stained thy peaceful courts
with blood!

Still to those courts my footsteps turn,
For through the mists which darken
there,
I see the flame of Freedom burn, —
The Kebla of the patriot's prayer! ²⁰

The generous feeling, pure and warm,
Which owns the right of all divine;
The pitying heart, the helping arm,
The prompt self-sacrifice, are thine.

Beneath thy broad, impartial eye,
How fade the lines of caste and
birth!

How equal in their suffering lie
The groaning multitudes of earth!

Still to a stricken brother true,
Whatever clime hath nurtured him;
As stooped to heal the wounded Jew ³¹
The worshipper of Gerizim.

By misery unrepelled, unawed
By pomp or power, thou seest a
Man

In prince or peasant, slave or lord,
Pale priest, or swarthy artisan.

Through all disguise, form, place, or
name,
Beneath the flaunting robes of sin,
Through poverty and squalid shame,
Thou lookest on the man within. ⁴⁰

On man, as man, retaining yet,
Howe'er debased, and soiled, and
dim,
The crown upon his forehead set,
The immortal gift of God to him.

And there is reverence in thy look;
For that frail form which mortals
wear
The Spirit of the Holiest took,
And veiled His perfect brightness
there.

Not from the shallow babbling fount
Of vain philosophy thou art; ⁵⁰
He who of old on Syria's Mount
Thrilled, warmed, by turns, the lis-
tener's heart,

In holy words which cannot die,
In thoughts which angels leaned to
know,
Proclaimed thy message from on high,
Thy mission to a world of woe.

That voice's echo hath not died!
From the blue lake of Galilee,
And Tabor's lonely mountain-side,
It calls a struggling world to thee. ⁶⁰

Thy name and watchword o'er this
land
I hear in every breeze that stirs,
And round a thousand altars stand
Thy banded party worshippers.

Not to these altars of a day,
At party's call, my gift I bring;
But on thy olden shrine I lay
A freeman's dearest offering:

The voiceless utterance of his will, —
His pledge to Freedom and to
Truth, ⁷⁰
That manhood's heart remembers still
The homage of his generous youth.
Election Day, 1843.



"From the blue lake of Galilee,
It calls a struggling world to thee"

THE GALLOWS

WRITTEN ON READING PAMPHLETS
PUBLISHED BY CLERGYMEN AGAINST
THE ABOLITION OF THE GALLOWS

I

THE suns of eighteen centuries have
shone
Since the Redeemer walked with
man, and made
The fisher's boat, the cavern's floor of
stone,
And mountain moss, a pillow for
His head;
And He, who wandered with the pea-
sant Jew,
And broke with publicans the bread
of shame,
And drank with blessings, in His
Father's name,
The water which Samaria's outcast
drew,
Hath now His temples upon every shore,
Altar and shrine and priest; and in-
cense dim ¹⁰
Evermore rising, with low prayer
and hymn,

From lips which press the temple's
marble floor,
Or kiss the gilded sign of the dread
cross He bore.

II

Yet as of old, when, meekly "doing
good,"
He fed a blind and selfish multi-
tude,
And even the poor companions of His
lot
With their dim earthly vision knew
Him not,
How ill are His high teachings un-
derstood!
Where He hath spoken Liberty, the
priest
At His own altar binds the chain
anew; ²⁰
Where He hath bidden to Life's equal
feast,
The starving many wait upon the
few;
Where He hath spoken Peace, His
name hath been
The loudest war-cry of contending
men;

Priests, pale with vigils, in His name
 have blessed
 The unsheathed sword, and laid the
 spear in rest,
 Wet the war-banner with their sacred
 wine,
 And crossed its blazon with the holy
 sign;
 Yea, in His name who bade the erring
 live,
 And daily taught His lesson, to for-
 give!³⁰
 Twisted the cord and edged the
 murderous steel;
 And, with His words of mercy on their
 lips,
 Hung gloating o'er the pincers' burn-
 ing grips,
 And the grim horror of the straining
 wheel;
 Fed the slow flame which gnawed the
 victim's limb,
 Who saw before his searing eyeballs
 swim
 The image of their Christ in cruel
 zeal,
 Through the black torment-smoke,
 held mocking to him!

III

The blood which mingled with the
 desert sand,
 And beaded with its red and ghastly
 dew⁴⁰
 The vines and olives of the Holy Land;
 The shrieking curses of the hunted
 Jew;
 The white-sown bones of heretics,
 where'er
 They sank beneath the Crusade's holy
 spear,
 Goa's dark dungeons, Malta's sea-
 washed cell,
 Where with the hymns the ghostly
 fathers sung
 Mingled the groans by subtle tor-
 ture wrung,
 Heaven's anthem blending with the
 shriek of hell!
 The midnight of Bartholomew, the
 stake
 Of Smithfield, and that thrice-ac-
 cursed flame⁵⁰
 Which Calvin kindled by Geneva's
 lake;

New England's scaffold, and the
 priestly sneer
 Which mocked its victims in that
 hour of fear,
 When guilt itself a human tear might
 claim, —
 Bear witness, O Thou wronged and
 merciful One!
 That Earth's most hateful crimes have
 in Thy name been done!

IV

Thank God! that I have lived to see
 the time
 When the great truth begins at last
 to find
 An utterance from the deep heart of
 mankind,
 Earnest and clear, that all Revenge is
 Crime,⁶⁰
 That man is holier than a creed, that
 all
 Restraint upon him must consult
 his good,
 Hope's sunshine linger on his prison
 wall,
 And Love look in upon his solitude.
 The beautiful lesson which our Saviour
 taught
 Through long, dark centuries its way
 hath wrought
 Into the common mind and popular
 thought;
 And words, to which by Galilee's lake
 shore
 The humble fishers listened with
 hushed oar,
 Have found an echo in the general
 heart,⁷⁰
 And of the public faith become a liv-
 ing part.

V

Who shall arrest this tendency? Bring
 back
 The cells of Venice and the bigot's
 rack?
 Harden the softening human heart
 again
 To cold indifference to a brother's pain?
 Ye most unhappy men! who, turned
 away
 From the mild sunshine of the Gospel
 day,

Grope in the shadows of Man's twilight time,
 What mean ye, that with ghoul-like zest ye brood,
 O'er those foul altars streaming with warm blood,

Permitted in another age and clime?
 Why cite that law with which the bigot Jew
 Rebuked the Pagan's mercy, when he knew

No evil in the Just One? Wherefore turn
 To the dark, cruel past? Can ye not learn

From the pure Teacher's life how mildly free

Is the great Gospel of Humanity?
 The Flamen's knife is bloodless, and no more

Mexitli's altars soak with human gore,
 No more the ghastly sacrifices smoke
 Through the green arches of the Druid's oak;

And ye of milder faith, with your high claim

Of prophet-utterance in the Holiest name,

Will ye become the Druids of our time!

Set up your scaffold-altars in our land,

And, consecrators of Law's darkest crime,

Urge to its loathsome work the hangman's hand?

Beware, lest human nature, roused at last,

From its peeled shoulder your encumbrance cast,

And, sick to loathing of your cry for blood,

Rank ye with those who led their victims round

The Celt's red altar and the Indian's mound,

Abhorred of Earth and Heaven, a pagan brotherhood!

SEED-TIME AND HARVEST

As o'er his furrowed fields which lie
 Beneath a coldly dropping sky,
 Yet chill with winter's melted snow,
 The husbandman goes forth to sow,

Thus, Freedom, on the bitter blast
 The ventures of thy seed we cast,
 And trust to warmer sun and rain
 To swell the germs and fill the grain.

Who calls thy glorious service hard?
 Who deems it not its own reward?
 Who, for its trials, counts it less
 A cause of praise and thankfulness?

It may not be our lot to wield
 The sickle in the ripened field;
 Nor ours to hear, on summer eves,
 The reaper's song among the sheaves.

Yet where our duty's task is wrought
 In unison with God's great thought,
 The near and future blend in one,
 And whatsoever is willed, is done!

And ours the grateful service whence
 Comes day by day the recompense;
 The hope, the trust, the purpose stayed,
 The fountain and the noonday shade.

And were this life the utmost span,
 The only end and aim of man,
 Better the toil of fields like these
 Than waking dream and slothful ease.

But life, though falling like our grain,
 Like that revives and springs again;
 And, early called, how blest are they
 Who wait in heaven their harvest-day!

TO THE REFORMERS OF ENGLAND

God bless ye, brothers! in the fight
 Ye're waging now, ye cannot fail,
 For better is your sense of right
 Than king-craft's triple mail.

Than tyrant's law, or bigot's ban,
 More mighty is your simplest word;
 The free heart of an honest man
 Than crosier or the sword.

Go, let your blinded Church rehearse
 The lesson it has learned so well;
 It moves not with its prayer or curse
 The gates of heaven or hell.

Let the State scaffold rise again;
 Did Freedom die when Russell died?
 Forget ye how the blood of Vane
 From earth's green bosom cried?

The great hearts of your olden time
 Are beating with you, full and
 strong;
 All holy memories and sublime
 And glorious round ye throng. . 20

The bluff, bold men of Runnymede
 Are with ye still in times like these;
 The shades of England's mighty dead,
 Your cloud of witnesses!

The truths ye urge are borne abroad
 By every wind and every tide;
 The voice of Nature and of God
 Speaks out upon your side.

The weapons which your hands have
 found
 Are those which Heaven itself has
 wrought, 30
 Light, Truth, and Love; your battle-
 ground
 The free, broad field of Thought.

No partial, selfish purpose breaks
 The simple beauty of your plan,
 Nor lie from throne or altar shakes
 Your steady faith in man.

The languid pulse of England starts
 And bounds beneath your words of
 power,
 The beating of her million hearts
 Is with you at this hour! 40

O ye who, with undoubting eyes,
 Through present cloud and gather-
 ing storm,
 Behold the span of Freedom's skies,
 And sunshine soft and warm;

Press bravely onward! not in vain
 Your generous trust in human-kind;
 The good which bloodshed could not
 gain
 Your peaceful zeal shall find.

Press on! the triumph shall be won
 Of common rights and equal laws, 50
 The glorious dream of Harrington,
 And Sidney's good old cause,

Blessing the cotter and the crown,
 Sweetening worn labor's bitter cup;
 And, plucking not the highest down,
 Lifting the lowest up.

Press on! and we who may not share
 The toil or glory of your fight
 May ask, at least, in earnest prayer,
 God's blessing on the right! 60

THE HUMAN SACRIFICE

I

FAR from his close and noisome cell,
 By grassy lane and sunny stream,
 Blown clover field and strawberry
 dell,
 And green and meadow freshness, fell
 The footsteps of his dream.
 Again from careless feet the dew
 Of summer's misty morn he shook;
 Again with merry heart he threw 8
 His light line in the rippling brook.
 Back crowded all his school-day joys;
 He urged the ball and quoit again,
 And heard the shout of laughing boys
 Come ringing down the walnut glen.
 Again he felt the western breeze,
 With scent of flowers and crisping
 hay;
 And down again through wind-stirred
 trees
 He saw the quivering sunlight play.
 An angel in home's vine-hung door,
 He saw his sister smile once more;
 Once more the truant's brown-locked
 head 20
 Upon his mother's knees was laid,
 And sweetly lulled to slumber there,
 With evening's holy hymn and prayer!

II

He woke. At once on heart and brain
 The present Terror rushed again;
 Clanked on his limbs the felon's chain!
 He woke, to hear the church-tower tell
 Time's footfall on the conscious bell,
 And, shuddering, feel that clanging
 din
 His life's last hour had ushered in; 30
 To see within his prison-yard,
 Through the small window, iron
 barred,

The gallows shadow rising dim
Between the sunrise heaven and him;
A horror in God's blessed air;

A blackness in his morning light;
Like some foul devil-altar there
Built up by demon hands at night.

And, maddened by that evil sight,
Dark, horrible, confused, and strange,
A chaos of wild, weltering change, ⁴¹
All power of check and guidance gone,
Dizzy and blind, his mind swept on.

In vain he strove to breathe a prayer,
In vain he turned the Holy Book,
He only heard the gallows-stair

Creak as the wind its timbers shook.
No dream for him of sin forgiven,

While still that baleful spectre stood,
With its hoarse murmur, "*Blood for
Blood!*" ⁵⁰

Between him and the pitying Heaven!

III

Low on his dungeon floor he knelt,
And smote his breast, and on his
chain,

Whose iron clasp he always felt,
His hot tears fell like rain;
And near him, with the cold, calm look
And tone of one whose formal part,

Unwarmed, unsoftened of the heart,
Is measured out by rule and book,
With placid lip and tranquil blood, ⁶⁰
The hangman's ghostly ally stood,
Blessing with solemn text and word
The gallows-drop and strangling cord;
Lending the sacred Gospel's awe
And sanction to the crime of Law.

IV

He saw the victim's tortured brow,
The sweat of anguish starting there,
The record of a nameless woe

In the dim eye's imploring stare,
Seen hideous through the long,
damp hair, — ⁷⁰

Fingers of ghastly skin and bone
Working and writhing on the stone!
And heard, by mortal terror wrung
From heaving breast and stiffened
tongue,

The choking sob and low hoarse
prayer;

As o'er his half-crazed fancy came
A vision of the eternal flame,

Its smoking cloud of agonies,
Its demon worm that never dies, ⁸⁰
The everlasting rise and fall

Of fire-waves round the infernal wall;
While high above that dark red flood,
Black, giant-like, the gallows stood;
Two busy fiends attending there:

One with cold mocking rite and
prayer,

The other with impatient grasp,
Tightening the death-rope's strangling
clasp.

v

The unfelt rite at length was done,
The prayer unheard at length was
said,

An hour had passed: the noonday
sun ⁹⁰

Smote on the features of the dead!
And he who stood the doomed be-
side,

Calm gauger of the swelling tide
Of mortal agony and fear,
Heeding with curious eye and ear
Whate'er revealed the keen excess
Of man's extremest wretchedness:
And who in that dark anguish saw

An earnest of the victim's fate,
The vengeful terrors of God's law, ¹⁰⁰
The kindlings of Eternal hate,
The first drops of that fiery rain
Which beats the dark red realm of
pain,

Did he uplift his earnest cries
Against the crime of Law, which
gave

His brother to that fearful grave,
Whereon Hope's moonlight never lies,
And Faith's white blossoms never
wave

To the soft breath of Memory's sighs;
Which sent a spirit marred and
stained, ¹¹⁰

By fiends of sin possessed, profaned,
In madness and in blindness stark,
Into the silent, unknown dark?

No, from the wild and shrinking dread,
With which he saw the victim led
Beneath the dark veil which divides
Ever the living from the dead,

And Nature's solemn secret hides,
The man of prayer can only draw
New reasons for his bloody law; ¹²⁰
New faith in staying Murder's hand
By murder at that Law's command;

New reverence for the gallows-rope,
 As human nature's latest hope;
 Last relic of the good old time,
 When Power found license for its crime,
 And held a writhing world in check
 By that fell cord about its neck;
 Stifled Sedition's rising shout,
 Choked the young breath of Freedom
 out, ¹³⁰
 And timely checked the words which
 sprung
 From Heresy's forbidden tongue;
 While in its noose of terror bound,
 The Church its cherished union found,
 Conforming, on the Moslem plan,
 The motley-colored mind of man,
 Not by the Koran and the Sword,
 But by the Bible and the Cord!

VI

O Thou! at whose rebuke the grave
 Back to warm life its sleeper gave, ¹⁴⁰
 Beneath whose sad and tearful glance
 The cold and changed countenance
 Broke the still horror of its trance,
 And, waking, saw with joy above,
 A brother's face of tenderest love;
 Thou, unto whom the blind and lame,
 The sorrowing and the sin-sick came,
 And from Thy very garment's hem
 Drew life and healing unto them,
 The burden of Thy holy faith ¹⁵⁰
 Was love and life, not hate and death;
 Man's demon ministers of pain,
 The fiends of his revenge, were sent
 From thy pure Gospel's element
 To their dark home again.
 Thy name is Love! What, then, is he,
 Who in that name the gallows rears,
 An awful altar built to Thee,
 With sacrifice of blood and tears?
 Oh, once again Thy healing lay ¹⁶⁰
 On the blind eyes which knew Thee
 not,
 And let the light of Thy pure day
 Melt in upon his darkened thought.
 Soften his hard, cold heart, and show
 The power which in forbearance lies,
 And let him feel that mercy now
 Is better than old sacrifice!

VII

As on the White Sea's charmed shore,
 The Parsee sees his holy hill

With dunnest smoke-clouds curtained
 o'er, ¹⁷⁰
 Yet knows beneath them, evermore,
 The low, pale fire is quivering still,—
 So, underneath its clouds of sin,
 The heart of man retaineth yet
 Gleams of its holy origin;
 And half-quenched stars that never
 set,
 Dim colors of its faded bow,
 And early beauty, linger there;
 And o'er its wasted desert blow
 Faint breathings of its morning air.
 Oh, never yet upon the scroll ¹⁸¹
 Of the sin-stained, but priceless soul,
 Hath Heaven inscribed "Despair!"
 Cast not the clouded gem away,
 Quench not the dim but living ray, —
 My brother man, Beware!
 With that deep voice which from the
 skies
 Forbade the Patriarch's sacrifice,
 God's angel cries, Forbear!

SONGS OF LABOR

DEDICATION

I WOULD the gift I offer here
 Might grace from thy favor take,
 And, seen through Friendship's at-
 mosphere,
 On softened lines and coloring,
 wear
 The unaccustomed light of beauty, for
 thy sake.

Few leaves of Fancy's spring re-
 main:
 But what I have I give to thee,
 The o'er-sunned bloom of summer's
 plain,
 And paler flowers, the latter rain
 Calls from the westering slope of life's
 autumnal lea. ¹⁰

Above the fallen groves of green,
 Where youth's enchanted forest
 stood,
 Dry root and mossed trunk be-
 tween,
 A sober after-growth is seen,
 As springs the pine where falls the
 gay-leaved maple wood!

Yet birds will sing, and breezes play
 Their leaf-harps in the sombre tree;
 And through the bleak and wintry
 day
 It keeps its steady green away,—
 So, even my after-thoughts may have
 a charm for thee. 20

Art's perfect forms no moral need,
 And beauty is its own excuse,
 But for the dull and flowerless weed
 Some healing virtue still must plead,
 And the rough ore must find its honors
 in its use.

So haply these, my simple lays
 Of homely toil, may serve to show
 The orchard bloom and tasselled
 maize
 That skirt and gladden duty's ways,
 The unsung beauty hid life's common
 things below. 30

Haply from them the toiler, hent
 Above his forge or plough, may gain
 A manlier spirit of content,
 And feel that life is wisest spent
 Where the strong working hand makes
 strong the working brain.

The doom which to the guilty pair
 Without the walls of Eden came,
 Transforming sinless ease to care
 And rugged toil, no more shall hear
 The burden of old crime, or mark of
 primal shame. 40

A blessing now, a curse no more;
 Since He, whose name we breathe
 with awe,
 The coarse mechanic vesture wore,
 A poor man toiling with the poor,
 In labor, as in prayer, fulfilling the
 same law.

THE SHOEMAKERS

Ho! workers of the old time styled
 The Gentle Craft of Leather!
 Young brothers of the ancient guild,
 Stand forth once more together!
 Call out again your long array,
 In the olden merry manner!
 Once more, on gay St. Crispin's day,
 Fling out your blazoned banner!

Rap, rap! upon the well-worn stone
 How falls the polished hammer! 10
 Rap, rap! the measured sound has
 grown
 A quick and merry clamor.
 Now shape the sole! now deftly curl
 The glossy vamp around it,
 And bless the while the bright-eyed girl
 Whose gentle fingers bound it!

For you, along the Spanish main
 A hundred keels are ploughing;
 For you, the Indian on the plain
 His lasso-coil is throwing; 20
 For you, deep glens with hemlock dark
 The woodman's fire is lighting;
 For you, upon the oak's gray bark,
 The woodman's axe is smiting.

For you, from Carolina's pine
 The rosin-gum is stealing;
 For you, the dark-eyed Florentine
 Her silken skein is reeling;
 For you, the dizzy goatherd roams
 His rugged Alpine ledges; 30
 For you, round all her shepherd homes
 Bloom England's thorny hedges.

The foremost still, by day or night,
 On moated mound or heather,
 Where'er the need of trampled right
 Brought toiling men together;
 Where the free burghers from the wall
 Defied the mail-clad master,
 Than yours, at Freedom's trumpet-call,
 No craftsmen rallied faster. 40

Let foplings sneer, let fools deride,
 Ye heed no idle scorner;
 Free hands and hearts are still your
 pride,
 And duty done your honor.
 Ye dare to trust, for honest fame,
 The jury Time empanels,
 And leave to truth each noble name
 Which glorifies your annals.

Thy songs, Hans Sachs, are living yet,
 In strong and hearty German; 50
 And Bloomfield's lay, and Gifford's wit,
 And patriot fame of Sherman;
 Still from his book, a mystic seer,
 The soul of Behmen teaches,
 And England's priesthood shakes to
 hear
 Of Fox's leathern breeches.

The foot is yours; where'er it falls,
 It treads your well-wrought leather,
 On earthen floor, in marble halls
 On carpet, or on heather. 60
 Still there the sweetest charm is found
 Of matron grace or vestal's,
 As Hebe's foot bore nectar round
 Among the old celestials!

Rap, rap! — your stout and bluff brogan,
 With footsteps slow and weary,
 May wander where the sky's blue span
 Shuts down upon the prairie.
 On Beauty's foot your slippers glance,
 By Saratoga's fountains, 70
 Or twinkle down the summer dance
 Beneath the Crystal Mountains!

The red brick to the mason's hand,
 The brown earth to the tiller's,
 The shoe in yours shall wealth command,
 Like fairy Cinderella's!
 As they who shunned the household maid
 Beheld the crown upon her,
 So all shall see your toil repaid
 With hearth and home and honor. 80

Then let the toast be freely quaffed,
 In water cool and brimming, —
 "All honor to the good old Craft,
 Its merry men and women!"
 Call out again your long array,
 In the old time's pleasant manner:
 Once more, on gay St. Crispin's day,
 Fling out his blazoned banner!

THE FISHERMEN

HURRAH! the seaward breezes
 Sweep down the bay amain;
 Heave up, my lads, the anchor!
 Run up the sail again!
 Leave to the lubber landmen
 The rail-car and the steed;
 The stars of heaven shall guide us,
 The breath of heaven shall speed.

From the hill-top looks the steeple,
 And the lighthouse from the sand; 10
 And the scattered pines are waving
 Their farewell from the land.

One glance, my lads, behind us,
 For the homes we leave one sigh,
 Ere we take the change and chances
 Of the ocean and the sky.

Now, brothers, for the icebergs
 Of frozen Labrador,
 Floating spectral in the moonshine,
 Along the low, black shore! 20
 Where like snow the gannet's feathers
 On Brador's rocks are shed,
 And the noisy murr are flying,
 Like black scuds, overhead;

Where in mist the rock is hiding,
 And the sharp reef lurks below,
 And the white squall smites in summer,
 And the autumn tempests blow;
 Where, through gray and rolling vapor,
 From evening unto morn, 30
 A thousand boats are hailing,
 Horn answering unto horn.

Hurrah! for the Red Island,
 With the white cross on its crown!
 Hurrah! for Meccatina,
 And its mountains bare and brown!
 Where the Caribou's tall antlers
 O'er the dwarf-wood freely toss,
 And the footstep of the Mickmack
 Has no sound upon the moss. 40

There we'll drop our lines, and gather
 Old Ocean's treasures in,
 Where'er the mottled mackerel
 Turns up a steel-dark fin.
 The sea's our field of harvest,
 Its scaly tribes our grain;
 We'll reap the teeming waters
 As at home they reap the plain!

Our wet hands spread the carpet,
 And light the hearth of home; 50
 From our fish, as in the old time,
 The silver coin shall come.
 As the demon fled the chamber
 Where the fish of Tobit lay,
 So ours from all our dwellings
 Shall frighten Want away.

Though the mist upon our jackets
 In the bitter air congeals,
 And our lines wind stiff and slowly
 From off the frozen reels; 60

The Fishermen



Though the fog be dark around us,
And the storm blow high and loud,
We will whistle down the wild wind,
And laugh beneath the cloud!

In the darkness as in daylight,
On the water as on land,
God's eye is looking on us,
And beneath us is His hand!
Death will find us soon or later,
On the deck or in the cot; 70
And we cannot meet him better
Than in working out our lot.

Hurrah! hurrah! the west-wind
Comes freshening down the bay,
The rising sails are filling;
Give way, my lads, give way!
Leave the coward landsman clinging
To the dull earth, like a weed;
The stars of heaven shall guide us, 75
The breath of heaven shall speed!

THE LUMBERMEN

WILDLY round our woodland quarters
Sad-voiced Autumn grieves;
Thickly down these swelling waters
Float his fallen leaves.
Through the tall and naked timber,
Column-like and old,
Gleam the sunsets of November,
From their skies of gold.

O'er us, to the southland heading,
Screams the gray wild-goose; 80
On the night-frost sounds the treading
Of the brindled moose.
Noiseless creeping, while we're sleep-
ing,
Frost his task-work plies;
Soon, his icy bridges heaping,
Shall our log-piles rise.

When, with sounds of smothered thun-
der,
On some night of rain,
Lake and river break asunder
Winter's weakened chain, 85
Down the wild March flood shall bear
them
To the saw-mill's wheel,
Or where Steam, the slave, shall tear
them
With his teeth of steel.

Be it starlight, be it moonlight,
In these vales below,
When the earliest beams of sunlight
Streak the mountain's snow,
Crisps the hoar-frost, keen and early,
To our hurrying feet, 30
And the forest echoes clearly
All our blows repeat.

Where the crystal Ambijejis
Stretches broad and clear,
And Millnocket's pine-black ridges
Hide the browsing deer:
Where, through lakes and wide mo-
rasses,
Or through rocky walls,
Swift and strong, Penobscot passes
White with foamy falls; 40

Where, through clouds, are glimpses
given
Of Katahdin's sides, —
Rock and forest piled to heaven,
Torn and ploughed by slides!
Far below, the Indian trapping,
In the sunshine warm;
Far above, the snow-cloud wrapping
Half the peak in storm!

Where are mossy carpets better
Than the Persian weaves, 50
And than Eastern perfumes sweeter
Seem the fading leaves;
And a music wild and solemn,
From the pine-tree's height,
Rolls its vast and sea-like volume
On the wind of night;

Make we here our camp of winter;
And, through sleet and snow,
Pitchy knot and beechen splinter
On our hearth shall glow. 60
Here, with mirth to lighten duty,
We shall lack alone
Woman's smile and girlhood's beauty,
Childhood's lisping tone.

But their hearth is brighter burning
For our toil to-day;
And the welcome of returning
Shall our loss repay,
When, like seamen from the waters,
From the woods we come, 70
Greeting sisters, wives, and daugh-
ters,
Angels of our home!

Not for us the measured ringing
 From the village spire,
 Not for us the Sabbath singing
 Of the sweet-voiced choir;
 Ours the old, majestic temple,
 Where God's brightness shines
 Down the dome so grand and ample,
 Propped by lofty pines! 80

Through each branch-enwoven sky-
 light,
 Speaks He in the breeze,
 As of old beneath the twilight
 Of lost Eden's trees!
 For His ear, the inward feeling
 Needs no outward tongue;
 He can see the spirit kneeling
 While the axe is swung.

Heeding truth alone, and turning
 From the false and dim, 90
 Lamp of toil or altar burning
 Are alike to Him.
 Strike them, comrades! Trade is
 waiting
 On our rugged toil;
 Far ships waiting for the freighting
 Of our woodland spoil!

Ships whose traffic links these high-
 lands,
 Bleak and cold, of ours,
 With the citron-planted islands
 Of a clime of flowers; 100
 To our frosts the tribute bringing
 Of eternal heats;
 In our lap of winter flinging
 Tropic fruits and sweets.

Cheerly, on the axe of labor,
 Let the sunbeams dance,
 Better than the flash of sabre
 Or the gleam of lance!
 Strike! With every blow is given
 Freer sun and sky, 110
 And the long-hid earth to heaven
 Looks, with wondering eye!

Loud behind us grow the murmurs
 Of the age to come;
 Clang of smiths, and tread of farmers,
 Bearing harvest home!
 Here her virgin lap with treasures
 Shall the green earth fill;
 Waving wheat and golden maize-ears
 Crown each beechen hill. 120

Keep who will the city's alleys,
 Take the smooth-shorn plain;
 Give to us the cedarn valleys,
 Rocks and hills of Maine!
 In our North-land, wild and woody,
 Let us still have part:
 Rugged nurse and mother sturdy,
 Hold us to thy heart!

Oh, our free hearts beat the warmer
 For thy breath of snow; 130
 And our tread is all the firmer
 For thy rocks below.
 Freedom, hand in hand with labor,
 Walketh strong and brave;
 On the forehead of his neighbor
 No man writeth Slave!

Lo, the day breaks! old Katahdin's
 Pine-trees show its fires,
 While from these dim forest gardens
 Rise their blackened spires. 140
 Up, my comrades! up and doing!
 Manhood's rugged play
 Still renewing, bravely hewing
 Through the world our way!

THE SHIP-BUILDERS

THE sky is ruddy in the east,
 The earth is gray below,
 And, spectral in the river-mist,
 The ship's white timbers show.
 Then let the sounds of measured stroke
 And grating saw begin;
 The broad-axe to the gnarled oak,
 The mallet to the pin!

Hark! roars the bellows, blast on blast,
 The sooty smithy jars, 10
 And fire-sparks, rising far and fast,
 Are fading with the stars.
 All day for us the smith shall stand
 Beside that flashing forge;
 All day for us his heavy hand
 The groaning anvil scourge.

From far-off hills, the panting team
 For us is toiling near;
 For us the raftsmen down the stream
 Their island barges steer. 20
 Rings out for us the axe-man's stroke
 In forests old and still;
 For us the century-circled oak
 Falls crashing down his hill.



"Look! how she moves adown the grooves,
In graceful beauty now"

Up! up! in nobler toil than ours
No craftsmen bear a part:
We make of Nature's giant powers
The slaves of human Art.
Lay rib to rib and beam to beam,
And drive the treenails free; 30
Nor faithless joint nor yawning seam
Shall tempt the searching sea!

Where'er the keel of our good ship
The sea's rough field shall plough;
Where'er her tossing spars shall drip
With salt-spray caught below;
That ship must heed her master's
beck,
Her helm obey his hand,
And seamen tread her reeling deck
As if they trod the land. 40

Her oaken ribs the vulture-beak
Of Northern ice may peel;
The sunken rock and coral peak
May grate along her keel;
And know we well the painted shell
We give to wind and wave,
Must float, the sailor's citadel,
Or sink, the sailor's grave!

Ho! strike away the bars and blocks,
And set the good ship free! 50
Why lingers on these dusty rocks
The young bride of the sea?
Look! how she moves adown the
grooves,
In graceful beauty now!
How lowly on the breast she loves
Sinks down her virgin prow!

God bless her! wheresoe'er the breeze
Her snowy wing shall fan,
Aside the frozen Hebrides,
Or sultry Hindostan! 60
Where'er, in mart or on the main,
With peaceful flag unfurled,
She helps to wind the silken chain
Of commerce round the world!

Speed on the ship! But let her bear
No merchandise of sin,
No groaning cargo of despair
Her roomy hold within;
No Lethæan drug for Eastern lands,
Nor poison-draught for ours; 70
But honest fruits of toiling hands
And Nature's sun and showers.

Be hers the Prairie's golden grain,
 The Desert's golden sand,
 The clustered fruits of sunny Spain,
 The spice of Morning-land!
 Her pathway on the open main
 May blessings follow free,
 And glad hearts welcome back again
 Her white sails from the sea! 80

THE DROVERS

THROUGH heat and cold, and shower
 and sun,
 Still onward cheerly driving!
 There's life alone in duty done,
 And rest alone in striving.
 But see! the day is closing cool,
 The woods are dim before us;
 The white fog of the wayside pool
 Is creeping slowly o'er us.

The night is falling, comrades mine,
 Our footsore beasts are weary, 10
 And through yon elms the tavern sign
 Looks out upon us cheery.
 The landlord beckons from his door,
 His beechen fire is glowing;
 These ample barns, with feed in store,
 Are filled to overflowing.

From many a valley frowned across
 By brows of rugged mountains;
 From hillsides where, through spongy
 Ross,
 Gush out the river fountains; 20
 From quiet farm-fields, green and low,
 And bright with blooming clover;
 From vales of corn the wandering
 crow
 No richer hovers over, —

Day after day our way has been
 O'er many a hill and hollow;
 By lake and stream, by wood and glen,
 Our stately drove we follow,
 Through dust-clouds rising thick and
 dun,
 As smoke of battle o'er us, 30
 Their white horns glisten in the sun,
 Like plumes and crests before us.

We see them slowly climb the hill,
 As slow behind it sinking;
 Or, thronging close, from roadside rill,
 Or sunny lakelet, drinking.

Now crowding in the narrow road,
 In thick and struggling masses,
 They glare upon the teamster's load,
 Or rattling coach that passes. 40

Anon, with toss of horn and tail,
 And paw of hoof, and bellow,
 They leap some farmer's broken
 pale,
 O'er meadow-close or fallow.
 Forth comes the startled goodman;
 forth
 Wife, children, house-dog sally,
 Till once more on their dusty path
 The baffled truants rally.

We drive no starvelings, scraggy
 grown, 49
 Loose-legged, and ribbed and bony,
 Like those who grind their noses
 down
 On pastures bare and stony, —
 Lank oxen, rough as Indian dogs,
 And cows too lean for shadows,
 Disputing feebly with the frogs
 The crop of saw-grass meadows!

In our good drove, so sleek and fair,
 No bones of leanness rattle;
 No tottering hide-bound ghosts are
 there,
 Or Pharoah's evil cattle. 60
 Each stately beeve bespeaks the hand
 That fed him unrepining;
 The fatness of a goodly land
 In each dun hide is shining.

We've sought them where, in warmest
 nooks,
 The freshest feed is growing,
 By sweetest springs and clearest brooks
 Through honeysuckle flowing,
 Wherever hillsides, sloping south,
 Are bright with early grasses, 70
 Or tracking green the lowland's
 drouth,
 The mountain streamlet passes.

But now the day is closing cool,
 The woods are dim before us,
 The white fog of the wayside pool
 Is creeping slowly o'er us.
 The cricket to the frog's bassoon
 His shrillest time is keeping;
 The sickle of yon setting moon
 The meadow-mist is reaping. 80

The night is falling, comrades mine,
 Our footsore beasts are weary,
 And through yon elms the tavern sign
 Looks out upon us cheery.
 To-morrow, eastward with our charge
 We'll go to meet the dawning,
 Ere yet the pines of Kearsage
 Have seen the sun of morning.

When snow-flakes o'er the frozen
 earth,
 Instead of birds, are flitting; °°
 When children thron'g the glowing
 hearth,
 And quiet wives are knitting;
 While in the fire-light strong and
 clear
 Young eyes of pleasure glisten,
 To tales of all we see and hear
 The ears of home shall listen.

By many a Northern lake and hill,
 From many a mountain pasture,
 Shall Fancy play the Drover still,
 And speed the long night faster. 100
 Then let us on, through shower and
 sun,
 And heat and cold, be driving;
 There's life alone in duty done,
 And rest alone in striving.

THE HUSKERS

It was late in mild October, and the
 long autumnal rain
 Had left the summer harvest-fields all
 green with grass again;
 The first sharp frosts had fallen, leav-
 ing all the woodlands gay
 With the hues of summer's rainbow,
 or the meadow-flowers of May.

Through a thin, dry mist, that morn-
 ing, the sun rose broad and red,
 At first a rayless disk of fire, he bright-
 ened as he sped;
 Yet even his noontide glory fell chas-
 tened and subdued,
 On the cornfields and the orchards and
 softly pictured wood.

And all that quiet afternoon, slow
 sloping to the night,
 He wove with golden shuttle the haze
 with yellow light; 10

Slanting through the painted beeches,
 he glorified the hill;
 And, beneath it, pond and meadow
 lay brighter, greener still.

And shouting boys in woodland haunts
 caught glimpses of that sky,
 Flecked by the many-tinted leaves,
 and laughed, they knew not why;
 And school-girls, gay with aster-flow-
 ers, beside the meadow brooks,
 Mingled the glow of autumn with the
 sunshine of sweet looks.

From spire and barn looked westerly
 the patient weathercocks;
 But even the birches on the hill stood
 motionless as rocks.
 No sound was in the woodlands, save
 the squirrel's dropping shell,
 And the yellow leaves among the
 boughs, low rustling as they fell.

The summer grains were harvested;
 the stubble-fields lay dry, 21
 Where June winds rolled, in light and
 shade, the pale green waves of
 rye;
 But still, on gentle hill-slopes, in val-
 leys fringed with wood,
 Ungathered, bleaching in the sun, the
 heavy corn crop stood.

Bent low, by autumn's wind and rain,
 through husks that, dry and
 sere,
 Unfolded from their ripened charge,
 shone out the yellow ear;
 Beneath, the turnip lay concealed, in
 many a verdant fold,
 And glistened in the slanting light the
 pumpkin's sphere of gold.

There wrought the busy harvesters;
 and many a creaking wain
 Bore slowly to the long barn-floor its
 load of husk and grain; 30
 Till broad and red, as when he rose,
 the sun sank down, at last,
 And like a merry guest's farewell, the
 day in brightness passed.

And lo! as through the western pines,
 on meadow, stream, and pond,
 Flamed the red radiance of a sky, set
 all afire beyond.

Slowly o'er the eastern sea-bluffs a
milder glory shone,
And the sunset and the moonrise were
mingled into one!

As thus into the quiet night the twi-
light lapsed away,
And deeper in the brightening moon
the tranquil shadows lay;
From many a brown old farm-house,
and hamlet without name,
Their milking and their home-tasks
done, the merry huskers came.

Swung o'er the heaped-up harvest,
from pitchforks in the mow, 41
Shone dimly down the lanterns on the
pleasant scene below;
The growing pile of husks behind, the
golden ears before,
And laughing eyes and busy hands
and brown cheeks glimmering
o'er.

Half hidden in a quiet nook, serene of
look and heart,
Talking their old times over, the old
men sat apart;
While up and down the unhusked pile,
or nestling in its shade,
Athide-and-seek, with laugh and shout,
the happy children played.

Urged by the good host's daughter, a
maiden young and fair,
Lifting to light her sweet blue eyes and
pride of soft brown hair, 50
The master of the village school, sleek
of hair and smooth of tongue,
To the quaint tune of some old psalm,
a husking-ballad sung.

THE CORN-SONG

Heap high the farmer's wintry hoard!
Heap high the golden corn!
No richer gift has Autumn poured
From out her lavish horn!

Let other lands, exulting, glean
The apple from the pine,
The orange from its glossy green,
The cluster from the vine; 60

We better love the hardy gift
Our rugged vales bestow,

To cheer us when the storm shall
drift
Our harvest-fields with snow.

Through vales of grass and meads of
flowers
Our ploughs their furrows made,
While on the hills the sun and showers
Of changeful April played.

We dropped the seed o'er hill and plain
Beneath the sun of May, 70
And frightened from our sprouting
grain
The robber crows away.

All through the long, bright days of
June
Its leaves grew green and fair,
And waved in hot midsummer's noon
Its soft and yellow hair.

And now, with autumn's moonlit eves,
Its harvest-time has come,
We pluck away the frosted leaves,
And bear the treasure home. 80

There, when the snows about us drift,
And winter winds are cold,
Fair hands the broken grain shall sift,
And knead its meal of gold.

Let vapid idlers loll in silk
Around their costly board;
Give us the bowl of samp and milk,
By homespun beauty poured!

Where'er the wide old kitchen hearth
Sends up its smoky curls, 90
Who will not thank the kindly earth,
And bless our farmer girls!

Then shame on all the proud and vain,
Whose folly laughs to scorn
The blessing of our hardy grain,
Our wealth of golden corn!

Let earth withhold her goodly root,
Let mildew blight the rye,
Give to the worm the orchard's fruit,
The wheat-field to the fly: 100

But let the good old crop adorn
The hills our fathers trod;
Still let us, for his golden corn,
Send up our thanks to God!

THE REFORMER

ALL grim and soiled and brown with
tan,

I saw a Strong One, in his wrath,
Smiting the godless shrines of man
Along his path.

The Church, beneath her trembling
dome,

Essayed in vain her ghostly charm:
Wealth shook within his gilded home
With strange alarm.

Fraud from his secret chambers fled
Before the sunlight bursting in: 10
Sloth drew her pillow o'er her head
To drown the din.

"Spare," Art implored, "yon holy
pile;
That grand, old, time-worn turret
spare;"
Meek Reverence, kneeling in the aisle,
Cried out, "Forbear!"

Gray-bearded Use, who, deaf and
blind,
Groped for his old accustomed
stone
Leaned on his staff, and wept to find
His seat o'erthrown. 20

Young Romance raised his dreamy
eyes,
O'erhung with paly locks of gold, —
"Why smite," he asked in sad sur-
prise,
"The fair, the old?"

Yet louder rang the Strong One's
stroke,
Yet nearer flashed his axe's gleam;
Shuddering and sick of heart I woke,
As from a dream.

I looked: aside the dust-cloud rolled,
The Waster seemed the Builder
too;
Upspringing from the ruined Old 31
I saw the New.

'T was but the ruin of the bad, —
The wasting of the wrong and ill;
Whate'er of good the old time had
Was living still.

Calm grew the brows of him I feared;
The frown which awed me passed
away,
And left behind a smile which cheered
Like breaking day. 40

The grain grew green on battle-plains,
O'er swarded war-mounds grazed
the cow;
The slave stood forging from his chains
The spade and plough.

Where frowned the fort, pavilions
gay
And cottage windows, flower-en-
twined,
Looked out upon the peaceful bay
And hills behind.

Through vine-wreathed cups with
wine once red,
The lights on brimming crystal fell,
Drawn, sparkling, from the rivulet
head 51
And mossy well.

Through prison walls, like Heaven-
sent hope,
Fresh breezes blew, and sunbeams
strayed,
And with the idle gallows-rope
The young child played.

Where the doomed city victim in his
cell
Had counted o'er the weary hours,
Glad school-girls, answering to the
bell,
Came crowned with flowers.

Grown wiser for the lesson given, 61
I fear no longer, for I know
That, where the share is deepest driven
The best fruits grow.

The outworn rite, the old abuse,
The pious fraud transparent grown,
The good held captive in the use
Of wrong alone, —

These wait their doom, from that
great law
Which makes the past time serve
to-day; 70
And fresher life the world shall draw
From their decay.

Oh, backward-looking son of time!
 The new is old, the old is new,
 The cycle of a change sublime
 Still sweeping through.

So wisely taught the Indian seer;
 Destroying Seva, forming Brahm,
 Who wake by turns Earth's love and
 fear,
 Are one, the same. 80

Idly as thou, in that old day
 Thou mournest, did thy sire repine;
 So, in his time, thy child grown gray
 Shall sigh for thine.

But life shall on and upward go;
 Th' eternal step of Progress beats
 To that great anthem, calm and
 slow,
 Which God repeats.

Take heart! the Waster builds
 again, — 80
 A charm'd life old Goodness hath;
 The tares may perish, but the grain
 Is not for death.

God works in all things; all obey
 His first propulsion from the night:
 Wake thou and watch! the world is
 gray
 With morning light!

THE PEACE CONVENTION AT BRUSSELS

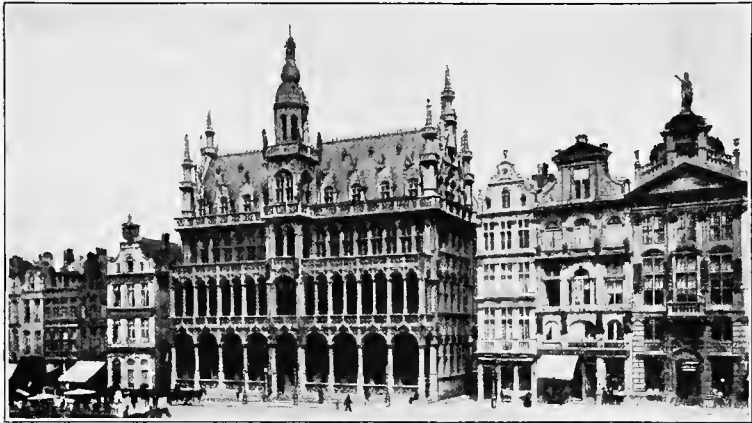
STILL in thy streets, O Paris! doth the
 stain
 Of blood defy the cleansing autumn
 rain;
 Still breaks the smoke Messina's ruins
 through,
 And Naples mourns that new Barthol-
 omew,
 When squalid beggary, for a dole of
 bread,
 At a crowned murderer's beck of
 license, fed
 The yawning trenches with her noble
 dead;
 Still, doomed Vienna, through thy
 stately halls
 The shell goes crashing and the red
 shot falls,

And, leagued to crush thee, on the
 Danube's side, 10
 The bearded Croat and Bosniak spear-
 man ride;
 Still in that vale where Himalaya's snow
 Melts round the cornfields and the
 vines below,
 The Sikh's hot cannon, answering ball
 for ball,
 Flames in the breach of Moultan's
 shattered wall;
 On Chenab's side the vulture seeks the
 slain,
 And Sutlej paints with blood its banks
 again.

"What folly, then," the faithless critic
 cries,
 With sneering lip, and wise world-
 knowing eyes,
 "While fort to fort, and post to post,
 repeat 20
 The ceaseless challenge of the war-
 drum's beat,
 And round the green earth, to the
 church-bell's chime,
 The morning drum-roll of the camp
 keeps time,
 To dream of peace amidst a world in
 arms,
 Of swords to ploughshares changed by
 Scriptural charms,
 Of nations, drunken with the wine of
 blood,
 Staggering to take the Pledge of Bro-
 therhood,
 Like tipplers answering Father Ma-
 thew's call;
 The sullen Spaniard, and the mad-cap
 Gaul,
 The bull-dog Briton, yielding but with
 life, 30
 The Yankee swaggering with his
 bowie-knife,
 The Russ, from banquets with the
 vulture shared,
 The blood still dripping from his am-
 ber beard,
 Quitting their mad Berserker dance to
 hear
 The dull, meek droning of a drab-coat
 seer;
 Leaving the sport of Presidents and
 Kings,
 Where men for dice each titled gam-
 bler flings,

To meet alternate on the Seine and
Thames,
For tea and gossip, like old country
dames!
No! let the cravens plead the weak-
ling's cant,
Let Cobden cipher, and let Vincent
rant,

Rosy and sleek, the sable-gowned di-
vine,
O'er his third bottle of suggestive
wine,
To plumed and sworded auditors, shall
prove
Their trade accordant with the Law of
Love;



Brussels

Let Sturge preach peace to democratic
throgs,
And Burritt, stammering through his
hundred tongues,
Repeat, in all, his ghostly lessons o'er,
Timed to the pauses of the battery's
roar;
Check Ban or Kaiser with the barricade
Of 'Olive-leaves' and Resolutions
made,
Spike guns with pointed Scripture-
texts, and hope
To capsize navies with a windy trope;
Still shall the glory and the pomp of
War
Along their train the shouting millions
draw;
Still dusty Labor to the passing Brave
His cap shall doff, and Beauty's ker-
chief wave;
Still shall the bard to Valor tune his
song,
Still Hero-worship kneel before the
Strong;

And Church for State, and State for
Church, shall fight,
And both agree, that Might alone is
Right!"
Despite of sneers like these, O faithful
few,
Who dare to hold God's word and
witness true,
Whose clear-eyed faith transcends our
evil time,
And o'er the present wilderness of
crime
Sees the calm future, with its robes of
green,
Its fleece-flecked mountains, and soft
streams between, —
Still keep the path which duty bids ye
tread
Though worldly wisdom shake the
cautious head;
No truth from Heaven descends upon
our sphere,
Without the greeting of the skeptic's
sneer;

Denied and mocked at, till its blessings
fall,
Common as dew and sunshine, over
all.

Then, o'er Earth's war-field, till the
strife shall cease,
Like Morven's harpers, sing your song
of peace;
As in old fable rang the Thracian's
lyre,
Midst howl of fiends and roar of penal
fire,
Till the fierce din to pleasing murmurs
fell,
And love subdued the maddened heart
of hell.
Lend, once again, that holy song a
tongue, 80
Which the glad angels of the Advent
sung,
Their cradle-anthem for the Saviour's
birth,
Glory to God, and peace unto the
earth!
Through the mad discord send that
calming word
Which wind and wave on wild Genne-
sareth heard,
Lift in Christ's name his Cross against
the Sword!
Not vain the vision which the prophets
saw,
Skirting with green the fiery waste of
war,
Through the hot sand-gleam, looming
soft and calm
On the sky's rim, the fountain-shading
palm. 90
Still lives for Earth, which fiends so
long have trod,
The great hope resting on the truth
of God, —
Evil shall cease and Violence pass
away,
And the tired world breathe free
through a long Sabbath day.
11th mo., 1848.

THE PRISONER FOR DEBT

Look on him! through his dungeon
grate,
Feebly and cold, the morning light

Comes stealing round him, dim and
late,

As if it loathed the sight.
Reclining on his strawy bed,
His hand upholds his drooping head;
His bloodless cheek is seamed and hard,
Unshorn his gray, neglected beard;
And o'er his bony fingers flow
His long, dishevelled locks of snow. 10

No grateful fire before him glows,
And yet the winter's breath is chill;
And o'er his half-clad person goes
The frequent ague thrill!
Silent, save ever and anon,
A sound, half murmur and half groan,
Forces apart the painful grip
Of the old sufferer's bearded lip;
Oh, sad and crushing is the fate
Of old age chained and desolate! 20

Just God! why lies that old man
there?

A murderer shares his prison bed,
Whose eyeballs, through his horrid
hair,

Gleam on him, fierce and red;
And the rude oath and heartless jeer
Fall ever on his loathing ear,
And, or in wakefulness or sleep,
Nerve, flesh, and pulses thrill and
creep

Whene'er that ruffian's tossing limb,
Crimson with murder, touches him! 30

What has the gray-haired prisoner
done?

Has murder stained his hands with
gore?

Not so; his crime's a fouler one;
God made the old man poor!
For this he shares a felon's cell,
The fittest earthly type of hell!
For this, the boon for which he poured
His young blood on the invader's
sword,
And counted light the fearful cost,
His blood-gained liberty is lost! 40

And so, for such a place of rest,
Old prisoner, dropped thy blood as
rain

On Concord's field, and Bunker's crest,
And Saratoga's plain?
Look forth, thou man of many scars,
Through thy dim dungeon's iron bars;

It must be joy, in sooth, to see
 Yon monument upreared to thee;
 Piled granite and a prison cell, —
 The land repays thy service well! 50

Go, ring the bells and fire the guns,
 And fling the starry banner out;
 Shout "Freedom!" till your lispings
 ones

Give back their cradle-shout;
 Let boastful eloquence declaim
 Of honor, liberty, and fame;
 Still let the poet's strain be heard,
 With glory for each second word,
 And everything with breath agree
 To praise "our glorious liberty!" 60

But when the patron cannon jars
 That prison's cold and gloomy wall,
 And through its grates the stripes and
 stars

Rise on the wind, and fall,
 Think ye that prisoner's aged ear
 Rejoices in the general cheer?
 Think ye his dim and failing eye
 Is kindled at your pageantry?
 Sorrowing of soul, and chained of limb,
 What is your carnival to him? 70

Down with the law that binds him thus!
 Unworthy freemen, let it find
 No refuge from the withering curse
 Of god and human-kind!
 Open the prison's living tomb,
 And usher from its brooding gloom
 The victims of your savage code
 To the free sun and air of God;
 No longer dare as crime to brand
 The chastening of the Almighty's
 hand. 80

THE CHRISTIAN TOURISTS

No aimless wanderers, by the fiend
 Unrest
 Goaded from shore to shore;
 No schoolmen, turning, in their classic
 quest,
 The leaves of empire o'er.
 Simple of faith, and bearing in their
 hearts
 The love of man and God,
 Isles of old song, the Moslem's ancient
 marts,
 And Scythia's steppes, they trod.

Where the long shadows of the fir and
 pine

In the night sun are cast, 10
 And the deep heart of many a Norland
 mine
 Quakes at each riving blast;
 Where, in barbaric grandeur, Moskwa
 stands,
 A baptized Scythian queen,
 With Europe's arts and Asia's jewelled
 hands
 The North and East between!

Where still, through vales of Grecian
 fable stray

The classic forms of yore,
 And beauty smiles, new risen from the
 spray,
 And Dian weeps once more; 20
 Where every tongue in Smyrna's mart
 resounds;
 And Stamboul from the sea
 Lifts her tall minarets over burial-
 grounds
 Black with the cypress-tree!

From Malta's temples to the gates of
 Rome,
 Following the track of Paul,
 And where the Alps gird round the
 Switzer's home
 Their vast, eternal wall;
 They paused not by the ruins of old
 time,
 They scanned no pictures rare, 30
 Nor lingered where the snow-locked
 mountains climb
 The cold abyss of air!

But unto prisons, where men lay in
 chains,

To haunts where Hunger pined,
 To kings and courts forgetful of the
 pains
 And wants of human-kind,
 Scattering sweet words, and quiet
 deeds of good,
 Along their way, like flowers,
 Or pleading, as Christ's freemen only
 could,
 With princes and with powers; 40

Their single aim the purpose to fulfil
 Of Truth, from day to day,
 Simply obedient to its guiding will,
 They held their pilgrim way.

Yet dream not, hence, the beautiful
and old
Were wasted on their sight,
Who in the school of Christ had learned
to hold
All outward things aright.

Not less to them the breath of vine-
yards blown
From off the Cyprian shore, ⁵⁰
Not less for them the Alps in sunset
shone,
That man they valued more.
A life of beauty lends to all it sees
The beauty of its thought;
And fairest forms and sweetest har-
monies
Make glad its way, unsought.

In sweet accordancy of praise and love,
The singing waters run;
And sunset mountains wear in light
above
The smile of duty done; ⁶⁰
Sure stands the promise, — ever to
the meek
A heritage is given;
Nor lose they Earth who, single-
hearted, seek
The righteousness of Heaven!

THE MEN OF OLD

WELL speed thy mission, bold Icono-
clast!
Yet all unworthy of its trust thou
art,
If, with dry eye, and cold, unloving
heart,
Thou tread'st the solemn Pantheon of
the Past,
By the great Future's dazzling hope
made blind
To all the beauty, power, and truth
behind.
Not without reverent awe shouldst
thou put by
The cypress branches and the ama-
ranth blooms,
Where, with clasped hands of
prayer, upon their tombs
The effigies of old confessors lie, ¹⁰
God's witnesses; the voices of His will,
Heard in the slow march of the cen-
turies still!

Such were the men at whose rebuking
frown,
Dark with God's wrath, the tyrant's
knee went down;
Such from the terrors of the guilty
drew
The vassal's freedom and the poor
man's due.
St. Anselm (may he rest forevermore
In Heaven's sweet peace!) forbade,
of old, the sale
Of men as slaves, and from the sa-
cred pale
Hurled the Northumbrian buyers of
the poor. ²⁰
To ransom souls from bonds and evil
fate
St. Ambrose melted down the sacred
plate, —
Image of saint, the chalice, and the
pix,
Crosses of gold, and silver candlesticks.
"Man is worth more than temples!"
he replied
To such as came his holy work to chide.
And brave Cesarius, stripping altars
bare,
And coming from the Abbey's
golden hoard
The captive's freedom, answered to
the prayer
Or threat of those whose fierce zeal
for the Lord ³⁰
Stified their love of man, — "An
earthen dish
The last sad supper of the Master
bore;
Most miserable sinners! do ye wish
More than your Lord, and grudge
His dying poor
What your own pride and not His
need requires?
Souls, than these shining gauds, He
values more:
Mercy, not sacrifice, His heart de-
sires!"
O faithful worthies! resting far behind
In your dark ages, since ye fell asleep,
Much has been done for truth and hu-
mankind; ⁴⁰
Shadows are scattered wherein ye
groped blind;
Man claims his birthright, freer pulses
leap
Through peoples driven in your day
like sheep;

Yet, like your own, our age's sphere of
light,
Though widening still, is walled around
by night;
With slow, reluctant eye, the Church
has read,
Skeptic at heart, the lessons of its
Head;
Counting, too oft, its living members
less
Than the wall's garnish and the pul-
pit's dress;
World-moving zeal, with power to
bless and feed 50
Life's fainting pilgrims, to their utter
need,
Instead of bread, holds out the stone
of creed;
Sect builds and worships where its
wealth and pride
And vanity stand shrined and deified,
Careless that in the shadow of its walls
God's living temple into ruin falls.
We need, methinks, the prophet-hero
still,
Saints true of life, and martyrs strong
of will,
To tread the land, even now, as Xavier
trod
The streets of Goa, barefoot, with
his bell, 60
Proclaiming freedom in the name of
God,
And startling tyrants with the fear
of hell!
Soft words, smooth prophecies, are
doubtless well;
But to rebuke the age's popular crime,
We need the souls of fire, the hearts of
that old time!

TO PIUS IX

THE cannon's brazen lips are cold;
No red shell blazes down the air;
And street and tower, and temple
old,
Are silent as despair.
The Lombard stands no more at
bay,
Rome's fresh young life has bled in
vain;
The ravens scattered by the day
Come back with night again.

Now, while the fratricides of France
Are treading on the neck of Rome, 10
Hider at Gaeta, seize thy chance!
Coward and cruel, come!

Creep now from Naples' bloody skirt;
Thy mummer's part was acted well,
While Rome, with steel and fire begirt,
Before thy crusade fell!

Her death-groans answered to thy
prayer;
Thy chant, the drum and bugle-call;
Thy lights, the burning villa's glare;
Thy beads, the shell and ball! 20

Let Austria clear thy way, with hands
Foul from Ancona's cruel sack,
And Naples, with his dastard bands
Of murderers, lead thee back!

Rome's lips are dumb; the orphan's
wall,
The mother's shriek, thou mayst
not hear
Above the faithless Frenchman's hail,
The unsexed shaveling's cheer!

Go, bind on Rome her cast-off weight,
The double curse of crook and
crown, 30
Though woman's scorn and manhood's
hate
From wall and roof flash down!

Nor heed those blood-stains on the wall,
Not Tiber's flood can wash away,
Where, in thy stately Quirinal,
Thy mangled victims lay!

Let the world murmur; let its cry
Of horror and disgust be heard;
Truth stands alone; thy coward lie
Is backed by lance and sword! 40

The cannon of St. Angelo,
And chanting priest and clanging
bell,
And beat of drum and bugle blow,
Shall greet thy coming well!

Let lips of iron and tongues of slaves
Fit welcome give thee; for her part,
Rome, frowning o'er her new-made
graves,
Shall curse thee from her heart!

No wreaths of sad Campagna's flowers
Shall childhood in thy pathway
fling;

No garlands from their ravaged bow-
ers⁵⁰
Shall Terni's maidens bring;

But, hateful as that tyrant old,
The mocking witness of his crime,
In thee shall loathing eyes behold
The Nero of our time!

Stand where Rome's blood was freest
shed,
Mock Heaven with impious thanks
and call

Its curses on the patriot dead,
Its blessings on the Gaul! 60

Or sit upon thy throne of lies,
A poor, mean idol, blood-besmeared,
Whom even its worshippers despise,
Unhonored, unrevered!

Yet, Scandal of the World! from thee
One needful truth mankind shall
learn:

That kings and priests to Liberty
And God are false in turn.

Earth wearies of them; and the long
Meek sufferance of the Heavens
doth fail: 70

Woe for weak tyrants, when the strong
Wake, struggle, and prevail!

Not vainly Roman hearts have bled
To feed the Crosier and the Crown,
If, roused thereby, the world shall
tread
The twin-born vampires down!

CALEF IN BOSTON

1692

IN the solemn days of old,
Two men met in Boston town,
One a tradesman frank and bold,
One a preacher of renown.

Cried the last, in bitter tone:
"Poisoner of the wells of truth!
Satan's hireling, thou hast sown
With his tares the heart of youth!"

Spake the simple tradesman then,
"God be judge 'twixt thee and
me;

All thou knowest of truth hath been
Once a lie to men like thee.

"Falsehoods which we spurn to-day
Were the truths of long ago;
Let the dead boughs fall away,
Fresher shall the living grow.

"God is good and God is light,
In this faith I rest secure;
Evil can but serve the right,
Over all shall love endure.

"Of your spectral puppet play
I have traced the cunning wires;
Come what will, I needs must say,
God is true, and ye are liars."

When the thought of man is free,
Error fears its lightest tones;
So the priest cried, "Sadducee!"
And the people took up stones.

In the ancient burying-ground,
Side by side the twain now lie;
One with humble grassy mound,
One with marbles pale and high.

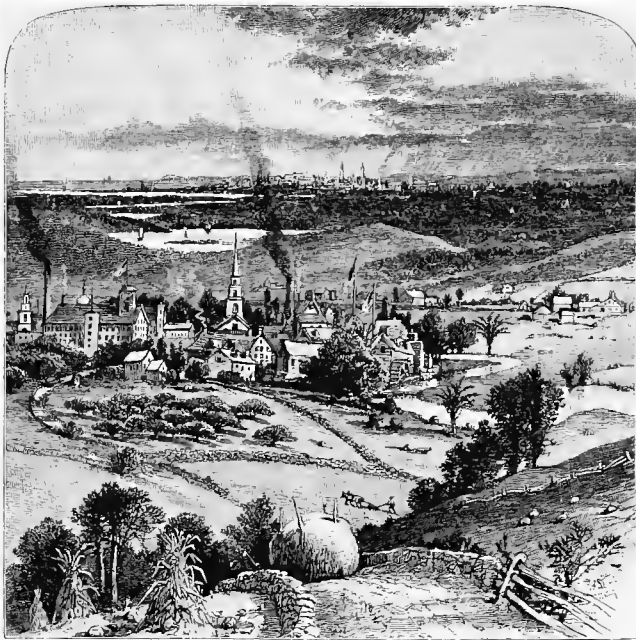
But the Lord hath blest the seed
Which that tradesman scattered
then,
And the preacher's spectral creed
Chills no more the blood of men.

Let us trust, to one is known
Perfect love which casts out fear,
While the other's joys atone
For the wrong he suffered here.

OUR STATE

THE South-land boasts its teeming
cane,
The prairied West its heavy grain,
And sunset's radiant gates unfold
On rising marts and sands of gold!

Rough, bleak, and hard, our little
State
Is scant of soil, of limits strait;
Her yellow sands are sands alone,
Her only mines are ice and stone!



“Nor heeds the skeptic’s puny hands,
While near her school the church-spire stauds”

From Autumn frost to April rain,
Too long her winter woods complain;
From budding flower to falling leaf,
Her summer time is all too brief.

Yet, on her rocks, and on her sands,
And wintry hills, the school-house
stands,
And what her rugged soil denies,
The harvest of the mind supplies.

The riches of the Commonwealth
Are free, strong minds, and hearts of
health;
And more to her than gold or grain,
The cunning hand and cultured brain.

For well she keeps her ancient stock,
The stubborn strength of Pilgrim Rock;
And still maintains, with milder laws,
And clearer light, the Good Old Cause!

Nor heeds the skeptic’s puny hands,
While near her school the church-
spire stands;
Nor fears the blinded bigot’s rule,
While near her church-spire stands the
school.

THE PRISONERS OF NAPLES

I HAVE been thinking of the victims
bound
In Naples, dying for the lack of
air
And sunshine, in their close, damp
cells of pain,
Where hope is not, and innocence in
vain
Appeals against the torture and the
cham!

Unfortunates! whose crime it was to
 share
 Our common love of freedom, and to
 dare,
 In its behalf, Rome's harlot triple-
 crowned,
 And her base pander, the most hate-
 ful thing
 Who upon Christian or on Pagan
 ground¹⁰
 Makes vile the old heroic name of king.
 O God most merciful! Father just and
 kind!
 Whom man hath bound let thy right
 hand unbind.
 Or, if thy purposes of good behind
 Their ills lie hidden, let the sufferers
 find
 Strong consolations; leave them not
 to doubt
 Thy providential care, nor yet with-
 out
 The hope which all thy attributes in-
 spire,
 That not in vain the martyr's robe of
 fire
 Is worn, nor the sad prisoner's fretting
 chain;²⁰
 Since all who suffer for thy truth send
 forth,
 Electrical, with every throb of pain,
 Unquenchable sparks, thy own bap-
 tismal rain
 Of fire and spirit over all the earth,
 Making the dead in slavery live again.
 Let this great hope be with them, as
 they lie
 Shut from the light, the greenness, and
 the sky;
 From the cool waters and the pleasant
 breeze,
 The smell of flowers, and shade of
 summer trees;
 Bound with the felon lepers, whom
 disease³⁰
 And sins abhorred make loathsome;
 let them share
 Pellico's faith, Foresti's strength to
 bear
 Years of unutterable torment, stern
 and still,
 As the chained Titan victor through
 his will!
 Comfort them with thy future; let
 them see
 The day-dawn of Italian liberty;

For that, with all good things, is hid
 with Thee,
 And, perfect in thy thought, awaits its
 time to be!
 I who have spoken for freedom at the
 cost
 Of some weak friendships, or some
 paltry prize⁴⁰
 Of name or place, and more than I
 have lost
 Have gained in wider reach of sym-
 pathies,
 And free communion with the good
 and wise;
 May God forbid that I should ever
 boast
 Such easy self-denial, or repine
 That the strong pulse of health no
 more is mine;
 That, overworn at noonday, I must
 yield
 To other hands the gleanings of the
 field;
 A tired on-looker through the day's
 decline.
 For blest beyond deserving still, and
 knowing⁵⁰
 That kindly Providence its care is
 showing
 In the withdrawal as in the bestowing,
 Scarcely I dare for more or less to pray.
 Beautiful yet for me this autumn day
 Melts on its sunset hills; and, far
 away,
 For me the Ocean lifts its solemn
 psalm,
 To me the pine-woods whisper; and
 for me
 Yon river, winding through its vales
 of calm,
 By greenest banks, with asters purple-
 starred,
 And gentian bloom and golden-rod
 made gay,⁶⁰
 Flows down in silent gladness to the
 sea,
 Like a pure spirit to its great reward!
 Nor lack I friends, long-tried and near
 and dear,
 Whose love is round me like this at-
 mosphere,
 Warm, soft, and golden. For such
 gifts to me
 What shall I render, O my God, to thee?

Let me not dwell upon my lighter share
 Of pain and ill that human life must
 bear;
 Save me from selfish pining; let my
 heart,
 Drawn from itself in sympathy, for-
 get ⁷⁰
 The bitter longings of a vain regret,
 The anguish of its own peculiar smart.
 Remembering others, as I have to-day,
 In their great sorrows, let me live
 alway
 Not for myself alone, but have a part,
 Such as a frail and erring spirit may,
 In love which is of Thee, and which
 indeed Thou art!

THE PEACE OF EUROPE

1852

“GREAT peace in Europe! Order
 reigns
 From Tiber’s hills to Danube’s
 plains!”
 So say her kings and priests; so say
 The lying prophets of our day.

Go lay to earth a listening ear;
 The tramp of measured marches hear;
 The rolling of the cannon’s wheel,
 The shotted musket’s murderous peal,
 The night alarm, the sentry’s call,
 The quick-eared spy in hut and hall!
 From Polar sea and tropic fen ¹¹
 The dying-groans of exiled men!
 The bolted cell, the galley’s chains,
 The scaffold smoking with its stains!
 Order, the hush of brooding slaves!
 Peace, in the dungeon-vaults and
 graves!

O Fisher! of the world-wide net,
 With meshes in all waters set,
 Whose fabled keys of heaven and hell
 Bolt hard the patriot’s prison-cell, ²⁰
 And open wide the banquet-hall,
 Where kings and priests hold carnival!
 Weak vassal tricked in royal guise,
 Boy Kaiser with thy lip of lies;
 Base gambler for Napoleon’s crown,
 Barnacle on his dead renown!
 Thou, Bourbon Neapolitan,
 Crowned scandal, loathed of God and
 man;

And thou, fell Spider of the North!
 Stretching thy giant feelers forth, ³⁰
 Within whose web the freedom dies
 Of nations eaten up like flies!
 Speak, Prince and Kaiser, Priest and
 Czar!
 If this be Peace, pray what is War?

White Angel of the Lord! unmeet
 That soil accursed for thy pure feet.
 Never in Slavery’s desert flows
 The fountain of thy charmed repose;
 No tyrant’s hand thy chaplet weaves
 Of lilies and of olive-leaves; ⁴⁰
 Not with the wicked shalt thou dwell,
 Thus saith the Eternal Oracle;
 Thy home is with the pure and free!
 Stern herald of thy better day,
 Before thee, to prepare thy way,
 The Baptist Shade of Liberty,
 Gray, scarred and hairy-robed, must
 press
 With bleeding feet the wilderness!
 Oh that its voice might pierce the ear
 Of princes, trembling while they hear
 A cry as of the Hebrew seer: ⁵¹
 Repent! God’s kingdom draweth
 near!

ASTRÆA

“Jove means to settle
 Astræa in her seat again,
 And let down from his golden chain
 An age of better metal.”
 BEN JONSON, 1615.

O POET rare and old!
 Thy words are prophecies;
 Forward the age of gold,
 The new Saturnian lies.

The universal prayer
 And hope are not in vain;
 Rise, brothers! and prepare
 The way for Saturn’s reign.

Perish shall all which takes
 From labor’s board and can;
 Perish shall all which makes
 A spaniel of the man!

Free from its bonds the mind,
 The body from the rod;
 Broken all chains that bind
 The image of our God.

Just men no longer pine
Behind their prison-bars;
Through the rent dungeon shine
The free sun and the stars.

Earth own, at last, untrod
By sect, or caste, or clan,
The fatherhood of God,
The brotherhood of man!

Fraud fail, craft perish, forth
The money-changers driven,
And God's will done on earth,
As now in heaven!

THE DISENTHRALLED

HE had bowed down to drunken-
ness,
An abject worshipper;
The pride of manhood's pulse had
grown
Too faint and cold to stir;
And he had given his spirit up
To the unblessed thrall,
And bowing to the poison cup,
He gloried in his fall!

There came a change — the cloud
rolled off,
And light fell on his brain — 10
And like the passing of a dream
That cometh not again,
The shadow of the spirit fled.
He saw the gulf before,
He shuddered at the waste behind,
And was a man once more.

He shook the serpent folds away,
That gathered round his heart,
As shakes the swaying forest-oak
It poison vine apart; 20
He stood erect; returning pride
Grew terrible within,
And conscience sat in judgment, on
His most familiar sin.

The light of Intellect again
Along his pathway shone;
And Reason like a monarch sat
Upon his olden throne.
The honored and the wise once more 30
Within his presence came;
And lingered oft on lovely lips
His once forbidden name.

There may be glory in the might
That treadeth nations down;
Wreaths for the crimson conqueror,
Pride for the kingly crown;
But nobler is that triumph hour,
The disenthralled shall find,
When evil passion boweth down
Unto the Godlike mind! 40

THE POOR VOTER ON ELEC- TION DAY

THE proudest now is but my peer,
The highest not more high;
To-day, of all the weary year,
A king of men am I.
To-day alike are great and small,
The nameless and the known;
My palace is the people's hall,
The ballot-box my throne!

Who serves to-day upon the list
Beside the served shall stand;
Alike the brown and wrinkled fist,
The gloved and dainty hand!
The rich is level with the poor,
The weak is strong to-day;
And sleekest broadcloth counts no more
Than homespun frock of gray.

To-day let pomp and vain pretence
My stubborn right abide;
I set a plain man's common sense
Against the pedant's pride.
To-day shall simple manhood try
The strength of gold and land;
The wide world has not wealth to buy
The power in my right hand!

While there's a grief to seek redress,
Or balance to adjust,
Where weighs our living manhood less
Than Mammon's vilest dust, — 20
While there's a right to need my vote,
A wrong to sweep away,
Up! clouted knee and ragged coat!
A man's a man to-day!

THE DREAM OF PIO NONO

It chanced that while the pious
troops of France
Fought in the crusade Pio Nono
preached,

What time the holy Bourbons stayed
his hands
(The Hur and Aaron meet for such a
Moses),
Stretched forth from Naples towards
rebellious Rome
To bless the ministry of Oudinot,
And sanctify his iron homilies
And sharp persuasions of the bayonet,
That the great pontiff fell asleep, and
dreamed.

He stood by Lake Tiberias, in the
sun¹⁰
Of the bright Orient; and beheld the
lame,
The sick, and blind, kneel at the Mas-
ter's feet,
And rise up whole. And, sweetly over
all,
Dropping the ladder of their hymn of
praise
From heaven to earth, in silver rounds
of song,
He heard the blessed angels sing of
peace,
Good-will to man, and glory to the
Lord.

Then one, with feet unshod, and
leathern face
Hardened and darkened by fierce
summer suns
And hot winds of the desert, closer
drew²⁰
His fisher's haick, and girded up his
loins,
And spake, as one who had authority:
"Come thou with me."

Lakeside and eastern sky
And the sweet song of angels passed
away,
And, with a dream's alacrity of change,
The priest, and the swart fisher by his
side,
Beheld the Eternal City lift its domes
And solemn fanes and monumental
pomp
Above the waste Campagna. On the
hills
The blaze of burning villas rose and
fell,³⁰
And momentarily the mortar's iron throat
Roared from the trenches; and,
within the walls,

Sharp crash of shells, low groans of
human pain,
Shout, drum beat, and the clanging
larum-bell,
And the tramp of hosts, sent up a
mingled sound,
Half wail and half defiance. As they
passed
The gate of San Pancrazio, human
blood
Flowed ankle-high about them, and
dead men
Choked the long street with gashed
and gory piles, —
A ghastly barricade of mangled flesh,
From which, at times, quivered a liv-
ing hand,⁴¹
And white lips moved and moaned. A
father tore
His gray hairs, by the body of his son,
In frenzy; and his fair young daugh-
ter wept
On his old bosom. Suddenly a flash
Clove the thick sulphurous air, and
man and maid
Sank, crushed and mangled by the
shattering shell.

Then spake the Galilean: "Thou
hast seen
The blessed Master and His works of
love;
Look now on thine! Hear'st thou the
angels sing⁵⁰
Above this open hell? Thou God's
high-priest!
Thou the Vicegerent of the Prince of
Peace!
Thou the successor of His chosen ones!
I, Peter, fisherman of Galilee,
In the dear Master's name, and for the
love
Of His true Church, proclaim thee An-
tichrist,
Alien and separate from His holy faith
Wide as the difference between death
and life,
The hate of man and the great love of
God!
Hence, and repent!"

Thereat the pontiff woke,
Trembling, and muttering o'er his
fearful dream.⁶¹
"What means he?" cried the Bour-
bon. "Nothing more

Than that your majesty hath all too
 well
 Catered for your poor guests, and that,
 in sooth,
 The Holy Father's supper troubleth
 him,"
 Said Cardinal Antonelli, with a smile.

THE VOICES

"WHY urge the long, unequal fight,
 Since Truth has fallen in the street,
 Or lift anew the trampled light,
 Quenched by the heedless million's
 feet?"

"Give o'er the thankless task; forsake
 The fools who know not ill from
 good:
 Eat, drink, enjoy thy own, and take
 Thine ease among the multitude.

"Live out thyself; with others share
 Thy proper life no more; assume
 The unconcern of sun and air,
 For life or death, or blight or bloom.

"The mountain pine looks calmly on
 The fires that scourge the plains
 below,
 Nor heeds the eagle in the sun
 The small birds piping in the snow!"

"The world is God's, not thine; let
 Him
 Work out a change, if change must
 be:
 The hand that planted best can trim
 And nurse the old unfruitful tree."²⁰

So spake the Tempter, when the light
 Of sun and stars had left the sky;
 I listened, through the cloud and
 night,
 And heard, methought, a voice
 reply:

"That task may well seem over-hard,
 Who scatterest in a thankless soil
 Thy life as seed, with no reward
 Save that which Duty gives to Toil.

"Not wholly is thy heart resigned
 To Heaven's benign and just de-
 cree,"³⁰

Which, linking thee with all thy kind,
 Transmits their joys and griefs to
 thee.

"Break off that sacred chain, and turn
 Back on thyself thy love and care;
 Be thou thine own mean idol, burn
 Faith, Hope, and Trust, thy chil-
 dren, there.

"Released from that fraternal law
 Which shares the common bale and
 bliss,
 No sadder lot could Folly draw,
 Or Sin provoke from Fate, than
 this."⁴⁰

"The meal unshared is food unblest:
 Thou hoard'st in vain what love
 should spend;
 Self-ease is pain; thy only rest
 Is labor for a worthy end;

"A toil that gains with what it yields,
 And scatters to its own increase,
 And hears, while sowing outward
 fields,
 The harvest-song of inward peace.

"Free-lipped the liberal streamlets
 run,
 Free shines for all the healthful ray;
 The still pool stagnates in the sun,⁵¹
 The lurid earth-fire haunts decay!"

"What is it that the crowd requite
 Thy love with hate, thy truth with
 lies?
 And but to faith, and not to sight,
 The walls of Freedom's temple rise?"

"Yet do thy work; it shall succeed
 In thine or in another's day;
 And, if denied the victor's meed,
 Thou shalt not lack the toiler's
 pay."⁶⁰

"Faith shares the future's promise;
 Love's
 Self-offering is a triumph won;
 And each good thought or action
 moves
 The dark world nearer to the sun.

"Then faint not, falter not, nor plead
 Thy weakness; truth itself is strong;

The lion's strength, the eagle's speed,
Are not alone vouchsafed to wrong.

"Thy nature, which, through fire and
flood,
To place or gain finds out its way, 70
Hath power to seek the highest good,
And duty's holiest call obey!

"Strivest thou in darkness? — foes
without
In league with traitor thoughts
within;
Thy night-watch kept with trembling
Doubt
And pale Remorse the ghost of Sin?

"Hast thou not, on some week of
storm,
Seen the sweet Sabbath breaking fair,
And cloud and shadow, sunlit, form
The curtains of its tent of prayer? 80

"So, haply, when thy task shall end,
The wrong shall lose itself in right,
And all thy week-day darkness blend
With the long Sabbath of the light!"

THE NEW EXODUS

By fire and cloud, across the desert
sand,
And through the parted waves,
From their long bondage, with an out-
stretched hand,
God led the Hebrew slaves!

Dead as the letter of the Pentateuch,
As Egypt's statues cold,
In the adytum of the sacred book
Now stands that marvel old.

"Lo, God is great!" the simple Mos-
lem says.
We seek the ancient date,
Turn the dry scroll, and make that liv-
ing phrase
A dead one: "God was great!"

And, like the Coptic monks by Mou-
sa's wells,
We dream of wonders past,
Vague as the tales the wandering
Arab tells,
Each drowsier than the last.

O fools and blind! Above the Pyra-
mids

Stretches once more that hand,
And trancèd Egypt, from her stony
lids,
Flings back her veil of sand.

And morning-smitten Memnon, sing-
ing, wakes;
And, listening by his Nile,
O'er Ammon's grave and awful visage
breaks
A sweet and human smile.

Not as before, with hail and fire, and
call
Of death for midnight graves,
But in the stillness of the noonday,
fall
The fetters of the slaves.

No longer through the Red Sea, as of
old,
The bondmen walk dry shod;
Through human hearts, by love of
Him controlled,
Runs now that path of God!

THE CONQUEST OF FINLAND

Across the frozen marshes
The winds of autumn blow,
And the fen-lands of the Wetter
Are white with early snow.

But where the low, gray head-
lands
Look o'er the Baltic brine,
A bark is sailing in the track
Of England's battle-line.

No wares hath she to barter
For Bothnia's fish and grain; 10
She saileth not for pleasure,
She saileth not for gain.

But still by isle or mainland
She drops her anchor down,
Where'er the British cannon
Rained fire on tower and town.

Outspake the ancient Amtman,
At the gate of Helsingfors:
"Why comes this ship a-spying
In the track of England's wars?" 20

"God bless her," said the coast-guard, —

"God bless the ship, I say.
The holy angels trim the sails
That speed her on her way!

"Where'er she drops her anchor,
The peasant's heart is glad;
Where'er she spreads her parting
sail,
The peasant's heart is sad.

"Each wasted town and hamlet
She visits to restore; 30
To roof the shattered cabin,
And feed the starving poor.

"The sunken boats of fishers,
The foraged beeves and grain,
The spoil of flake and storehouse,
The good ship brings again.

"And so to Finland's sorrow
The sweet amend is made,
As if the healing hand of Christ
Upon her wounds were laid!" 40

Then said the gray old Amtman,
"The will of God be done!
The battle lost by England's hate
By England's love is won!

"We braved the iron tempest
That thundered on our shore;
But when did kindness fail to find
The key to Finland's door?

"No more from Aland's ramparts
Shall warning signal come, 50
Nor startled Sweaborg hear again
The roll of midnight drum.

"Beside our fierce Black Eagle
The Dove of Peace shall rest;
And in the mouths of cannon
The sea-bird make her nest.

"For Finland, looking seaward,
No coming foe shall scan;
And the holy bells of Abo
Shall ring, 'Good-will to man!' 60

"Then row thy boat, O fisher!
In peace on lake and bay;
And thou, young maiden, dance again
Around the poles of May!

"Sit down, old men, together,
Old wives, in quiet spin;
Henceforth the Anglo-Saxon
Is the brother of the Finn!"

THE EVE OF ELECTION

FROM gold to gray
Our mild sweet day
Of Indian Summer fades too soon;
But tenderly
Above the sea
Hangs, white and calm, the hunter's
moon.

In its pale fire,
The village spire
Shows like the zodiac's spectral lance;
The painted walls 10
Whereon it falls
Transfigured stand in marble trance!

O'er fallen leaves
The west-wind grieves,
Yet comes a seed-time round again;
And morn shall see
The State sown free
With baleful tares or healthful grain.

Along the street
The shadows meet 20
Of Destiny, whose hands conceal
The moulds of fate
That shape the State,
And make or mar the common weal.

Around I see
The powers that be;
I stand by Empire's primal springs;
And princes meet,
In every street,
And hear the tread of uncrowned
kings! 30

Hark! through the crowd
The laugh runs loud,
Beneath the sad, rebuking moon.
God save the land
A careless hand
May shake or swerve ere morrow's
noon!

No jest is this;
One cast amiss
May blast the hope of Freedom's year.

Oh, take me where 40
Are hearts of prayer,
And foreheads bowed in reverent fear!

Not lightly fall
Beyond recall
The written scrolls a breath can float;
The crowning fact,
The kingliest act
Of Freedom is the freeman's vote!

For pearls that gem
A diadem 50
The diver in the deep sea dies;
The regal right
We boast to-night
Is ours through costlier sacrifice;

The blood of Vane,
His prison pain
Who traced the path the Pilgrim
trod,
And hers whose faith
Drew strength from death,
And prayed her Russell up to God! 60

Our hearts grow cold,
We lightly hold
A right which brave men died to gain;
The stake, the cord,
The axe, the sword,
Grim nurses at its birth of pain.

The shadow rend,
And o'er us bend,
O martyrs, with your crowns and
palms;
Breathe through these throngs 70
Your battle songs,
Your scaffold prayers, and dungeon
psalms!

Look from the sky,
Like God's great eye,
Thou solemn moon, with searching
beam,
Till in the sight
Of thy pure light
Our mean self-seeking meaner seem.

Shame from our hearts
Unworthy arts, 80
The fraud designed, the purpose dark;
And smite away
The hands we lay
Profanely on the sacred ark.

To party claims
And private aims,
Reveal that august face of Truth,
Whereto are given
The age of heaven,
The beauty of immortal youth. 90

So shall our voice
Of sovereign choice
Swell the deep bass of duty done,
And strike the key
Of time to be,
When God and man shall speak as
one!

FROM PERUGIA

THE tall, sallow guardsmen their
horsetails have spread,
Flaming out in their violet, yellow,
and red;
And behind go the lackeys in crimson
and buff,
And the chamberlains gorgeous in vel-
vet and ruff;
Next, in red-legged pomp, come the
cardinals forth,
Each a lord of the church and a prince
of the earth.

What's this squeak of the fife, and
this batter of drum?
Lo! the Swiss of the Church from
Perugia come;
The militant angels, whose sabres
drive home
To the hearts of the malcontents,
cursed and abhorred, 10
The good Father's missives, and
"Thus saith the Lord!"
And lend to his logic the point of the
sword!

O maids of Etruria, gazing forlorn
O'er dark Thrasymenus, dishevelled
and torn!
O fathers, who pluck at your gray
beards for shame!
O mothers, struck dumb by a woe
without name!
Well ye know how the Holy Church
hireling behaves,
And his tender compassion of prisons
and graves!

There they stand, the hired stabbers,
 the blood-stains yet fresh,
 That splashed like red wine from the
 vintage of flesh; ²⁰
 Grim instruments, careless as pincers
 and rack
 How the joints tear apart, and the
 strained sinews crack;
 But the hatc that glares on them is
 sharp as their swords,
 And the sneer and the scowl print the
 air with fierce words!

Off with hats, down with knees, shout
 your vivas like mad!
 Here's the Pope in his holiday right-
 eousness clad,
 From shorn crown to toe-nail, kiss-
 worn to the quick,
 Of sainthood in purple the pattern
 and pick,
 Who the rôle of the priest and the sol-
 dier unites,
 And, praying like Aaron, like Joshua
 fights! ³⁰

Is this Pio Nono the gracious, for
 whom
 We sang our hosannas and lighted all
 Rome;
 With whose advent we dreamed the
 new era began
 When the priest should be human, the
 monk be a man?
 Ah, the wolf's with the sheep, and the
 fox with the fowl,
 When freedom we trust to the crosier
 and cowl!

Stand aside, men of Rome! Here's a
 hangman-faced Swiss —
 (A blessing for him surely can't go
 amiss) —
 Would kneel down the sanctified slip-
 per to kiss.
 Short shrift will suffice him, — he's
 blest beyond doubt; ⁴⁰
 But there's blood on his hands which
 would scarcely wash out,
 Though Peter himself held the baptis-
 mal spout!

Make way for the next! Here's an-
 other sweet son!
 What's this mastiff-jawed rascal in
 epaulets done?

He did, whispers rumor (its truth
 God forbid!),
 At Perugia what Herod at Bethlehem
 did.
 And the mothers? Don't name them!
 these humors of war
 They who keep him in service must
 pardon him for.

Hist! here's the arch-knave in a car-
 dinal's hat,
 With the heart of a wolf, and the
 stealth of a cat ⁵⁰
 (As if Judas and Herod together were
 rolled),
 Who keeps, all as one, the Pope's con-
 science and gold,
 Mounts guard on the altar, and pilfers
 from thence,
 And flatters St. Peter while stealing
 his pence!

Who doubts Antonelli? Have mira-
 cles ceased
 When robbers say mass, and Barabbas
 is priest?
 When the Church eats and drinks, at
 its mystical board,
 The true flesh and blood carved and
 shed by its sword,
 When its martyr, unsinged, claps the
 crown on his head,
 And roasts, as his proxy, his neighbor
 instead! ⁶⁰

There! the bells jow and jangle the
 same blessed way
 That they did when they rang for Bar-
 tholomew's day.
 Hark! the tallow-faced monsters, nor
 women nor boys,
 Vex the air with a shrill, sexless horror
 of noise.
Te Deum laudamus! All round with-
 out stint
 The incense-pot swings with a taint of
 blood in't!

And now for the blessing! Of little
 account,
 You know, is the old one they heard
 on the Mount.
 Its giver was landless, His raiment
 was poor,
 No jewelled tiara His fishermen
 wore; ⁷⁰



Perugia

No incense, no lackeys, no riches, no home,
No Swiss guards! We order things
better at Rome.

So bless us the strong hand, and curse
us the weak;
Let Austria's vulture have food for her
beak;
Let the wolf-whelp of Naples play
Bomba again,
With his death-cap of silence, and hal-
ter, and chain;
Put reason, and justice, and truth un-
der ban;
For the sin unforgiven is freedom for
man

ITALY

Across the sea I heard the groans
Of nations in the intervals
Of wind and wave. Their blood and
bones
Cried out in torture, crushed by
thrones,
And sucked by priestly cannibals.

I dreamed of Freedom slowly gained
By martyr meekness, patience, faith,
And lo! an athlete grimly stained,
With corded muscles battle-strained,
Shouting it from the fields of death!

I turn me, awe-struck, from the sight,
Among the clamoring thousands
mute;
I only know that God is right,
And that the children of the light
Shall tread the darkness under foot.

I know the pent fire heaves its crust,
That sultry skies the bolt will form
To smite them clear; that Nature
must
The balance of her powers adjust,
Though with the earthquake and the
storm.

God reigns, and let the earth re-
joice!

I bow before His sterner plan.
Dumb are the organs of my choice;
He speaks in battle's stormy voice,
His praise is in the wrath of man!

Yet, surely as He lives, the day
Of peace He promised shall be ours,
To fold the flags of war, and lay
Its sword and spear to rust away,
And sow its ghastly fields with
flowers!

FREEDOM IN BRAZIL

With clearer light, Cross of the South,
shine forth
In blue Brazilian skies;
And thou, O river, cleaving half the
earth
From sunset to sunrise,
From the great mountains to the At-
lantic waves
Thy joy's long anthem pour.
Yet a few years (God make them less!)
and slaves
Shall shame thy pride no more.
No fettered feet thy shaded margins
press;
But all men shall walk free 10
Where thou, the high-priest of the
wilderness,
Hast wedded sea to sea.

And thou, great-hearted ruler, through
whose mouth
The word of God is said,
Once more, "Let there be light!" —
Son of the South,
Lift up thy honored head,
Wear unashamed a crown by thy desert
More than by birth thy own,
Careless of watch and ward; thou art
begirt
By grateful hearts alone. 20
The moated wall and battle-ship may
fail,
But safe shall justice prove;
Stronger than greaves of brass or iron
mail
The panoply of love.

Crowned doubly by man's blessing
and God's grace,
Thy future is secure;
Who frees a people makes his statue's
place
In Time's Valhalla sure.
Lo! from his Neva's banks the Scyth-
ian Czar
Stretches to thee his hand, 30

Who, with the pencil of the Northern
star,
Wrote freedom on his land.
And he whose grave is holy by our
calm
And prairied Sangamon,
From his gaunt hand shall drop the
martyr's palm
To greet thee with "Well done!"

And thou, O Earth, with smiles thy
face make sweet,
And let thy wail be stilled,
To hear the Muse of prophecy repeat
Her promise half fulfilled. 40
The Voice that spake at Nazareth
speaks still,
No sound thereof hath died;
Alike thy hope and Heaven's eternal
will
Shall yet be satisfied.
The years are slow, the vision tarrieth
long,
And far the end may be;
But, one by one, the fiends of ancient
wrong
Go out and leave thee free.

AFTER ELECTION

THE day's sharp strife is ended now,
Our work is done, God knoweth how!
As on the thronged, unrestful town
The patience of the moon looks down,
I wait to hear, beside the wire,
The voices of its tongues of fire.

Slow, doubtful, faint, they seem at
first:
Be strong, my heart, to know the
worst!
Hark! there the Alleghanies spoke;
That sound from lake and prairie
broke,
That sunset-gun of triumph rent
The silence of a continent!

That signal from Nebraska sprung,
This from Nevada's mountain tongue!
Is that thy answer, strong and free,
O loyal heart of Tennessee?
What strange, glad voice is that which
calls
From Wagner's grave and Sumter's
walls?

From Mississippi's fountain-head
 A sound as of the bison's tread!
 There rustled freedom's Charter Oak!
 In that wild burst the Ozarks spoke!
 Cheer answers cheer from rise to set
 Of sun. We have a country yet!

The praise, O God, be thine alone!
 Thou givest not for bread a stone;
 Thou hast not led us through the night
 To blind us with returning light;
 Not through the furnace have we
 passed,
 To perish at its mouth at last.

O night of peace, thy flight restrain!
 November's moon, be slow to wane!
 Shine on the freedman's cabin floor,
 On brows of prayer a blessing pour;
 And give, with full assurance blest,
 The weary heart of Freedom rest!
 1868

DISARMAMENT

"PUT up the sword!" The voice of
 Christ once more
 Speaks, in the pauses of the cannon's
 roar,
 O'er fields of corn by fiery sickles
 reaped
 And left dry ashes; over trenches
 heaped
 With nameless dead; o'er cities starv-
 ing slow
 Under a rain of fire; through wards of
 woe
 Down which a groaning diapason runs
 From tortured brothers, husbands,
 lovers, sons
 Of desolate women in their far-off
 homes,
 Waiting to hear the step that never
 comes!
 O men and brothers! let that voice
 be heard.
 War fails, try peace; put up the use-
 less sword!

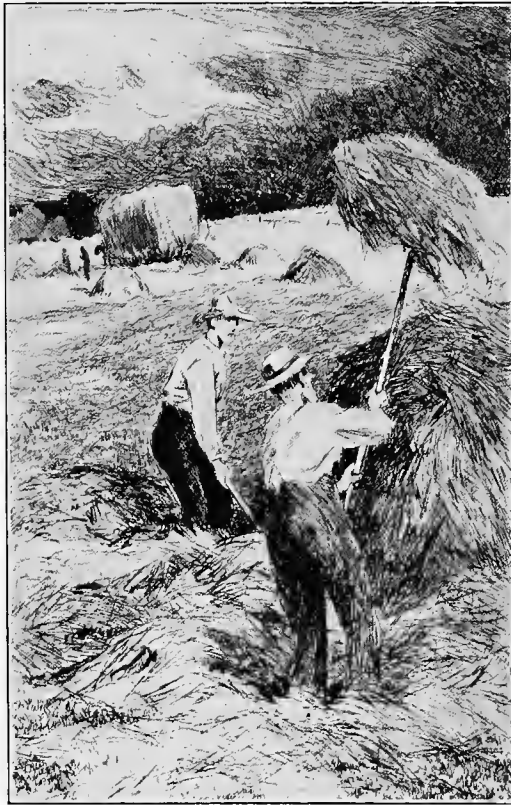
Fear not the end. There is a story told
 In Eastern tents, when autumn nights
 grow cold,
 And round the fire the Mongol shep-
 herds sit
 With grave responses listening unto
 it:

Once, on the errands of his mercy bent,
 Buddha, the holy and benevolent,
 Met a fell monster, huge and fierce of
 look,
 Whose awful voice the hills and for-
 ests shook.
 "O son of peace!" the giant cried,
 "thy fate
 Is sealed at last, and love shall yield
 to hate."
 The unarmed Buddha looking, with no
 trace
 Of fear or anger, in the monster's face,
 In pity said: "Poor fiend, even thee I
 love."
 Lo! as he spake the sky-tall terror
 sank
 To hand-breadth size; the huge ab-
 horrence shrank
 Into the form and fashion of a dove;
 And where the thunder of its rage was
 heard,
 Circling above him sweetly sang the
 bird:
 "Hate hath no harm for love," so ran
 the song;
 "And peace unweaponed conquers
 every wrong!"

THE PROBLEM

I

Nor without envy Wealth at times
 must look
 On their brown strength, who wield
 the reaping-hook
 And scythe, or at the forge-fire
 shape the plough
 Or the steel harness of the steeds of
 steam;
 All who, by skill and patience, any-
 how
 Make service noble, and the earth re-
 deem
 From savageness. By kingly accolade
 Than theirs was never worthier
 knight-hood made.
 Well for them, if, while demagogues
 their vain
 And evil counsels proffer, they main-
 tain
 Their honest manhood unsuspected,
 and wage
 No war with Labor's right to Labor's
 gain



“ Not without envy Wealth at times must look
On their brown strength who wield the reaping-hook ”

Of sweet home-comfort, rest of hand
and brain,
And softer pillow for the head of
Age.

II

And well for Gain if it ungrudging
yields
Labor its just demand; and well for
Ease
If in the uses of its own, it sees

No wrong to him who tills its pleasant
fields
And spreads the table of its luxu-
ries.
The interests of the rich man and the
poor
Are one and same, inseparable ever-
more;
And, when scant wage or labor fail to
give
Food, shelter, raiment, wherewithal to
live,

Need has its rights, necessity its claim.

Yea, even self-wrought misery and shame

Test well the charity suffering long and kind.

The home-pressed question of the age can find

No answer in the catch-words of the blind

Leaders of blind. Solution there is none

Save in the Golden Rule of Christ alone.

OUR COUNTRY

READ AT WOODSTOCK, CONN., JULY 4, 1883.

We give thy natal day to hope,
O Country of our love and prayer!
Thy way is down no fatal slope,
But up to freer sun and air.

Tried as by furnace-fires, and yet
By God's grace only stronger made,
In future tasks before thee set
Thou shalt not lack the old-time aid.

The fathers sleep, but men remain
As wise, as true, and brave as they;¹⁰
Why count the loss and not the gain?
The best is that we have to-day.

Whate'er of folly, shame, or crime,
Within thy mighty bounds transpires,
With speed defying space and time,
Comes to us on the accusing wires;

While of thy wealth of noble deeds,
Thy homes of peace, thy votes unsold,
The love that pleads for human needs,
The wrong redressed, but half is told!²⁰

We read each felon's chronicle,
His acts, his words, his gallows-mood;

We know the single sinner well
And not the nine and ninety good.

Yet if, on daily scandals fed,
We seem at times to doubt thy worth,

We know thee still, when all is said,
The best and dearest spot on earth.

From the warm Mexic Gulf, or where
Belted with flowers Los Angeles so
Basks in the semi-tropic air,
To where Katahdin's cedar trees

Are dwarfed and bent by Northern winds,
Thy plenty's horn is yearly filled;
Alone, the rounding century finds
Thy liberal soil by free hands tilled.

A refuge for the wronged and poor,
Thy generous heart has borne the blame
That, with them, through thy open door,
The old world's evil outcasts came.

But, with thy just and equal rule,⁴¹
And labor's need and breadth of lands,
Free press and rostrum, church and school,
Thy sure, if slow, transforming hands

Shall mould even them to thy designs,
Making a blessing of the ban;
And Freedom's chemistry combine
The alien elements of man.

The power that broke their prison bar
And set the dusky millions free,⁵⁰
And welded in the flame of war
The Union fast to Liberty,

Shall it not deal with other ills,
Redress the red man's grievance,
break

The Circean cup which shames and kills,
And Labor full requital make?

Alone to such as fitly bear
Thy civic honors bid them fall?
And call thy daughters forth to share
The rights and duties pledged to all?

Give every child his right of school, 61
Merge private greed in public good,
And spare a treasury overfull
The tax upon a poor man's food?

No lack was in thy primal stock,
No weakling founders builded here;
Thine were the men of Plymouth Rock,
The Huguenot and Cavalier;

That word still echoes round the
world, 81
And all who hear it turn to thee,
And read upon thy flag unfurled
The prophecies of destiny.

Thy great world-lesson all shall learn,
The nations in thy school shall
sit,



“ And the dust of the grinded grain,
Instead of the blood of the slain,
Shall sprinkle thy banks, Big Horn ! ”

And they whose firm endurance
gained
The freedom of the souls of men, 70
Whose hands, unstained with blood,
maintained
The swordless commonwealth of
Penn.

And thine shall be the power of all
To do the work which duty bids,
And make the people's council hall
As lasting as the Pyramids!

Well have thy later years made good
Thy brave-said word a century
back,
The pledge of human brotherhood,
The equal claim of white and black.

Earth's farthest mountain-tops shall
burn
With watch-fires from thy own uplift.
Great without seeking to be great
By fraud or conquest, rich in gold, 90
But richer in the large estate
Of virtue which thy children hold,

With peace that comes of purity
And strength to simple justice due,
So runs our loyal dream of thee;
God of our fathers! make it true.

O Land of lands! to thee we give
Our prayers, our hopes, our service
free;
For thee thy sons shall nobly live, 99
And at thy need shall die for thee!

ON THE BIG HORN

THE years are but half a score,
 And the war-whoop sounds no more
 With the blast of bugles, where
 Straight into a slaughter pen,
 With his doomed three hundred men,
 Rode the chief with the yellow hair.

O Hampton, down by the sea!
 What voice is beseeching thee
 For the scholar's lowliest place?
 Can this be the voice of him ¹⁰
 Who fought on the Big Horn's rim?
 Can this be Rain-in-the-Face?

His war-paint is washed away,
 His hands have forgotten to slay;
 He seeks for himself and his race
 The arts of peace and the lore
 That give to the skilled hand more
 Than the spoils of war and chase.

O chief of the Christ-like school!
 Can the zeal of thy heart grow cool ²⁰
 When the victor scarred with fight
 Like a child for thy guidance craves,
 And the faces of hunters and braves
 Are turning to thee for light?

The hatchet lies overgrown
 With grass by the Yellowstone,
 Wind River, and Paw of Bear;

And, in sign that foes are friends,
 Each lodge like a peace-pipe sends
 Its smoke in the quiet air. ³⁰

The hands that have done the wrong
 To right the wronged are strong,
 And the voice of a nation saith:
 "Enough of the war of swords,
 Enough of the lying words
 And shame of a broken faith!"

The hills that have watched afar
 The valleys ablaze with war
 Shall look on the tasselled corn;
 And the dust of the grinded grain, ⁴⁰
 Instead of the blood of the slain,
 Shall sprinkle thy banks, Big Horn!

The Ute and the wandering Crow
 Shall know as the white men know,
 And fare as the white men fare;
 The pale and the red shall be brothers,
 One's rights shall be as another's,
 Home, School, and House of
 Prayer!

O mountains that climb to snow,
 O river winding below, ⁵⁰
 Through meadows by war once
 trod,

O wild, waste lands that await
 The harvest exceeding great,
 Break forth into praise of God!



Raphael

POEMS SUBJECTIVE AND REMINISCENT

MEMORIES

A BEAUTIFUL and happy girl,
With step as light as summer
air,
Eyes glad with smiles, and brow of
pearl,
Shadowed by many a careless curl
Of unconfined and flowing hair;

A seeming child in everything,
Save thoughtful brow and ripening
charms,
As Nature wears the smile of Spring
When sinking into Summer's arms.
A mind rejoicing in the light 10
Which melted through its graceful
bower,

Leaf after leaf, dew-moist and bright,
And stainless in its holy white,

Unfolding like a morning flower:
A heart, which, like a fine-toned lute,
With every breath of feeling woke,
And, even when the tongue was mute,
From eye and lip in music spoke.

How thrills once more the lengthening
chain

Of memory, at the thought of
thee! ²⁰
Old hopes which long in dust have lain,
Old dreams, come thronging back
again,

And boyhood lives again in me;
I feel its glow upon my cheek,
Its fulness of the heart is mine,
As when I learned to hear thee speak,
Or raised my doubtful eye to thine.

I hear again thy low replies,
I feel thy arm within my own,
And timidly again uprise ³⁰
The fringed lids of hazel eyes.

With soft brown tresses overblown.
Ah! memories of sweet summer eves,
Of moonlit wave and willow way,
Of stars and flowers, and dewy leaves,
And smiles and tones more dear
than they!

Ere this, thy quiet eye hath smiled
My picture of thy youth to see,
When, half a woman, half a child,
Thy very artlessness beguiled, ⁴⁰
And folly's self seemed wise in thee;
I too can smile, when o'er that hour
The lights of memory backward
stream,
Yet feel the while that manhood's
power
Is vainer than my boyhood's dream.

Years have passed on, and left their
trace,
Of graver care and deeper thought;
And unto me the calm, cold face
Of manhood, and to thee the grace
Of woman's pensive beauty brought.
More wide, perchance, for blame than
praise, ⁵¹
The school-boy's humble name has
flown;

Thine, in the green and quiet ways
Of unobtrusive goodness known.

And wider yet in thought and deed
Diverge our pathways, one in youth;
Thine the Genevan's sternest creed,
While answers to my spirit's need
The Derby dalesman's simple truth.
For thee, the priestly rite and prayer,
And holy day, and solemn psalm; ⁶¹
For me, the silent reverence where
My brethren gather, slow and calm.

Yet hath thy spirit left on me
An impress Time has worn not out,
And something of myself in thee,
A shadow from the past, I see,
Lingering, even yet, thy way about;
Not wholly can the heart unlearn
That lesson of its better hours, ⁷⁰
Not yet has Time's dull footstep worn
To common dust that path of flow-
ers.

Thus, while at times before our eyes
The shadows melt, and fall apart,
And, smiling through them, round us
lies

The warm light of our morning
skies, —
The Indian Summer of the heart!
In secret sympathies of mind,
In founts of feeling which retain
Their pure, fresh flow, we yet may
find ⁸⁰
Our early dreams not wholly vain!

RAPHAEL

I SHALL not soon forget that sight:
The glow of Autumn's westering
day,
A hazy warmth, a dreamy light,
On Raphael's picture lay.

It was a simple print I saw,
The fair face of a musing boy;
Yet, while I gazed, a sense of awe
Seemed blending with my joy.

A single print, — the graceful flow
Of boyhood's soft and wavy hair, ¹⁰
And fresh young lip and cheek, and
brow
Unmarked and clear, were there.

Yet through its sweet and calm repose
I saw the inward spirit shine;

It was as if before me rose
The white veil of a shrine.

As if, as Gothland's sage has told,
The hidden life, the man within,
Dissevered from its frame and moulded,
By mortal eye were seen. 20

Was it the lifting of that eye,
The waving of that pictured hand?
Loose as a cloud-wreath on the
sky,
I saw the walls expand.

The narrow room had vanished, —
space,
Broad, luminous, remained alone,
Through which all hues and shapes of
grace
And beauty looked or shone.

Around the mighty master came
The marvels which his pencil
wrought, 30
Those miracles of power whose fame
Is wide as human thought.

There drooped thy more than mortal
face,
O Mother, beautiful and mild!
Enfolding in one dear embrace
Thy Saviour and thy Child!

The rapt brow of the Desert John;
The awful glory of that day
When all the Father's brightness
shone
Through manhood's veil of clay, 40

And, midst gray prophet forms, and
wild
Dark visions of the days of old,
How sweetly woman's beauty smiled
Through locks of brown and gold!

There Fornarina's fair young face
Once more upon her lover shone,
Whose model of an angel's grace
He borrowed from her own.

Slow passed that vision from my
view,

But not the lesson which it taught;
The soft, calm shadows which it
threw 51
Still rested on my thought:

The truth, that painter, bard and sage,
Even in Earth's cold and changeful
clime,
Plant for their deathless heritage
The fruits and flowers of time.

We shape ourselves the joy or fear,
Of which the coming life is made,
And fill our Future's atmosphere
With sunshine or with shade. 60

The tissue of the Life to be
We weave with colors all our own,
And in the field of Destiny
We reap as we have sown.

Still shall the soul around it call
The shadows which it gathered here,
And, painted on the eternal wall,
The Past shall reappear.

Think ye the notes of holy song 60
On Milton's tuneful ear have died?
Think ye that Raphael's angel throng
Has vanished from his side?

Oh no! — We live our life again;
Or warmly touched, or coldly dim,
The pictures of the Past remain, —
Man's works shall follow him!

EGO

WRITTEN IN THE ALBUM OF A FRIEND

ON page of thine I cannot trace
The cold and heartless commonplace,
A statue's fixed and marble grace.

For ever as these lines I penned,
Still with the thought of thee will
blend
That of some loved and common friend,

Who in life's desert track has made
His pilgrim tent with mine, or strayed
Beneath the same remembered shade.

And hence my pen unfettered moves 10
In freedom which the heart approves,
The negligence which friendship loves.

And wilt thou prize my poor gift less
For simple air and rustic dress,
And sign of haste and carelessness?

Oh, more than specious counterfeit
Of sentiment or studied wit,
A heart like thine should value it.

Yet half I fear my gift will be
Unto thy book, if not to thee, 20
Of more than doubtful courtesy.

A banished name from Fashion's
sphere,
A lay unheard of Beauty's ear,
Forbid, disowned, — what do they
here?

Upon my ear not all in vain
Came the sad captive's clanking chain,
The groaning from his bed of pain.

And sadder still, I saw the woe
Which only wounded spirits know
When Pride's strong footsteps o'er
them go. 30

Spurned not alone in walks abroad,
But from the temples of the Lord
Thrust out apart, like things abhorred.

Deep as I felt, and stern and strong,
In words which Prudence smothered
long,
My soul spoke out against the wrong;

Not mine alone the task to speak
Of comfort to the poor and weak,
And dry the tear on Sorrow's cheek;

But, mingled in the conflict warm, 40
To pour the fiery breath of storm
Through the harsh trumpet of Re-
form;

To brave Opinion's settled frown,
From ermined robe and saintly gown,
While wrestling revered Error
down.

Founts gushed beside my pilgrim
way,
Cool shadows on the greensward lay.
Flowers swung upon the bending
spray.

And, broad and bright, on either hand,
Stretched the green slopes of Fairy-
land, 50
With Hope's eternal sunbow spanned;

Whence voices called me like the
flow,
Which on the listener's ear will grow,
Of forest streamlets soft and low.

And gentle eyes, which still retain
Their picture on the heart and brain,
Smiled, beckoning from that path of
pain.

In vain! nor dream, nor rest, nor
pause
Remain for him who round him draws
The battered mail of Freedom's
cause. 60

From youthful hopes, from each green
spot
Of young Romance, and gentle
Thought,
Where storm and tumult enter not;

From each fair altar, where belong
The offerings Love requires of Song
In homage to her bright-eyed throng;

With soul and strength, with heart
and hand,
I turned to Freedom's struggling band,
To the sad Helots of our land.

What marvel then that Fame should
turn 70
Her notes of praise to those of scorn;
Her gifts reclaimed, her smiles with-
drawn?

What matters it? a few years more,
Life's surge so restless heretofore
Shall break upon the unknown shore!

In that far land shall disappear
The shadows which we follow here,
The mist-wreaths of our atmosphere!

Before no work of mortal hand,
Of human will or strength expand 80
The pearl gates of the Better Land;

Alone in that great love which gave
Life to the sleeper of the grave,
Resteth the power to seek and save.

Yet, if the spirit gazing through
The vista of the past can view
One deed to Heaven and virtue true;

If through the wreck of wasted powers,
Of garlands wreathed from Folly's
 bowers,
Of idle aims and misspent hours, 90

The eye can note one sacred spot
By Pride and Self profanèd not,
A green place in the waste of thought,

Where deed or word hath rendered less
The sum of human wretchedness,
And Gratitude looks forth to bless;

The simple burst of tenderest feeling
From sad hearts worn by evil-dealing,
For blessing on the hand of healing;

Better than Glory's pomp will be 100
That green and blessed spot to me,
A palm-shade in Eternity!

Something of Time which may invite
The purified and spiritual sight
To rest on with a calm delight.

And when the summer winds shall
 sweep
With their light wings my place of
 sleep,
And mosses round my headstone
 creep;

If still, as Freedom's rallying sign,
Upon the young heart's altars shine 110
The very fires they caught from mine;

If words my lips once uttered still,
In the calm faith and steadfast will
Of other hearts, their work fulfil;

Perchance with joy the soul may learn
These tokens, and its eye discern
The fires which on those altars burn;

A marvellous joy that even then
The spirit hath its life again
In the strong hearts of mortal men. 120

Take, lady, then, the gift I bring,
No gay and graceful offering,
No flower-smile of the laughing spring.

Midst the green buds of Youth's fresh
 May,
With Fancy's leaf-enwoven bay,
My sad and sombre gift I lay.

And if it deepens in thy mind
A sense of suffering human-kind, —
The outcast and the spirit-blind; 129

Oppressed and spoiled on every side,
By Prejudice, and Scorn, and Pride,
Life's common courtesies denied;

Sad mothers mourning o'er their trust,
Children by want and misery nursed,
Tasting life's bitter cup at first;

If to their strong appeals which
 come
From fireless hearth, and crowded
 room,
And the close alley's noisome gloom,—

Though dark the hands upraised to
 thee
In mute beseeching agony, 140
Thou lend'st thy woman's sympathy;

Not vainly on thy gentle shrine,
Where Love, and Mirth, and Friend-
 ship twine
Their varied gifts, I offer mine.

THE PUMPKIN

OH, greenly and fair in the lands of
 the sun,
The vines of the gourd and the rich
 melon run,
And the rock and the tree and the
 cottage enfold,
With broad leaves all greenness and
 blossoms all gold,
Like that which o'er Nineveh's pro-
 phet once grew,
While he waited to know that his
 warning was true,
And longed for the storm-cloud, and
 listened in vain
For the rush of the whirlwind and red
 fire-rain.

On the banks of the Xenil the dark
 Spanish maiden
Comes up with the fruit of the tangled
 vine laden; 10
And the Creole of Cuba laughs out to
 behold
Through orange-leaves shining the
 broad spheres of gold;



“On the fields of his harvest the Yankee looks forth”

Yet with dearer delight from his home
 in the North,
 On the fields of his harvest the Yan-
 kee looks forth,
 Where crook-necks are coiling and yel-
 low fruit shines,
 And the sun of September melts down
 on his vines.

Ah! on Thanksgiving day, when from
 East and from West,
 From North and from South come the
 pilgrim and guest;
 When the gray-haired New Englander
 sees round his board
 The old broken links of affection re-
 stored;

20

When the care-wearied man seeks his
 mother once more,
 And the worn matron smiles where the
 girl smiled before;
 What moistens the lip and what
 brightens the eye,
 What calls back the past, like the rich
 Pumpkin pie?

Oh, fruit loved of boyhood! the old
 days recalling,
 When wood-grapes were purpling and
 brown nuts were falling!
 When wild, ugly faces we carved in its
 skin,
 Glaring out through the dark with a
 candle within!

When we laughed round the corn-
 heap, with hearts all in tune,
 Our chair a broad pumpkin, — our
 lantern the moon, —³⁰
 Telling tales of the fairy who travelled
 like steam,
 In a pumpkin-shell coach, with two
 rats for her team!

Then thanks for thy present! none
 sweeter or better
 E'er smoked from an oven or circled a
 platter!
 Fairer hands never wrought at a pas-
 try more fine,
 Brighter eyes never watched o'er its
 baking, than thine!
 And the prayer, which my mouth is too
 full to express,
 Swells my heart that thy shadow may
 never be less,
 That the days of thy lot may be length-
 ened below,
 And the fame of thy worth like a
 pumpkin-vine grow,
 And thy life be as sweet, and its last
 sunset sky
 Golden-tinted and fair as thy own
 Pumpkin pie!

FORGIVENESS

My heart was heavy, for its trust had
 been
 Abused, its kindness answered with
 foul wrong;
 So, turning gloomily from my fellow-
 men,
 One summer Sabbath day I strolled
 among
 The green mounds of the village burial-
 place;
 Where, pondering how all human
 love and hate
 Find one sad level; and how, soon
 or late,
 Wronged and wrongdoer, each with
 meekened face,
 And cold hands folded over a still
 heart,
 Pass the green threshold of our com-
 mon grave,
 Whither all footsteps tend, whence
 none depart,
 Awed for myself, and pitying my race,

Our common sorrow, like a mighty
 wave,
 Swept all my pride away, and trem-
 bling I forgave!

TO MY SISTER

WITH A COPY OF "THE SUPERNATU-
 RALISM OF NEW ENGLAND"

DEAR Sister! while the wise and sage
 Turn coldly from my playful page,
 And count it strange that ripened
 age
 Should stoop to boyhood's folly;
 I know that thou wilt judge aright
 Of all which makes the heart more
 light,
 Or lends one star-gleam to the night
 Of clouded Melancholy.

Away with weary cares and themes!
 Swing wide the moonlit gate of
 dreams!
 Leave free once more the land which
 teems¹⁰

With wonders and romances!
 Where thou, with clear discerning
 eyes,
 Shalt rightly read the truth which lies
 Beneath the quaintly masking guise
 Of wild and wizard fancies.

Lo! once again our feet we set
 On still green wood-paths, twilight
 wet
 By lonely brooks, whose waters fret
 The roots of spectral beeches;²⁰
 Again the hearth-fire glimmers o'er
 Home's whitewashed wall and painted
 floor,
 And young eyes widening to the lore
 Of faery-folks and witches.

Dear heart! the legend is not vain
 Which lights that holy hearth again,
 And calling back from care and pain,
 And death's funereal sadness,
 Draws round its old familiar blaze
 The clustering groups of happier days,
 And lends to sober manhood's gaze³¹
 A glimpse of childish gladness.

And, knowing how my life hath been
 A weary work of tongue and pen,

A long, harsh strife with strong-willed
men,
Thou wilt not chide my turning
To con, at times, an idle rhyme,
To pluck a flower from childhood's
clime,
Or listen, at Life's noonday chime,
For the sweet bells of Morning! 40

MY THANKS

ACCOMPANYING MANUSCRIPTS PRE-
SENTED TO A FRIEND

'T is said that in the Holy Land
The angels of the place have blessed
The pilgrim's bed of desert sand,
Like Jacob's stone of rest.

That down the hush of Syrian skies
Some sweet-voiced saint at twilight
sings

The song whose holy symphonies
Are beat by unseen wings;

Till starting from his sandy bed,
The wayworn wanderer looks to see
The halo of an angel's head 11
Shine through the tamarisk-tree.

So through the shadows of my way
Thy smile hath fallen soft and clear,
So at the weary close of day
Hath seemed thy voice of cheer.

That pilgrim pressing to his goal
May pause not for the vision's sake,
Yet all fair things within his soul
The thought of it shall wake: 20

The graceful palm-tree by the well,
Seen on the far horizon's rim;
The dark eyes of the fleet gazelle,
Bent timidly on him;

Each pictured saint, whose golden
hair
Streams unlike through the con-
vent's gloom;

Pale shrines of martyrs young and
fair,
And loving Mary's tomb;

And thus each tint or shade which falls,
From sunset cloud or waving tree,

Along my pilgrim path, recalls 31
The pleasant thought of thee.

Of one in sun and shade the same,
In weal and woe my steady friend,
Whatever by that holy name
The angels comprehend.

Not blind to faults and follies, thou
Hast never failed the good to see,
Nor judged by one unseemly bough
The upward-struggling tree. 40

These light leaves at thy feet I lay, —
Poor common thoughts on common
things,

Which Time is shaking, day by day,
Like feathers from his wings;

Chance shootings from a frail life-tree,
To nurturing care but little known,
Their good was partly learned of thee,
Their folly is my own.

That tree still clasps the kindly mould,
Its leaves still drink the twilight
dew, 50
And weaving its pale green with
gold,
Still shines the sunlight through.

There still the morning zephyrs
play,
And there at times the spring bird
sings,

And mossy trunk and fading spray
Are flowered with glossy wings.

Yet, even in genial sun and rain,
Root, branch, and leaflet fail and
fade;

The wanderer on its lonely plain
Erelong shall miss its shade. 60

O friend beloved, whose curious skill
Keeps bright the last year's leaves
and flowers,

With warm, glad, summer thoughts to
fill
The cold, dark, winter hours!

Pressed on thy heart, the leaves I
bring

May well defy the wintry cold,
Until, in Heaven's eternal spring,
Life's fairer ones unfold.

REMEMBRANCE

WITH COPIES OF THE AUTHOR'S
WRITINGS

FRIEND of mine! whose lot was cast
With me in the distant past;
Where, like shadows flitting fast,

Fact and fancy, thought and theme,
Word and work, begin to seem
Like a half-remembered dream!

Touched by change have all things
been,
Yet I think of thee as when
We had speech of lip and pen.

For the calm thy kindness lent
To a path of discontent,
Rough with trial and dissent;

Gentle words where such were few,
Softening blame where blame was
true,
Praising where small praise was
due;

For a waking dream made good,
For an ideal understood,
For thy Christian womanhood;

For thy marvellous gift to cull
From our common life and dull
Whatso'er is beautiful;

Thoughts and fancies, Hybla's bees
Dropping sweetness; true heart's-ease
Of congenial sympathies; —

Still for these I own my debt;
Memory, with her eyelids wet,
Fain would thank thee even yet!

And as one who scatters flowers
Where the Queen of May's sweet hours
Sits, o'ertwined with blossomed bow-
ers,

In superfluous zeal bestowing
Gifts where gifts are overflowing,
So I pay the debt I'm owing.

To thy full thoughts, gay or sad,
Sunny-hued or sober clad,
Something of my own I add;

Well assured that thou wilt take
Even the offering which I make
Kindly for the giver's sake.

MY NAMESAKE

You scarcely need my tardy thanks,
Who, self-rewarded, nurse and
tend —
A green leaf on your own Green
Banks —
The memory of your friend.

For me, no wreath, bloom-woven,
hides
The sobered brow and lessening
hair:

For aught I know, the myrtled sides
Of Helicon are bare.

Their scallop-shells so many bring
The fabled founts of song to
try, ¹⁰
They've drained, for aught I know,
the spring
Of Aganippe dry.

Ah well! — The wreath the Muses
braid
Proves often Folly's cap and bell;
Methinks, my ample beaver's shade
May serve my turn as well.

Let Love's and Friendship's tender
debt
Be paid by those I love in life.
Why should the unborn critic whet
For me his scalping-knife? ²⁰

Why should the stranger peer and
pry
One's vacant house of life about,
And drag for curious ear and eye
His faults and follies out? —

Why stuff, for fools to gaze upon,
With chaff of words, the garb he
wore,
As corn-husks when the ear is gone
Are rustled all the more?

Let kindly Silence close again,
The picture vanish from the eye, ³⁰
And on the dim and misty main
Let the small ripple die.

- Yet not the less I own your claim
To grateful thanks, dear friends of mine.
- Hang, if it please you so, my name
Upon your household line.
- Let Fame from brazen lips blow wide
Her chosen names, I envy none:
A mother's love, a father's pride,
Shall keep alive my own! 40
- Still shall that name as now recall
The young leaf wet with morning dew,
The glory where the sunbeams fall
The breezy woodlands through.
- That name shall be a household word,
A spell to waken smile or sigh;
In many an evening prayer be heard
And cradle lullaby.
- And thou, dear child, in riper days
When asked the reason of thy name, 50
Shalt answer: "One 't were vain to praise
Or censure bore the same.
- "Some blamed him, some believed him good,
The truth lay doubtless 'twixt the two;
He reconciled as best he could
Old faith and fancies new.
- "In him the grave and playful mixed,
And wisdom held with folly truce,
And Nature compromised betwixt
Good fellow and recluse. 60
- "He loved his friends, forgave his foes;
And, if his words were harsh at times,
He spared his fellow-men, — his blows
Fell only on their crimes.
- "He loved the good and wise, but found
His human heart to all akin
Who met him on the common ground
Of suffering and of sin.
- "Whate'er his neighbors might endure
Of pain or grief his own became; 70
- For all the ills he could not cure
He held himself to blame.
- "His good was mainly in intent,
His evil not of forethought done;
The work he wrought was rarely meant
Or finished as begun.
- "Ill served his tides of feeling strong
To turn the common mills of use;
And, over restless wings of song,
His birthright garb hung loose! 80
- "His eye was beauty's powerless slave,
And his the ear which discord pains;
Few guessed beneath his aspect grave
What passions strove in chains.
- "He had his share of care and pain,
No holiday was life to him;
Still in the heirloom cup we drain
The bitter drop will swim.
- "Yet Heaven was kind, and here a bird
And there a flower beguiled his way; 90
And cool, in summer noons, he heard
The fountains plash and play.
- "On all his sad or restless moods
The patient peace of Nature stole;
The quiet of the fields and woods
Sank deep into his soul.
- "He worshipped as his fathers did,
And kept the faith of childish days,
And, howsoe'er he strayed or slid,
He loved the good old ways; 100
- "The simple tastes, the kindly traits,
The tranquil air, and gentle speech,
The silence of the soul that waits
For more than man to teach.
- "The cant of party, school, and sect,
Provoked at times his honest scorn,
And Folly, in its gray respect,
He tossed on satire's horn.
- "But still his heart was full of awe
And reverence for all sacred things;
And, brooding over form and law, 111
He saw the Spirit's wings!

"Life's mystery wrapt him like a cloud;
He heard far voices mock his own,
The sweep of wings unseen, the loud,
Long roll of waves unknown.

"The arrows of his straining sight
Fell quenched in darkness; priest
and sage,
Like lost guides calling left and right,
Perplexed his doubtful age. 120

"Like childhood, listening for the sound
Of its dropped pebbles in the well,
All vainly down the dark profound
His brief-lined plummet fell.

"So, scattering flowers with pious pains
On old beliefs, of later creeds,
Which claimed a place in Truth's domains,
He asked the title-deeds.

"He saw the old-time's groves and shrines
In the long distance fair and dim; 130
And heard, like sound of far-off pines,
The century-mellowed hymn!

"He dared not mock the Dervish whirl,
The Brahmin's rite, the Lama's spell;
God knew the heart; Devotion's pearl
Might sanctify the shell.

"While others trod the altar stairs,
He faltered like the publican;
And, while they praised as saints, his prayers
Were those of sinful man. 140

"For, awed by Sinai's Mount of Law,
The trembling faith alone sufficed,
That, through its cloud and flame, he saw
The sweet, sad face of Christ!

"And listening, with his forehead bowed,
Heard the Divine compassion fill
The pauses of the trump and cloud
With whispers small and still.

"The words he spake, the thoughts he penned,
Are mortal as his hand and brain, 150
But, if they served the Master's end,
He has not lived in vain!"

Heaven make thee better than thy name,
Child of my friends! — For thee I crave
What riches never bought, nor fame
To mortal longing gave.

I pray the prayer of Plato old:
God make thee beautiful within,
And let thine eyes the good behold
In everything save sin! 160

Imagination held in check
To serve, not rule, thy poisèd mind;
Thy Reason, at the frown or beck
Of Conscience, loose or bind.

No dreamer thou, but real all, —
Strong manhood crowning vigorous youth;
Life made by duty epical
And rhythmic with the truth.

So shall that life the fruitage yield
Which trees of healing only give, 170
And green-leaved in the Eternal field
Of God, forever live!

A MEMORY

HERE, while the loom of Winter weaves
The shroud of flowers and fountains,
I think of thee and summer eves
Among the Northern mountains.

When thunder tolled the twilight's close,
And winds the lake were rude on,
And thou wert singing, *Ca' the Yowes*,
The bonny yowes of Cluden!

When, close and closer, hushing breath,
Our circle narrowed round thee,
And smiles and tears made up the wreath
Wherewith our silence crowned thee;

And, strangers all, we felt the ties
Of sisters and of brothers;
Ah! whose of all those kindly eyes
Now smile upon another's?

The sport of Time, who still apart
The waifs of life is flinging;
Oh, nevermore shall heart to heart
Draw nearer for that singing!

Yet when the panes are frosty-starred,
And twilight's fire is gleaming,
I hear the songs of Scotland's bard
Sound softly through my dreaming!

A song that lends to winter snows
The glow of summer weather, —
Again I hear thee ca' the yowes
To Cluden's hills of heather!

MY DREAM

IN my dream, methought I trod,
Yesternight, a mountain road;
Narrow as Al Sirat's span,
High as eagle's flight, it ran.

Overhead, a roof of cloud
With its weight of thunder bowed;
Underneath, to left and right,
Blankness and abysmal night.

Here and there a wild-flower blushed;
Now and then a bird-song gushed; 10
Now and then, through rifts of shade,
Stars shone out, and sunbeams played.

But the goodly company,
Walking in that path with me,
One by one the brink o'erslid,
One by one the darkness hid.

Some with wailing and lament,
Some with cheerful courage went;
But, of all who smiled or mourned,
Never one to us returned. 20

Anxiously, with eye and ear,
Questioning that shadow drear,
Never hand in token stirred,
Never answering voice I heard!

Steeper, darker! — lo! I felt
From my feet the pathway melt,
Swallowed by the black despair,
And the hungry jaws of air,

Past the stony-throated caves,
Strangled by the wash of waves, 30
Past the splintered crags, I sank
On a green and flowery bank, —

Soft as fall of thistle-down,
Lightly as a cloud is blown,
Soothingly as childhood pressed
To the bosom of its rest.

Of the sharp-horned rocks instead,
Green the grassy meadows spread,
Bright with waters singing by
Trees that propped a golden sky. 40

Painless, trustful, sorrow-free,
Old lost faces welcomed me,
With whose sweetness of content
Still expectant hope was blent.

Waking while the dawning gray
Slowly brightened into day,
Pondering that vision fled,
Thus unto myself I said: —

“Steep and hung with clouds of
strife
Is our narrow path of life; 50
And our death the dreaded fall
Through the dark, awaiting all.

“So, with painful steps we climb
Up the dizzy ways of time,
Ever in the shadow shed
By the forecast of our dread.

“Dread of mystery solved alone,
Of the untried and unknown;
Yet the end thereof may seem
Like the falling of my dream. 60

“And this heart-consuming care,
All our fears of here or there,
Change and absence, loss and
death,
Prove but simple lack of faith.” 20

Thou, O Most Compassionate!
Who didst stoop to our estate,
Drinking of the cup we drain,
Treading in our path of pain, —

Through the doubt and mystery,
Grant to us thy steps to see, 70
And the grace to draw from thence
Larger hope and confidence.

Show thy vacant tomb, and let,
As of old, the angels sit,
Whispering, by its open door:
"Fear not! He hath gone before!"

THE BAREFOOT BOY

BLESSINGS on thee, little man,
Barefoot boy, with cheek of tan!
With thy turned-up pantaloons,
And thy merry whistled tunes;
With thy red lip, redder still
Kissed by strawberries on the hill;
With the sunshine on thy face,
Through thy torn brim's jaunty
grace;

From my heart I give thee joy, —
I was once a barefoot boy! 10
Prince thou art, — the grown-up man
Only is republican.
Let the million-dollar ride!
Barefoot, trudging at his side,
Thou hast more than he can buy
In the reach of ear and eye, —
Outward sunshine, inward joy:
Blessings on thee, barefoot boy!

Oh for boyhood's painless play,
Sleep that wakes in laughing day, 20
Health that mocks the doctor's rules
Knowledge never learned of schools,
Of the wild bee's morning chase,
Of the wild-flower's time and place,
Flight of fowl and habitude
Of the tenants of the wood;
How the tortoise bears his shell,
How the woodchuck digs his cell,
And the ground-mole sinks his well;
How the robin feeds her young, 30
How the oriole's nest is hung;
Where the whitest lilies blow,
Where the freshest berries grow,
Where the ground-nut trails its vine,
Where the wood-grape's clusters
shine;

Of the black wasp's cunning way,
Mason of his walls of clay,
And the architectural plans
Of gray hornet artisans!
For, eschewing books and tasks, 40
Nature answers all he asks;
Hand in hand with her he walks,
Face to face with her he talks,
Part and parcel of her joy, —
Blessings on the barefoot boy!

Oh for boyhood's time of June,
Crowding years in one brief moon,
When all things I heard or saw,
Me, their master, waited for.
I was rich in flowers and trees, 50
Humming-birds and honey-bees;
For my sport the squirrel played,
Plied the snouted mole his spade;
For my taste the blackberry cone
Purpled over hedge and stone;
Laughed the brook for my delight
Through the day and through the
night,

Whispering at the garden wall,
Talked with me from fall to fall;
Mine the sand-rimmed pickered pond,
Mine the walnut slopes beyond, 61
Mine, on bending orchard trees,
Apples of Hesperides!
Still as my horizon grew,
Larger grew my riches too;
All the world I saw or knew
Seemed a complex Chinese toy,
Fashioned for a barefoot boy!

Oh for festal dainties spread,
Like my bowl of milk and bread; 70
Pewter spoon and bowl of wood,
On the door-stone, gray and rude!
O'er me, like a regal tent,
Cloudy-ribbed, the sunset bent,
Purple-curtained, fringed with gold,
Looped in many a wind-swung fold;
While for music came the play
Of the pied frogs' orchestra;
And, to light the noisy choir,
Lit the fly his lamp of fire. 80
I was monarch: pomp and joy
Waited on the barefoot boy!

Cheerily, then, my little man,
Live and laugh, as boyhood can!
Though the flinty slopes be hard,
Stubble-speared the new-mown sward,
Every morn shall lead thee through
Fresh baptisms of the dew;
Every evening from thy feet
Shall the cool wind kiss the heat: 90
All too soon these feet must hide
In the prison cells of pride,
Lose the freedom of the sod,
Like a colt's for work be shod,
Made to tread the mills of toil,
Up and down in ceaseless moil:
Happy if their track be found
Never on forbidden ground;



"Blessings on thee, little man,
Barefoot boy, with cheek of tan!"

Happy if they sink not in
Quick and treacherous sands of sin. 100
Ah! that thou couldst know thy joy,
Ere it passes, barefoot boy!

MY PSALM

I MOURN no more my vanished years;
Beneath a tender rain,
An April rain of smiles and tears,
My heart is young again.

The west-winds blow, and, singing low,
I hear the glad streams run;
The windows of my soul I throw
Wide open to the sun.

No longer forward nor behind
I look in hope or fear; 10
But, grateful, take the good I find,
The best of now and here.

I plough no more a desert land,
To harvest weed and tare;

The manna dropping from God's hand
Rebukes my painful care.

I break my pilgrim staff, I lay
Aside the toiling oar;
The angel sought so far away
I welcome at my door. 20

The airs of spring may never play
Among the ripening corn,
Nor freshness of the flowers of May
Blow through the autumn morn;

Yet shall the blue-eyed gentian look
Through fringed lids to heaven,
And the pale aster in the brook
Shall see its image given; —

The woods shall wear their robes of
praise,
The south-wind softly sigh, 30
And sweet, calm days in golden haze
Melt down the amber sky.

Not less shall manly deed and word
Rebuke an age of wrong;
The graven flowers that wreathe the
sword
Make not the blade less strong.

But smiting hands shall learn to
heal, —
To build as to destroy;
Nor less my heart for others feel
That I the more enjoy. 40

All as God wills, who wisely heeds
To give or to withhold,
And knoweth more of all my needs
Than all my prayers have told!

Enough that blessings undeserved
Have marked my erring track;
That wheresoe'er my feet have
swerved,
His chastening turned me back;

That more and more a Providence
Of love is understood, 50
Making the springs of time and sense
Sweet with eternal good; —

That death seems but a covered way
Which opens into light,
Wherein no blinded child can stray
Beyond the Father's sight;

That care and trial seem at last,
Through Memory's sunset air,
Like mountain-ranges overpast,
In purple distance fair; 60

That all the jarring notes of life
Seem blending in a psalm,
And all the angles of its strife
Slow rounding into calm.

And so the shadows fall apart,
And so the west-winds play;
And all the windows of my heart
I open to the day.

THE WAITING

I WAIT and watch: before my eyes
Methinks the night grows thin and
gray;

I wait and watch the eastern skies
To see the golden spears uprise
Beneath the oriflamme of day!

Like one whose limbs are bound in
trance
I hear the day-sounds swell and grow,
And see across the twilight glance,
Troop after troop, in swift advance,
The shining ones with plumes of snow!

I know the errand of their feet,
I know what mighty work is theirs;
I can but lift up hands unmeet
The threshing-floors of God to beat,
And speed them with unworthy
prayers.

I will not dream in vain despair
The steps of progress wait for me:
The puny leverage of a hair
The planet's impulse well may spare,
A drop of dew the tided sea.

The loss, if loss there be, is mine,
And yet not mine if understood;
For one shall grasp and one resign,
One drink life's rue, and one its wine,
And God shall make the balance good.

Oh power to do! Oh baffled will!
Oh prayer and action! ye are one.
Who may not strive, may yet fulfil
The harder task of standing still,
And good but wished with God is
done!

SNOW-BOUND

A WINTER IDYL

TO THE MEMORY OF THE HOUSEHOLD IT DESCRIBES

THIS POEM IS DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR

"As the Spirit of Darkness he stronger
in the dark, so Good Spirits, which he An-
gels of Light, are augmented not only by
the Divine light of the Sun, but also by our
common Wood Fire : and as the Celestial
Fire drives away dark spirits, so also this
our Fire of Wood doth the same." — COR.
AGRIPPA, *Occult Philosophy*, Book I. ch. v.

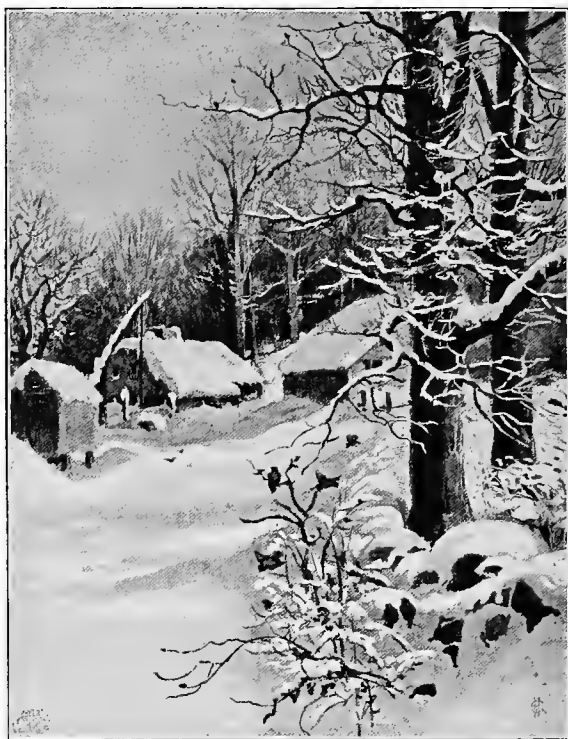
"Announced by all the trumpets of the sky,
Arrives the snow, and, driving o'er the
fields,
Seems nowhere to alight: the whited air
Hides hills and woods, the river and the
heaven,
And veils the farm-house at the garden's
end.
The sled and traveller stopped, the courier's
feet
Delayed, all friends shut out, the house-
mates sit
Around the radiant fireplace, enclosed
In a tumultuous privacy of Storm."
EMERSON, *The Snow Storm*.

THE sun that brief December day
Rose cheerless over hills of gray,
And, darkly circled, gave at noon
A sadder light than waning moon.
Slow tracing down the thickening sky
Its mute and ominous prophecy,
A portent seeming less than threat,
It sank from sight before it set.
A chill no coat, however stout,
Of homespun stuff could quite shut
out, 10
A hard, dull bitterness of cold,
That checked, mid-vein, the circling
race
Of life-blood in the sharpened face,
The coming of the snow-storm told.
The wind blew east; we heard the roar
Of Ocean on his wintry shore,
And felt the strong pulse throbbing
there
Beat with low rhythm our inland air.

Meanwhile we did our nightly chores,
Brought in the wood from out of
doors, 20
Littered the stalls, and from the mows
Raked down the herd's-grass for the
cows:
Heard the horse whinnying for his corn;
And, sharply clashing horn on horn,
Impatient down the stanchion rows
The cattle shake their walnut bows;
While, peering from his early perch
Upon the scaffold's pole of birch,
The cock his crested helmet bent
And down his querulous challenge
sent. 30

Unwarmed by any sunset light
The gray day darkened into night,
A night made hoary with the swarm
And whirl-dance of the blinding storm,
As zigzag, wavering to and fro,
Crossed and recrossed the winged
snow:
And ere the early bedtime came
The white drift piled the window-
frame,
And through the glass the clothes-line
posts 39
Looked in like tall and sheeted ghosts.

So all night long the storm roared on:
The morning broke without a sun;
In tiny spherule traced with lines
Of Nature's geometric signs,
In starry flake, and pellicle,
All day the hoary meteor fell;
And, when the second morning shone,
We looked upon a world unknown,
On nothing we could call our own.
Around the glistening wonder bent 50
The blue walls of the firmament,
No cloud above, no earth below, —
A universe of sky and snow!



“ A smooth white mound the brush-pile showed,
A fenceless drift what once was road ”

The old familiar sights of ours
Took marvellous shapes; strange
 domes and towers
Rose up where sty or corn-crib stood.
Or garden-wall, or belt of wood;
A smooth white mound the brush-pile
 showed,
A fenceless drift what once was
 road;
The bridle-post an old man sat 60
With loose-flung coat and high cocked
 hat;
The well-curb had a Chinese roof;
And even the long sweep, high aloof,
In its slant splendor, seemed to tell
Of Pisa's leaning miracle.

A prompt, decisive man, no breath
Our father wasted: “ Boys, a path ! ”
Well pleased (for when did farmer boy
Count such a summons less than joy ?)
Our buskins on our feet we drew; 70
With mittened hands, and caps drawn
 low,
To guard our necks and ears from snow,
We cut the solid whiteness through.
And, where the drift was deepest, made
A tunnel walled and overlaid
With dazzling crystal: we had read
Of rare Aladdin's wondrous cave,
And to our own his name we gave,
With many a wish the luck were ours
To test his lamp's supernal powers. 80



"The cock his lusty greeting said,
And forth his speckled harem led"

We reached the barn with merry din,
And roused the prisoned brutes
within.

The old horse thrust his long head out,
And grave with wonder gazed about;
The cock his lusty greeting said,
And forth his speckled harem led;
The oxen lashed their tails, and
hooked,

And mild reproach of hunger looked;
The horned patriarch of the sheep,
Like Egypt's Amun roused from
sleep, 90

Shook his sage head with gesture mute,
And emphasized with stamp of foot.

All day the gusty north-wind bore
The loosening drift its breath before;
Low circling round its southern zone,
The sun through dazzling snow-mist
shone.

No church-bell lent its Christian tone
To the savage air, no social smoke
Curled over woods of snow-hung oak.
A solitude made more intense 100
By dreary-voiced elements,

The shrieking of the mindless wind,
The moaning tree-boughs swaying
blind,

And on the glass the unmeaning beat
Of ghostly finger-tips of sleet.

Beyond the circle of our hearth
No welcome sound of toil or mirth
Unbound the spell, and testified
Of human life and thought outside.

We minded that the sharpest ear ¹¹⁰

The buried brooklet could not hear,

The music of whose liquid lip

Had been to us companionship,

And, in our lonely life, had grown

To have an almost human tone.

As night drew on, and, from the crest
Of wooded knolls that ridged the
west,

The sun, a snow-blown traveller, sank
From sight beneath the smothering
bank,

We piled, with care, our nightly
stack ¹²⁰

Of wood against the chimney-back, —

The oaken log, green, huge, and thick,

And on its top the stout back-stick;

The knotty forestick laid apart,

And filled between with curious art

The ragged brush; then, hovering near,

We watched the first red blaze appear,

Heard the sharp crackle, caught the
gleam

On whitewashed wall and sagging

beam,

Until the old, rude-furnished room ¹³⁰

Burst, flower-like, into rosy bloom;

While radiant with a mimic flame

Outside the sparkling drift became,

And through the bare-boughed lilac-
tree

Our own warm hearth seemed blazing

free.

The crane and pendent trammels

showed,

The Turks' heads on the andirons

glowed;

While childish fancy, prompt to tell

The meaning of the miracle,

Whispered the old rhyme: "*Under the*

tree,

When fire outdoors burns merrily,

There the witches are making tea."

The moon above the eastern wood

Shone at its full; the hill-range stood

Transfigured in the silver flood,

Its blown snows flashing cold and keen,
Dead white, save where some sharp
ravine

Took shadow, or the sombre green
Of hemlocks turned to pitchy black

Against the whiteness at their back. ¹⁵⁰

For such a world and such a night

Most fitting that unwarming light,

Which only seemed where'er it fell

To make the coldness visible.

Shut in from all the world without,

We sat the clean-winged hearth about,

Content to let the north-wind roar

In baffled rage at pane and door,

While the red logs before us beat

The frost-line back with tropic heat;

And ever, when a louder blast ¹⁶¹

Shook beam and rafter as it passed,

The merrier up its roaring draught

The great throat of the chimney

laughed;

The house-dog on his paws outspread

Laid to the fire his drowsy head,

The cat's dark silhouette on the wall

A couchant tiger's seemed to fall;

And, for the winter fireside meet,

Between the andirons' straddling feet,

The mug of cider simmered slow, ¹⁷¹

The apples sputtered in a row,

And, close at hand, the basket stood

With nuts from brown October's wood.

What matter how the night behaved?

What matter how the north-wind

raved?

Blow high, blow low, not all its snow

Could quench our hearth-fire's ruddy

glow.

O Time and Change! — with hair as

gray

As was my sire's that winter day, ¹⁸⁰

How strange it seems, with so much

gone

Of life and love, to still live on!

Ah, brother! only I and thou

Are left of all that circle now, —

The dear home faces whereupon

That fitful firelight paled and shone.

Henceforward, listen as we will,

The voices of that hearth are still;

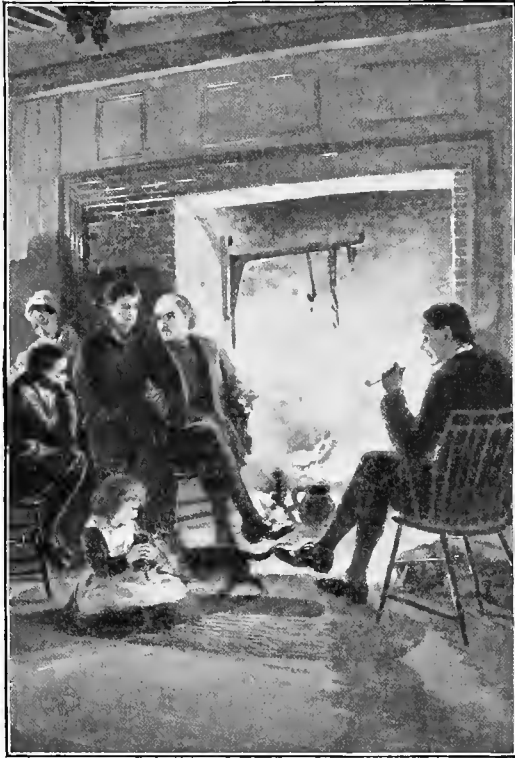
Look where we may, the wide earth

o'er,

Those lighted faces smile no more. ¹⁹⁰

We tread the paths their feet have

worn,



"We sped the time with stories old"

We sit beneath their orchard trees,
 We hear, like them, the hum of bees
 And rustle of the bladed corn;
 We turn the pages that they read,
 Their written words we linger o'er.
 But in the sun they cast no shade,
 No voice is heard, no sign is made,
 No step is on the conscious floor!
 Yet Love will dream, and Faith will
 trust ²⁰⁰
 (Since He who knows our need is just),
 That somehow, somewhere, meet we
 must.
 Alas for him who never sees
 The stars shine through his cypress-
 trees!

Who, hopeless, lays his dead away,
 Nor looks to see the breaking day
 Across the mournful marbles play!
 Who hath not learned, in hours of faith,
 The truth to flesh and sense un-
 known,
 That Life is ever lord of Death, ²¹⁰
 And Love can never lose its own!

We sped the time with stories old,
 Wrought puzzles out, and riddles told,
 Or stammered from our school-book
 lore
 "The Chief of Gambia's golden shore."
 How often since, when all the land
 Was clay in Slavery's shaping hand,

As if a far-blown trumpet stirred
The languorous sin-sick air, I heard:
"Does not the voice of reason cry, ²²⁰

*Claim the first right which Nature gave,
From the red scourge of bondage fly,
Nor deign to live a burdened slave!"*

Our father rode again his ride
On Memphremagog's wooded side;
Sat down again to moose and samp
In trapper's hut and Indian camp;
Lived o'er the old idyllic ease
Beneath St. François' hemlock-trees;
Again for him the moonlight shone ²³⁰
On Norman cap and bodiced zone;
Again he heard the violin play
Which led the village dance away,
And mingled in its merry whirl
The grandam and the laughing girl.
Or, nearer home, our steps he led
Where Salisbury's level marshes spread
Mile-wide as flies the laden bee;
Where merry mowers, hale and strong,
Swept, scythe on scythe, their swaths
along ²⁴⁰

The low green prairies of the sea.
We shared the fishing off Boar's Head,
And round the rocky Isles of Shoals
The hake-broil on the drift-wood
coals;

The chowder on the sand-beach made,
Dipped by the hungry, steaming hot,
With spoons of clam-shell from the pot.
We heard the tales of witchcraft old,
And dream and sign and marvel told
To sleepy listeners as they lay ²⁵⁰
Stretched idly on the salted hay,
Adrift along the winding shores,
When favoring breezes deigned to blow
The square sail of the gundelow
And idle lay the useless oars.

Our mother, while she turned her wheel
Or run the new-knit stocking-heel,
Told how the Indian hordes came
down

At midnight on Cocheo town,
And how her own great-uncle bore ²⁶⁰
His cruel scalp-mark to fourscore.
Recalling, in her fitting phrase,

So rich and picturesque and free
(The common unrhymed poetry
Of simple life and country ways),
The story of her early days, —
She made us welcome to her home;
Old hearths grew wide to give us
room; ²⁶⁸

We stole with her a frightened look
At the gray wizard's conjuring-book,
The fame whereof went far and wide
Through all the simple country side;
We heard the hawks at twilight
play,

The boat-horn on Piscataqua,
The loon's weird laughter far away;
We fished her little trout-brook, knew
What flowers in wood and meadow
grew,

What sunny hillsides autumn-brown
She climbed to shake the ripe nuts
down,

Saw where in sheltered cove and
bay ²⁸⁰

The ducks' black squadron anchored
lay,

And heard the wild-geese calling
loud

Beneath the gray November cloud.
Then, haply, with a look more grave,
And soberer tone, some tale she gave
From painful Sewel's ancient tome,
Beloved in every Quaker home,
Of faith fire-winged by martyrdom,
Or Chalkley's Journal, old and
quaint, —

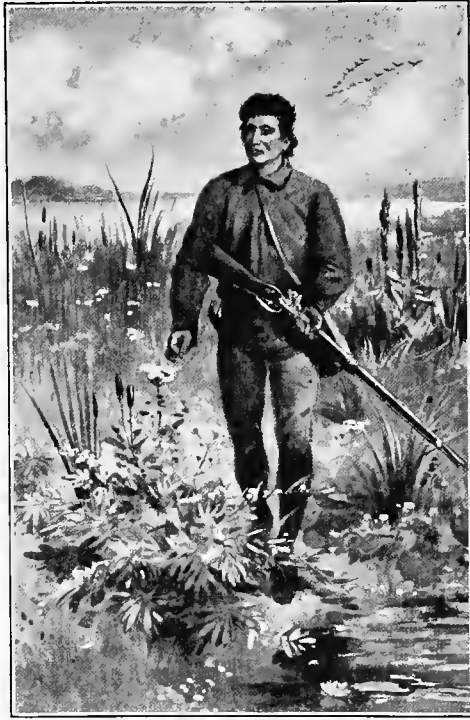
Gentlest of skippers, rare sea-saint! —
Who, when the dreary calms pre-
vailed, ²⁹¹

And water-butt and bread-cask failed,
And cruel, hungry eyes pursued
His portly presence, mad for food,
With dark hints muttered under breath
Of casting lots for life or death,
Offered, if Heaven withheld supplies,
To be himself the sacrifice.

Then, suddenly, as if to save
The good man from his living grave,
A ripple on the water grew, ³⁰¹
A school of porpoise flashed in view.
"Take, eat," he said, "and be content;
These fishes in my stead are sent
By Him who gave the tangled ram
To spare the child of Abraham."

Our uncle, innocent of books,
Was rich in lore of fields and brooks,
The ancient teachers never dumb
Of Nature's unhousted lyceum. ³¹⁰
In moons and tides and weather
wise,

He read the clouds as prophecies,
And foul or fair could well divine,
By many an occult hint and sign,



“He told how teal and loon he shot,
And how the eagle’s eggs he got”

Holding the cunning-warded keys
To all the woodcraft mysteries;
Himself to Nature’s heart so near
That all her voices in his ear
Of beast or bird had meanings clear,
Like Apollonius of old, ³²⁰
Who knew the tales the sparrows
told,
Or Hermes, who interpreted
What the sage cranes of Nilus said;
A simple, guileless, childlike man,
Content to live where life began;
Strong only on his native grounds,
The little world of sights and sounds
Whose girdle was the parish bounds,
Whereof his fondly partial pride
The common features magnified, ³³⁰

As Surrey hills to mountains grew
In White of Selborne’s loving view, —
He told how teal and loon he shot,
And how the eagle’s eggs he got,
The feats on pond and river done,
The prodigies of rod and gun;
Till, warming with the tales he told,
Forgotten was the outside cold,
The bitter wind unheeded blew,
From ripening corn the pigeons flew,
The partridge drummed i’ the wood,
the mink ³⁴¹
Went fishing down the river-brink.
In fields with bean or clover gay,
The woodchuck, like a hermit gray,
Peered from the doorway of his
cell;

The muskrat plied the mason's trade,
 And tier by tier his mud-walls laid;
 And from the shagbark overhead
 The grizzled squirrel dropped his
 shell.

Next, the dear aunt, whose smile of
 cheer 350
 And voice in dreams I see and hear, —
 The sweetest woman ever Fate
 Perverse denied a household mate,
 Who, lonely, homeless, not the less
 Found peace in love's unselfishness,
 And welcome wheresoe'er she went,
 A calm and gracious element,
 Whose presence seemed the sweet in-
 come

And womanly atmosphere of home, —
 Called up her girlhood memories, 360
 The huskings and the apple-bees,
 The sleigh-rides and the summer sails,
 Weaving through all the poor details
 And homespun warp of circumstance
 A golden woof-thread of romance.
 For well she kept her genial mood
 And simple faith of maidenhood;
 Before her still a cloud-land lay,
 The mirage loomed across her way;
 The morning dew, that dries so soon 370
 With others, glistened at her noon;
 Through years of toil and soil and care,
 From glossy tress to thin gray hair,
 All unprofaned she held apart
 The virgin fancies of the heart.
 Be shame to him of woman born
 Who hath for such but thought of
 scorn.

There, too, our elder sister plied
 Her evening task the stand beside;
 A full, rich nature, free to trust, 380
 Truthful and almost sternly just,
 Impulsive, earnest, prompt to act,
 And make her generous thought a fact,
 Keeping with many a light disguise
 The secret of self-sacrifice.
 O heart sore-tried! thou hast the best
 That Heaven itself could give thee, —
 rest,
 Rest from all bitter thoughts and
 things!
 How many a poor one's blessing
 went
 With thee beneath the low green
 tent 390
 Whose curtain never outward swings!

As one who held herself a part
 Of all she saw, and let her heart
 Against the household bosom lean,
 Upon the motley-braided mat
 Our youngest and our dearest sat,
 Lifting her large, sweet, asking eyes,
 Now bathed in the unfading green
 And holy peace of Paradise. 300
 Oh, looking from some heavenly hill,
 Or from the shade of saintly palms,
 Or silver reach of river calms,
 Do those large eyes behold me still?
 With me one little year ago: —
 The chill weight of the winter snow
 For months upon her grave has
 lain;

And now, when summer south-winds
 blow
 And brier and harebell bloom again,
 I tread the pleasant paths we trod,
 I see the violet-sprinkled sod 410
 Whereon she leaned, too frail and
 weak

The hillside flowers she loved to seek,
 Yet following me where'er I went
 With dark eyes full of love's content.
 The birds are glad; the brier-rose
 fills

The air with sweetness; all the hills
 Stretch green to June's unclouded sky;
 But still I wait with ear and eye
 For something gone which should be
 nigh,

A loss in all familiar things, 420
 In flower that blooms, and bird that
 sings.

And yet, dear heart! remembering
 thee,

Am I not richer than of old?
 Safe in thy immortality,
 What change can reach the wealth
 I hold?

What chance can mar the pearl and
 gold
 Thy love hath left in trust with me?
 And while in life's late afternoon,
 Where cool and long the shadows
 grow,

I walk to meet the night that soon 430
 Shall shape and shadow overflow,
 I cannot feel that thou art far,
 Since near at need the angels are;
 And when the sunset gates unbar,
 Shall I not see thee waiting stand,
 And, white against the evening star,
 The welcome of thy beckoning hand?

Brisk wielder of the birch and rule,
The master of the district school
Held at the fire his favored place, 440
Its warm glow lit a laughing face
Fresh-hued and fair, where scarce ap-
peared

The uncertain prophecy of beard.
He teased the mitten-blinded cat,
Played cross-pins on my uncle's hat,
Sang songs, and told us what befalls
In classic Dartmouth's college halls.
Born the wild Northern hills among,
From whence his yeoman father
wrung

By patient toil subsistence scant, 450
Not competence and yet not want,
He early gained the power to pay
His cheerful, self-reliant way;
Could doff at ease his scholar's gown
To peddle wares from town to town;
Or through the long vacation's reach
In lonely lowland districts teach,
Where all the droll experience found
At stranger hearths in boarding round,
The moonlit skater's keen delight, 460
The sleigh-drive through the frosty
night,

The rustic party, with its rough
Accompaniment of blind-man's-buff,
And whirling-plate, and forfeits paid,
His winter task a pastime made.
Happy the snow-locked homes wherein
He tuned his merry violin,
Or played the athlete in the barn,
Or held the good dame's winding-yarn,
Or mirth-provoking versions told 470
Of classic legends rare and old,
Wherein the scenes of Greece and
Rome

Had all the commonplace of home,
And little seemed at best the odds
"Twixt Yankee pedlers and old gods;
Where Pindus-born Arachthus took
The guise of any grist-mill brook,
And dread Olympus at his will
Became a huckleberry hill.

A careless boy that night he seemed;
But at his desk he had the look 481
And air of one who wisely schemed,
And hostage from the future took
In trained thought and lore of
book.

Large-brained, clear-eyed, of such as
he
Shall Freedom's young apostles be,

Who, following in War's bloody trail,
Shall every lingering wrong assail;
All chains from limb and spirit strike,
Uplift the black and white alike; 490
Scatter before their swift advance
The darkness and the ignorance,
The pride, the lust, the squalid sloth,
Which nurtured Treason's monstrous
growth,

Made murder pastime, and the hell
Of prison-torture possible;
The cruel lie of caste refute,
Old forms remould, and substitute
For Slavery's lash the freeman's will,
For blind routine, wise-handed skill;
A school-house plant on every hill, 501
Stretching in radiate nerve-lines
thence

The quick wires of intelligence;
Till North and South together brought
Shall own the same electric thought,
In peace a common flag salute,
And, side by side in labor's free
And unresentful rivalry,
Harvest the fields wherein they
fought.

Another guest that winter night 510
Flashed back from lustrous eyes the
light.

Unmarked by time, and yet not
young,

The honeyed music of her tongue
And words of meekness scarcely told
A nature passionate and bold,
Strong, self-concentred, spurning guide,
Its milder features dwarfed beside
Her unbent will's majestic pride.

She sat among us, at the best,
A not unfeared, half-welcome guest,
Rebuking with her cultured phrase 521
Our homeliness of words and ways.

A certain pard-like, treacherous grace
Swayed the lithe limbs and dropped
the lash,

Lent the white teeth their dazzling
flash;

And under low brows, black with
night,

Rayed out at times a dangerous light;
The sharp heat-lightnings of her face
Presaging ill to him whom Fate
Condemned to share her love or hate.
A woman tropical, intense 531
In thought and act, in soul and
sense,

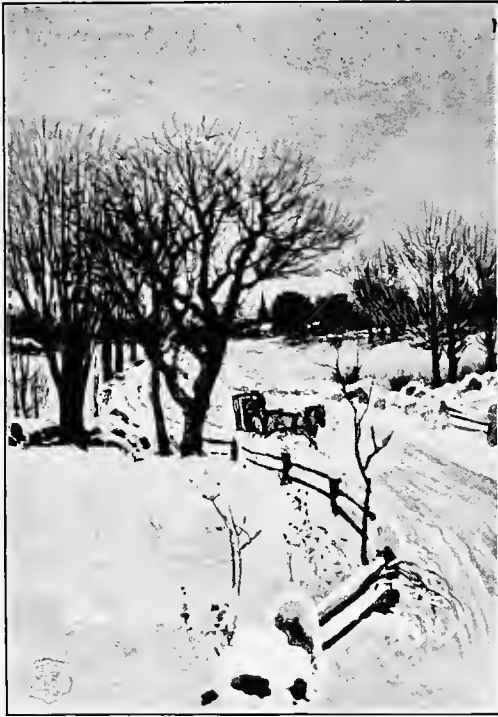
She blended in a like degree
 The vixen and the devotee,
 Revealing with each freak or feint
 The temper of Petruccio's Kate,
 The raptures of Siena's saint.
 Her tapering hand and rounded wrist
 Had facile power to form a fist; ⁵³⁹
 The warm, dark languish of her eyes
 Was never safe from wrath's surprise.
 Brows saintly calm and lips devout
 Knew every change of scowl and pout;
 And the sweet voice had notes more
 high
 And shrill for social battle-cry.

Since then what old cathedral town
 Has missed her pilgrim staff and gown,
 What convent-gate has held its lock
 Against the challenge of her knock!
 Through Smyrna's plague-hushed
 thoroughfares, ⁵⁵⁰
 Up sea-set Malta's rocky stairs,
 Gray olive slopes of hills that hem
 Thy tombs and shrines, Jerusalem,
 Or startling on her desert throne
 The crazy Queen of Lebanon
 With claims fantastic as her own,
 Her tireless feet have held their way;
 And still, unrestful, bowed, and gray,
 She watches under Eastern skies,
 With hope each day renewed and
 fresh, ⁵⁶⁰
 The Lord's quick coming in the
 flesh,
 Whereof she dreams and prophecies!

Where'er her troubled path may be,
 The Lord's sweet pity with her go!
 The outward wayward life we see,
 The hidden springs we may not
 know.
 Nor is it given us to discern
 What threads the fatal sisters spun,
 Through what ancestral years has
 run
 The sorrow with the woman born, ⁵⁷⁰
 What forged her cruel chain of moods,
 What set her feet in solitudes,
 And held the love within her mute,
 What mingled madness in the blood,
 A life-long discord and annoy,
 Water of tears with oil of joy,
 And hid within the folded bud
 Perversities of flower and fruit.
 It is not ours to separate
 The tangled skein of will and fate,

To show what metes and bounds
 should stand ⁵⁸¹
 Upon the soul's debatable land,
 And between choice and Providence
 Divide the circle of events;
 But He who knows our frame is just,
 Merciful and compassionate,
 And full of sweet assurances
 And hope for all the language is,
 That He remembereth we are dust!

At last the great logs, crumbling low,
 Sent out a dull and duller glow, ⁵⁹¹
 The bull's-eye watch that hung in
 view,
 Ticking its weary circuit through,
 Pointed with mutely warning sign
 Its black hand to the hour of nine.
 That sign the pleasant circle broke:
 My uncle ceased his pipe to smoke,
 Knocked from its bowl the refuse gray
 And laid it tenderly away;
 Then roused himself to safely cover ⁶⁰⁰
 The dull red brands with ashes over.
 And while, with care, our mother laid
 The work aside, her steps she stayed
 One moment, seeking to express
 Her grateful sense of happiness
 For food and shelter, warmth and
 health,
 And love's contentment more than
 wealth,
 With simple wishes (not the weak,
 Vain prayers which no fulfilment seek,
 But such as warm the generous heart,
 O'er-prompt to do with Heaven its
 part) ⁶¹¹
 That none might lack, that bitter
 night,
 For bread and clothing, warmth and
 light.
 Within our beds awhile we heard
 The wind that round the gables roared,
 With now and then a ruder shock,
 Which made our very bedsteads rock.
 We heard the loosened clapboards
 tost,
 The board-nails snapping in the frost;
 And on us, through the unplastered
 wall, ⁶²⁰
 Felt the light sifted snow-flakes fall.
 But sleep stole on, as sleep will do
 When hearts are light and life is new;
 Faint and more faint the murmurs
 grew,



“The wise old doctor went his round”

Till in the summer-land of dreams
They softened to the sound of streams,
Low stir of leaves, and dip of oars,
And lapsing waves on quiet shores.

Next morn we wakened with the
shout

Of merry voices high and clear; ⁶³⁰
And saw the teamsters drawing near
To break the drifted highways out.
Down the long hillside treading slow
We saw the half-buried oxen go,
Shaking the snow from heads uptost,
Their straining nostrils white with
frost.

Before our door the straggling train
Drew up, an added team to gain.
The elders threshed their hands a-cold,

Passed, with the cider-mug, their
jokes ⁶⁴⁰

From lip to lip; the younger folks
Down the loose snow-banks, wrestling
rolled,

Then toiled again the cavalcade
O'er windy hill, through clogged ra-
vine,

And woodland paths that wound
between
Low drooping pine-boughs winter-
weighed.

From every barn a team afoot,
At every house a new recruit,
Where, drawn by Nature's subtlest
law,

Haply the watchful young men
saw ⁶⁵⁰

Sweet doorway pictures of the curls
 And curious eyes of merry girls,
 Lifting their hands in mock defence
 Against the snow-ball's compliments,
 And reading in each missive tost
 The charm with Eden never lost.

We heard once more the sleigh-bells'
 sound;

And, following where the teamsters
 led,

The wise old Doctor went his round,
 Just pausing at our door to say, 660
 In the brief autocratic way
 Of one who, prompt at Duty's call
 Was free to urge her claim on all,

That some poor neighbor sick abed
 At night our mother's aid would need.
 For, one in generous thought and deed
 What mattered in the sufferer's sight

The Quaker matron's inward light,
 The Doctor's mail of Calvin's creed?
 All hearts confess the saints elect 670

Who, twain in faith, in love agree,
 And melt not in an acid sect

The Christian pearl of charity!

So days went on: a week had passed
 Since the great world was heard from
 last.

The Almanac we studied o'er,
 Read and reread our little store
 Of books and pamphlets, scarce a
 score;

One harmless novel, mostly hid
 From younger eyes, a book forbid, 680
 And poetry (or good or bad,
 A single book was all we had),
 Where Ellwood's meek, drab-skirted
 Muse,

A stranger to the heathen Nine,
 Sang, with a somewhat nasal whine,
 The wars of David and the Jews.

At last the floundering carrier bore
 The village paper to our door.

Lo! broadening outward as we read,
 To warmer zones the horizon spread;
 In panoramic length unrolled 691
 We saw the marvels that it told.

Before us passed the painted Creeks,
 And daft McGregor on his raids
 In Costa Rica's everglades.

And up Taygetos winding slow
 Rode Ypsilanti's Mainote Greeks,
 A Turk's head at each saddle-bow!
 Welcome to us its week-old news,

Its corner for the rustic Muse, 700

Its monthly gauge of snow and rain,
 Its record, mingling in a breath
 The wedding bell and dirge of death:
 Jest, anecdote, and love-lorn tale,
 The latest culprit sent to jail;
 Its hue and cry of stolen and lost,
 Its vendue sales and goods at cost,
 And traffic calling loud for gain.

We felt the stir of hall and street,
 The pulse of life that round us beat;
 The chill embargo of the snow 711
 Was melted in the genial glow;
 Wide swung again our ice-locked door,
 And all the world was ours once more!

Clasp, Angel of the backward look

And folded wings of ashen gray
 And voice of echoes far away,
 The brazen covers of thy book;
 The weird palimpsest old and vast,
 Wherein thou hid'st the spectral past;
 Where, closely mingling, pale and
 glow 721

The characters of joy and woe;
 The monographs of outlived years,
 Or smile-illumed or dim with tears,
 Green hills of life that slope to death,
 And haunts of home, whose vistaed
 trees

Shade off to mournful cypresses,
 With the white amaranths under-
 neath.

Even while I look, I can but heed
 The restless sands' incessant fall, 730
 Importunate hours that hours succeed
 Each clamorous with its own sharp
 need,

And duty keeping pace with all.
 Shut down and clasp the heavy lids;
 I hear again the voice that bids
 The dreamer leave his dream midway
 For larger hopes and graver fears:
 Life greatens in these later years,
 The century's aloe flowers to-day!

Yet, haply, in some lull of life, 740
 Some Truce of God which breaks its
 strife,

The worldling's eyes shall gather dew,
 Dreaming in throngful city ways
 Of winter joys his boyhood knew;
 And dear and early friends — the few
 Who yet remain — shall pause to view
 These Flemish pictures of old days;
 Sit with me by the homestead hearth

And stretch the hands of memory forth
To warm them at the wood-fire's
blaze! 750

And thanks untraced to lips unknown
Shall greet me like the odors blown
From unseen meadows newly mown,
Or lilies floating in some pond,
Wood-fringed, the wayside gaze be-
yond;

The traveller owns the grateful sense
Of sweetness near, he knows not
whence,

And, pausing, takes with forehead bare
The benediction of the air.

MY TRIUMPH

THE autumn-time has come;
On woods that dream of bloom,
And over purpling vines,
The low sun fainter shines.

The aster-flower is failing,
The hazel's gold is paling;
Yet overhead more near
The eternal stars appear!

And present gratitude
Insures the future's good, 10
And for the things I see
I trust the things to be;

That in the paths untrod,
And the long days of God,
My feet shall still be led,
My heart be comforted.

O living friends who love me!
O dear ones gone above me!
Careless of other fame,
I leave to you my name. 20

Hide it from idle praises,
Save it from evil phrases:
Why, when dear lips that spake it
Are dumb, should strangers wake it?

Let the thick curtain fall;
I better know than all
How little I have gained,
How vast the unattained.

Not by the page word-painted
Let life be banned or sainted: 30
Deeper than written scroll
The colors of the soul.

Sweeter than any sung
My songs that found no tongue;
Nobler than any fact
My wish that failed of act.

Others shall sing the song,
Others shall right the wrong, —
Finish what I begin,
And all I fail of win. 40

What matter, I or they?
Mine or another's day,
So the right word be said
And life the sweeter made?

Hail to the coming singers!
Hail to the brave light-bringers!
Forward I reach and share
All that they sing and dare.

The airs of heaven blow o'er me;
A glory shines before me 50
Of what mankind shall be, —
Pure, generous, brave, and free.

A dream of man and woman
Diviner but still human,
Solving the riddle old,
Shaping the Age of Gold!

The love of God and neighbor;
An equal-handed labor;
The richer life, where beauty
Walks hand in hand with duty. 60

Ring, bells in unrequited steeples,
The joy of unborn peoples!
Sound, trumpets far off blown,
Your triumph is my own!

Parcel and part of all,
I keep the festival,
Fore-reach the good to be,
And share the victory.

I feel the earth move sunward,
I join the great march onward, 70
And take, by faith, while living,
My freehold of thanksgiving.

IN SCHOOL-DAYS

STILL sits the school-house by the road,
A ragged beggar sleeping;
Around it still the sumachs grow,
And blackberry-vines are creeping.



" I 'm sorry that I spelt the word :
I hate to go arove you "

Within, the master's desk is seen,
Deep scarred by raps official;
The warping floor, the battered seats,
The jack-knife's carved initial;

The charcoal frescoes on its wall;
Its door's worn sill, betraying
The feet that, creeping slow to school,
Went storming out to playing!

Long years ago a winter sun
Shone over it at setting;
Lit up its western window-panes,
And low eaves' icy fretting.

It touched the tangled golden curls,
And brown eyes full of grieving,

Of one who still her steps delayed
When all the school were leav-
ing.

For near her stood the little boy
Her childish favor singled:
His cap pulled low upon a face
Where pride and shame were ming-
led.

Pushing with restless feet the snow
To right and left, he lingered;—
As restlessly her tiny hands
The blue-checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes; he felt
The soft hand's light caressing,

And heard the tremble of her voice,
As if a fault confessing.

"I'm sorry that I spelt the word:
I hate to go above you,
Because," — the brown eyes lower
fell, —
"Because, you see, I love you!"

Still memory to a gray-haired man
That sweet child-face is showing.
Dear girl! the grasses on her grave
Have forty years been growing!

He lives to learn, in life's hard school,
How few who pass above him
Lament their triumph and his loss,
Like her, — because they love him.

MY BIRTHDAY

BENEATH the moonlight and the snow
Lies dead my latest year;
The winter winds are wailing low
Its dirges in my ear.

I grieve not with the moaning wind
As if a loss befell;
Before me, even as behind,
God is, and all is well!

His light shines on me from above,
His low voice speaks within, — 10
The patience of immortal love
Outwearying mortal sin.

Not mindless of the growing years
Of care and loss and pain,
My eyes are wet with thankful tears
For blessings which remain.

If dim the gold of life has grown,
I will not count it dross,
Nor turn from treasures still my own
To sigh for lack and loss. 20

The years no charm from Nature take;
As sweet her voices call,
As beautiful her mornings break,
As fair her evenings fall.

Love watches o'er my quiet ways,
Kind voices speak my name,
And lips that find it hard to praise
Are slow, at least, to blame.

How softly ebb the tides of will!
How fields, once lost or won, 30
Now lie behind me green and still
Beneath a level sun!

How hushed the hiss of party hate,
The clamor of the throng!
How old, harsh voices of debate
Flow into rhythmic song!

Methinks the spirit's temper grows
Too soft in this still air;
Somewhat the restful heart foregoes
Of needed watch and prayer. 40

The bark by tempest vainly tossed
May founder in the calm,
And he who braved the polar frost
Faint by the isles of balm.

Better than self-indulgent years
The outflung heart of youth,
Than pleasant songs in idle ears
The tumult of the truth.

Rest for the weary hands is good,
And love for hearts that pine, 50
But let the manly habitude
Of upright souls be mine.

Let winds that blow from heaven re-
fresh,
Dear Lord, the languid air;
And let the weakness of the flesh
Thy strength of spirit share.

And, if the eye must fail of light,
The ear forget to hear,
Make clearer still the spirit's sight,
More fine the inward ear! 60

Be near me in mine hours of need
To soothe, or cheer, or warn,
And down these slopes of sunset lead
As up the hills of morn!

RED RIDING-HOOD

ON the wide lawn the snow lay deep,
Ridged o'er with many a drifted
heap;
The wind that through the pine-trees
sung
The naked elm-boughs tossed and
swung;

While, through the window, frosty-
starred,
Against the sunset purple barred,
We saw the sombre crow flap by,
The hawk's gray fleck along the sky,
The crested blue-jay fitting swift,
The squirrel poisoning on the drift, 10
Erect, alert, his broad gray tail
Set to the north wind like a sail.

It came to pass, our little lass,
With flattened face against the glass,
And eyes in which the tender dew
Of pity shone, stood gazing through
The narrow space her rosy lips
Had melted from the frost's eclipse:
"Oh, see," she cried, "the poor blue-
jays!
What is it that the black crow says? 20
The squirrel lifts his little legs
Because he has no hands, and begs;
He's asking for my nuts, I know:
May I not feed them on the snow?"

Half lost within her boots, her head
Warm-sheltered in her hood of red,
Her plaid skirt close about her drawn,
She floundered down the wintry lawn;
Now struggling through the misty veil
Blown round her by the shrieking
gale; 30
Now sinking in a drift so low
Her scarlet hood could scarcely show
Its dash of color on the snow.

She dropped for bird and beast for-
lorn
Her little store of nuts and corn,
And thus her timid guests bespoke:
"Come, squirrel, from your hollow
oak, —
Come, black old crow, — come, poor
blue-jay,
Before your supper's blown away!
Don't be afraid, we all are good; 40
And I'm mamma's Red Riding-
Hood!"

O Thou whose care is over all,
Who heedest even the sparrow's fall,
Keep in the little maiden's breast
The pity which is now its guest!
Let not her cultured years make less
The childhood charm of tenderness,
But let her feel as well as know,
Nor harder with her polish grow!

Unmoved by sentimental grief 50
That waits along some printed leaf,
But prompt with kindly word and
deed
To own the claims of all who need,
Let the grown woman's self make
good
The promise of Red Riding-Hood!

RESPONSE

1877

BESIDE that milestone where the level
sun,
Nigh unto setting, sheds his last,
low rays
On word and work irrevocably done,
Life's blending threads of good and ill
outspun,
I hear, O friends! your words of
cheer and praise,
Half doubtful if myself or otherwise.
Like him, who, in the old Arabian
joke,
A beggar slept and crown'd Caliph
woke.
Thanks not the less. With not unglad
surprise
I see my life-work through your par-
tial eyes;
Assured, in giving to my home-taught
songs
A higher value than of right belongs,
You do but read between the written
lines
The finer grace of unfulfilled designs.

AT EVENTIDE

Poor and inadequate the shadow-play
Of gain and loss, of waking and of
dream,
Against life's solemn background
needs must seem
At this late hour. Yet, not unthank-
fully,
I call to mind the fountains by the
way,
The breath of flowers, the bird-song on
the spray,
Dear friends, sweet human loves, the
joy of giving
And of receiving, the great boon of
living

In grand historic years when Liberty
 Had need of word and work, quick sympathies
 For all who fail and suffer, song's relief,
 Nature's unclinging loveliness; and chief,
 The kind restraining hand of Providence,
 The inward witness, the assuring sense
 Of an Eternal Good which overlies
 The sorrow of the world, Love which outlives
 All sin and wrong, Compassion which forgives
 To the uttermost, and Justice whose clear eyes
 Through lapse and failure look to the intent,
 And judge our frailty by the life we meant.

VOYAGE OF THE JETTIE

A SHALLOW stream, from fountains
 Deep in the Sandwich mountains,
 Ran lakeward Bearcamp River;
 And between its flood-torn shores,
 Sped by sail or urged by oars,
 No keel had vexed it ever.

Alone the dead trees yielding
 To the dull axe Time is wielding,
 The shy mink and the otter,
 And golden leaves and red, 10
 By countless autumns shed,
 Had floated down its water.

From the gray rocks of Cape Ann,
 Came a skilled seafaring man,
 With his dory, to the right place;
 Over hill and plain he brought her,
 Where the boatless Bearcamp water
 Comes winding down from White-Face.

Quoth the skipper: "Ere she floats
 forth,
 I'm sure my pretty boat's worth, 20
 At least, a name as pretty."
 On her painted side he wrote it,
 And the flag that o'er her floated
 Bore aloft the name of Jettie.

On a radiant morn of summer,
 Elder guest and latest comer
 Saw her wed the Bearcamp water;
 Heard the name the skipper gave her,
 And the answer to the favor
 From the Bay State's graceful daughter. 30

Then a singer, richly gifted,
 Her charmed voice uplifted;
 And the wood-thrush and song-sparrow
 Listened, dumb with envious pain,
 To the clear and sweet refrain
 Whose notes they could not borrow.

Then the skipper plied his oar,
 And from off the shelving shore,
 Glided out the strange explorer;
 Floating on, she knew not whither, —
 The tawny sands beneath her, 40
 The great hills watching o'er her.

On, where the stream flows quiet
 As the meadows' margin by it,
 Or widens out to borrow a
 New life from that wild water,
 The mountain giant's daughter,
 The pine-besung Chocorua.

Or, mid the tangling cumber
 And pack of mountain lumber 50
 That spring floods downward force,
 Over sunken snag, and bar
 Where the grating shallows are,
 The good boat held her course.

Under the pine-dark highlands,
 Around the vine-hung islands,
 She ploughed her crooked furrow;
 And her rippling and her lurches
 Scared the river eels and perches,
 And the musk-rat in his burrow. 60

Every sober clam below her,
 Every sage and grave pearl-grower,
 Shut his rusty valves the tighter;
 Crow called to crow complaining,
 And old tortoises sat craning
 Their leathern necks to sight her.

So, to where the still lake glasses
 The misty mountain masses
 Rising dim and distant northward,

And, with faint-drawn shadow pictures,
 Low shores, and dead pine spectres,
 Blends the skyward and the earthward,

On she glided, overladen,
 With merry man and maiden
 Sending back their song and laughter, —

While, perchance, a phantom crew,
 In a ghostly birch canoe,
 Paddled dumb and swiftly after!

And the bear on Ossipee
 Climbed the topmost crag to see
 The strange thing drifting under;
 And, through the haze of August,
 Passaconaway and Paugus
 Looked down in sleepy wonder.

All the pines that o'er her hung
 In mimic sea-tones sung
 The song familiar to her;
 And the maples leaned to screen her,
 And the meadow-grass seemed greener
 And the breeze more soft to woo
 her.

The lone stream mystery-haunted
 To her the freedom granted
 To scan its every feature,
 Till new and old were blended,
 And round them both extended
 The loving arms of Nature.

Of these hills the little vessel
 Henceforth is part and parcel;
 And on Bearcamp shall her log
 Be kept, as if by Georges
 Or Grand Menan the surges
 Tossed her skipper through the fog.

And I, who, half in sadness,
 Recall the morning gladness
 Of life, at evening time,
 By chance, onlooking idly,
 Apart from all so widely,
 Have set her voyage to rhyme

Dies now the gay persistence
 Of song and laugh, in distance;
 Alone with me remaining
 The stream, the quiet meadow,
 The hills in shine and shadow,
 The sombre pines complaining.

And, musing here, I dream
 Of voyagers on a stream
 From whence is no returning,
 Under sealed orders going,
 Looking forward little knowing,
 Looking back with idle yearning.

And I pray that every venture
 The port of peace may enter,
 That, safe from snag and fall
 And siren-haunted islet,
 And rock, the Unseen Pilot
 May guide us one and all.

MY TRUST

A PICTURE memory brings to me:
 I look across the years and see
 Myself beside my mother's knee.

I feel her gentle hand restrain
 My selfish moods, and know again
 A child's blind sense of wrong and pain.

But wiser now, a man gray grown,
 My childhood's needs are better known,
 My mother's chastening love I own.

Gray grown, but in our Father's sight
 A child still groping for the light
 To read His works and ways aright.

I wait, in His good time to see
 That as my mother dealt with me
 So with His children dealeth He.

I bow myself beneath His hand:
 That pain itself was wisely planned
 I feel, and partly understand.

The joy that comes in sorrow's guise,
 The sweet pains of self-sacrifice,
 I would not have them otherwise.

And what were life and death if sin
 Knew not the dread rebuke within,
 The pang of merciful discipline?

Not with thy proud despair of old,
 Crowned stoic of Rome's noblest
 mould!
 Pleasure and pain alike I hold.

I suffer with no vain pretence
 Of triumph over flesh and sense,
 Yet trust the grievous providence,



St. Malo

How dark soe'er it seems, may tend,
By ways I cannot comprehend,
To some unguessed benignant end;

That every loss and lapse may gain
The clear-aired heights by steps of
pain,
And never cross is borne in vain.

A NAME

TO G. W. P.

THE name the Gallic exile bore,
St. Malo! from thy ancient mart,
Became upon our Western shore
Greenleaf for Feuillevert.

A name to hear in soft accord
Of leaves by light winds overrun,
Or read, upon the greening sward
Of May, in shade and sun.

The name my infant ear first heard
Breathed softly with a mother's
kiss; ¹⁰
His mother's own, no tenderer word
My father spake than this.

No child have I to bear it on;
Be thou its keeper; let it take
From gifts well used and duty done
New beauty for thy sake.

The fair ideals that outran
My halting footsteps seek and find—
The flawless symmetry of man,
The poise of heart and mind. ²⁰

Stand firmly where I felt the sway
Of every wing that fancy flew,
See clearly where I groped my way,
Nor real from seeming knew.

And wisely choose, and bravely hold
Thy faith unswerved by cross or
crown,
Like the stout Huguenot of old
Whose name to thee comes down.

As Marot's songs made glad the
heart
Of that lone exile, haply mine ³⁰
May in life's heavy hours impart
Some strength and hope to thine.

Yet when did Age transfer to Youth
The hard-gained lessons of its day?
Each lip must learn the taste of
truth,
Each foot must feel its way.

We cannot hold the hands of choice
That touch or shun life's fateful
keys;
The whisper of the inward voice
Is more than homilies. ⁴⁰

Dear boy! for whom the flowers are
born,
Stars shine, and happy song-birds
sing,
What can my evening give to morn,
My winter to thy spring!

A life not void of pure intent,
With small desert of praise or blame,
The love I felt, the good I meant,
I leave thee with my name.

GREETING

I SPREAD a scanty board too late;
The old-time guests for whom I wait
Come few and slow, methinks, to-
day.

Ah! who could hear my messages
Across the dim unsounded seas
On which so many have sailed away!

Come, then, old friends, who linger
yet,
And let us meet, as we have met,
Once more beneath this low sun-
shine;
And grateful for the good we've
known,
The riddles solved, the ills outgrown,
Shake hands upon the border line.

The favor, asked too oft before,
From your indulgent ears, once more
I crave, and, if belated lays
To slower, feebler measures move,
The silent sympathy of love
To me is dearer now than praise.

And ye, O younger friends, for whom
My hearth and heart keep open room,
Come smiling through the shadows
long,
Be with me while the sun goes down,
And with your cheerful voices drown
The minor of my even-song.

For, equal through the day and night,
The wise Eternal oversight
And love and power and righteous
will
Remain: the law of destiny
The best for each and all must be,
And life its promise shall fulfil.

AN AUTOGRAPH

I WRITE my name as one,
On sands by waves o'errun
Or winter's frosted pane,
Traces a record vain.

Oblivion's blankness claims
Wiser and better names,
And well my own may pass
As from the strand or glass.

Wash on, O waves of time!
Melt, noons, the frosty rime! 10
Welcome the shadow vast,
The silence that shall last!

When I and all who know
And love me vanish so,
What harm to them or me
Will the lost memory be?

If any words of mine,
Through right of life divine,
Remain, what matters it
Whose hand the message writ? 20

Why should the "crown'er's quest"
Sit on my worst or best?
Why should the showman claim
The poor ghost of my name?

Yet, as when dies a sound
Its spectre lingers round,
Haply my spent life will
Leave some faint echo still.

A whisper giving breath
Of praise or blame to death, 30
Soothing or saddening such
As loved the living much.

Therefore with yearnings vain
And fond I still would fain
A kindly judgment seek,
A tender thought bespeak.

And, while my words are read,
Let this at least be said:
"Whate'er his life's defeatures,
He loved his fellow-creatures. 40

"If, of the Law's stone table,
To hold he scarce was able
The first great precept fast,
He kept for man the last.

"Through mortal lapse and dul-
ness
What lacks the Eternal Fulness,
If still our weakness can
Love Him in loving man?

"Age brought him no despairing
Of the world's future faring; 50
In human nature still
He found more good than ill.

"To all who dumbly suffered,
His tongue and pen he offered;
His life was not his own,
Nor lived for self alone.

"Hater of din and riot
He lived in days unquiet;
And, lover of all beauty,
Trode the hard ways of duty. 60

"He meant no wrong to any,
He sought the good of many,
Yet knew both sin and folly,—
May God forgive him wholly!"

ABRAM MORRISON

'Midst the men and things which will
Haunt an old man's memory still,
Drollest, quaintest of them all,
With a boy's laugh I recall
Good old Abram Morrison.

When the Grist and Rolling Mill
Ground and rumbled by Po Hill,
And the old red school-house stood
Midway in the Powow's flood,
Here dwelt Abram Morrison. 10

From the Beach to far beyond
Bear-Hill, Lion's Mouth and Pond,
Marvellous to our tough old stock,
Chips o' the Anglo-Saxon block,
Seemed the Celtic Morrison.

Mudknock, Balmawhistle, all
Only knew the Yankee drawl,
Never brogue was heard till when,
Foremost of his countrymen,
Hither came Friend Morrison; 20

Yankee born, of alien blood,
Kin of his had well withstood
Pope and King with pike and ball
Under Derry's leaguered wall,
As became the Morrisons.

Wandering down from Nutfield woods
With his household and his goods,

Never was it clearly told
How within our quiet fold
Came to be a Morrison. 30

Once a soldier, blame him not
That the Quaker he forgot,
When, to think of battles won,
And the red-coats on the run,
Laughed aloud Friend Morri-
son.

From gray Lewis over sea
Bore his sires their family tree,
On the rugged boughs of it
Grafting Irish mirth and wit,
And the brogue of Morrison. 40

Half a genius, quick to plan,
Blundering like an Irishman,
But with canny shrewdness lent
By his far-off Scotch descent,
Such was Abram Morrison.

Back and forth to daily meals,
Rode his cherished pig on wheels,
And to all who came to see,
"Aisier for the pig an' me,
Sure it is," said Morrison. 50

Simple-hearted, boy o'ergrown,
With a humor quite his own,
Of our sober-stepping ways,
Speech and look and cautious phrase,
Slow to learn was Morrison.

Much we loved his stories told
Of a country strange and old,
Where the fairies danced till dawn,
And the goblin Leprecaun
Looked, we thought, like Morri-
son. 60

Or wild tales of feud and fight,
Witch and troll and second sight
Whispered still where Stormoway
Looks across its stormy bay,
Once the home of Morrisons.

First was he to sing the praise
Of the Powow's winding ways;
And our straggling village took
City grandeur to the look
Of its poet Morrison. 70

All his words have perished. Shame
On the saddle-bags of Fame,

That they bring not to our time
One poor couplet of the rhyme
Made by Abram Morrison!

When, on calm and fair First Days,
Rattled down our one-horse chaise,
Through the blossomed apple-boughs
To the old brown meeting-house,
There was Abram Morrison. 80

Underneath his hat's broad brim
Peered the queer old face of him;
And with Irish jauntiness
Swung the coat-tails of the dress
Worn by Abram Morrison.

Still, in memory, on his feet,
Leaning o'er the elders' seat,
Mingling with a solemn drone,
Celtic accents all his own,
Rises Abram Morrison. 90

"Don't," he's pleading, "don't ye
go,
Dear young friends, to sight and
show;
Don't run after elephants,
Learned pigs and presidents
And the likes!" said Morrison.

On his well-worn theme intent,
Simple, child-like, innocent,
Heaven forgive the half-checked smile
Of our careless boyhood, while
Listening to Friend Morrison! 100

We have learned in latter days
Truth may speak in simplest phrase;
That the man is not the less
For quaint ways and home-spun dress,
Thanks to Abram Morrison!

Not to pander nor to please
Come the needed homilies,
With no lofty argument
Is the fitting message sent,
Through such lips as Morrison's.

Dead and gone! But while its track 111
Powow keeps to Merrimac,
While Po Hill is still on guard,
Looking land and ocean ward,
They shall tell of Morrison!

After half a century's lapse,
We are wiser now, perhaps,

But we miss our streets amid
 Something which the past has hid,
 Lost with Abram Morrison. 120

Gone forever with the queer
 Characters of that old year!
 Now the many are as one;
 Broken is the mould that run
 Men like Abram Morrison.

A LEGACY

FRIEND of my many years!
 When the great silence falls, at last, on
 me,
 Let me not leave, to pain and sadden
 thee,
 A memory of tears,

But pleasant thoughts alone
 Of one who was thy friendship's hon-
 ored guest

And drank the wine of consolation
 pressed
 From sorrows of thy own.

I leave with thee a sense
 Of hands upheld and trials rendered
 less —
 The unselfish joy which is to helpful-
 ness
 Its own great recompense;

The knowledge that from thine,
 As from the garments of the Master,
 stole
 Calmness and strength, the virtue
 which makes whole
 And heals without a sign;

Yea more, the assurance strong
 That love, which fails of perfect utter-
 ance here,
 Lives on to fill the heavenly atmo-
 sphere
 With its immortal song.



“ And what am I, o'er such a land
The banner of the Cross to bear ? ”

RELIGIOUS POEMS

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

WHERE Time the measure of his hours
By changeful bud and blossom
keeps,
And, like a young bride crowned with
flowers,
Fair Shiraz in her garden sleeps;
Where, to her poet's turban stone,
The Spring her gift of flowers im-
parts,

Less sweet than those his thoughts
have sown
In the warm soil of Persian hearts:

There sat the stranger, where the shade
Of scattered date-trees thinly lay, 10
While in the hot clear heaven delayed
The long and still and weary day.

Strange trees and fruits above him
hung,
Strange odors filled the sultry air,

Strange birds upon the branches swung,
Strange insect voices murmured
there.

And strange bright blossoms shone
around,

Turned sunward from the shadowy
bowers,
As if the Gheber's soul had found
A fitting home in Iran's flowers. 20

Whate'er he saw, whate'er he heard,
Awakened feelings new and sad, —
No Christian garb, nor Christian word,
Nor church with Sabbath-bell
chimes glad,

But Moslem graves, with turban
stones,
And mosque-spires gleaming white,
in view,
And graybeard Mollahs in low tones
Chanting their Koran service
through.

The flowers which smiled on either
hand,
Like tempting fiends, were such as
they 30
Which once, o'er all that Eastern land,
As gifts on demon altars lay.

As if the burning eye of Baal
The servant of his Conqueror knew,
From skies which knew no cloudy veil,
The Sun's hot glances smote him
through.

"Ah me!" the lonely stranger said,
"The hope which led my footsteps
on,
And light from heaven around them
shed,
O'er weary wave and waste, is gone!

"Where are the harvest fields all
white, 41
For Truth to thrust her sickle in?
Where flock the souls, like doves in
flight,
From the dark hiding-place of sin?"

"A silent horror broods o'er all, —
The burden of a hateful spell, —
The very flowers around recall
The hoary magi's rites of hell!

"And what am I, o'er such a land
The banner of the Cross to bear? 50
Dear Lord, uphold me with Thy hand,
Thy strength with human weakness
share!"

He ceased; for at his very feet
In mild rebuke a floweret smiled;
How thrilled his sinking heart to greet
The Star-flower of the Virgin's child!

Sown by some wandering Frank, it
drew
Its life from alien air and earth,
And told to Paynim sun and dew
The story of the Saviour's birth. 60

From scorching beams, in kindly mood,
The Persian plants its beauty
screened,
And on its pagan sisterhood,
In love, the Christian floweret
leaned.

With tears of joy the wanderer felt
The darkness of his long despair
Before that hallowed symbol melt,
Which God's dear love had nurtured
there.

From Nature's face, that simple flower
The lines of sin and sadness swept; 70
And Magian pile and Paynim bower
In peace like that of Eden slept.

Each Moslem tomb, and cypress old,
Looked holy through the sunset air;
And, angel-like, the Muezzin told
From tower and mosque the hour of
prayer.

With cheerful steps, the morrow's
dawn
From Shiraz saw the stranger part;
The Star-flower of the Virgin-Born 70
Still blooming in his hopeful heart!

THE CITIES OF THE PLAIN

"GET ye up from the wrath of God's
terrible day!
Ungirded, unsandalled, arise and
away!
'T is the vintage of blood, 't is the ful-
ness of time,

And vengeance shall gather the harvest of crime!"

The warning was spoken — the righteous had gone,
And the proud ones of Sodom were feasting alone;
All gay was the banquet — the revel was long,
With the pouring of wine and the breathing of song.

'T was an evening of beauty; the air was perfume,
The earth was all greenness, the trees were all bloom;
And softly the delicate viol was heard,
Like the murmur of love or the notes of a bird.

And beautiful maidens moved down in the dance,
With the magic of motion and sunshine of glance;
And white arms wreathed lightly, and tresses fell free
As the plumage of birds in some tropical tree.

Where the shrines of foul idols were lighted on high,
And wantonness tempted the lust of the eye;
Midst rites of obscenity, strange, loathsome, abhorred,
The blasphemer scoffed at the name of the Lord.

Hark! the growl of the thunder, — the quaking of earth!
Woe, woe to the worship, and woe to the mirth!
The black sky has opened; there's flame in the air;
The red arm of vengeance is lifted and bare!

Then the shriek of the dying rose wild where the song
And the low tone of love had been whispered along;
For the fierce flames went lightly o'er palace and bower,
Like the red tongues of demons, to blast and devour!

Down, down on the fallen the red ruin rained,
And the reveller sank with his wine-cup undrained;
The foot of the dancer, the music's loved thrill,
And the shout and the laughter grew suddenly still.

The last throb of anguish was fearfully given;
The last eye glared forth in its madness on Heaven!
The last groan of horror rose wildly and vain,
And death brooded over the pride of the Plain!

THE CALL OF THE CHRISTIAN

Nor always as the whirlwind's rush
On Horeb's mount of fear,
Nor always as the burning bush
To Midian's shepherd seer,
Nor as the awful voice which came
To Israel's prophet bards,
Nor as the tongues of cloven flame,
Nor gift of fearful words, —

Not always thus, with outward sign
Of fire or voice from Heaven, ¹⁰
The message of a truth divine,
The call of God is given!
Awaking in the human heart
Love for the true and right, —
Zeal for the Christian's better part,
Strength for the Christian's fight.

Nor unto manhood's heart alone
The holy influence steals:
Warm with a rapture not its own,
The heart of woman feels! ²⁰
As she who by Samaria's wall
The Saviour's errand sought, —
As those who with the fervent Paul
And meek Aquila wrought:

Or those meek ones whose martyrdom
Rome's gathered grandeur saw:
Or those who in their Alpine home
Braved the Crusader's war,
When the green Vaudois, trembling,
heard,
Through all its vales of death, ³⁰
The martyr's song of triumph poured
From woman's failing breath.



"A sacrifice for guilt is given!"

And gently, by a thousand things
 Which o'er our spirits pass,
 Like breezes o'er the harp's fine strings,
 Or vapors o'er a glass,
 Leaving their token strange and new
 Of music or of shade,
 The summons to the right and true
 And merciful is made. 40

Oh, then, if gleams of truth and light
 Flash o'er thy waiting mind,
 Unfolding to thy mental sight
 The wants of human-kind;
 If, brooding over human grief,
 The earnest wish is known
 To soothe and gladden with relief
 An anguish not thine own;

Though heralded with naught of
 fear,
 Or outward sign or show; 50
 Though only to the inward ear
 It whispers soft and low;
 Though dropping, as the manna fell,
 Unseen, yet from above,
 Noiseless as dew-fall, heed it well, —
 Thy Father's call of love!

THE CRUCIFIXION

SUNLIGHT upon Judæa's hills!
 And on the waves of Galilee;
 On Jordan's stream, and on the rills
 That feed the dead and sleeping sea!

Most freshly from the green wood
springs

The light breeze on its scented wings;
And gayly quiver in the sun
The cedar tops of Lebanon!

A few more hours, — a change hath
come!

The sky is dark without a cloud! 10
The shouts of wrath and joy are dumb,
And proud knees unto earth are
bowed.

A change is on the hill of Death,
The helméd watchers pant for breath,
And turn with wild and maniac eyes
From the dark scene of sacrifice!

That Sacrifice! — the death of Him, —
The Christ of God, the holy One!
Well may the conscious Heaven grow
dim,

And blacken the beholding Sun. 20
The wonted light hath fled away
Night settles on the middle day,
And earthquake from his caverned
bed
Is waking with a thrill of dread!

The dead are waking underneath!
Their prison door is rent away!
And, ghastly with the seal of death
They wander in the eye of day!
The temple of the Cherubim,
The House of God is cold and dim; 30
A curse is on its trembling walls,
Its mighty veil asunder falls!

Well may the cavern-depths of Earth
Be shaken, and her mountains nod;
Well may the sheeted dead come
forth

To see the suffering son of God!
Well may the temple-shrine grow
dim,

And shadows veil the Cherubim,
When He, the chosen one of Heaven,
A sacrifice for guilt is given! 40

And shall the sinful heart, alone,
Behold unmoved the fearful hour,
When Nature trembled on her throne,
And Death resigned his iron power?
Oh, shall the heart — whose sinfulness
Gave keenness to His sore distress,
And added to His tears of blood —
Refuse its trembling gratitude?

PALESTINE

BLEST land of Judæa! thrice hallowed
of song,
Where the holiest of memories pil-
grim-like throng;
In the shade of thy palms, by the
shores of thy sea,
On the hills of thy beauty, my heart is
with thee.

With the eye of a spirit I look on that
shore
Where pilgrim and prophet have lin-
gered before;
With the glide of a spirit I traverse the
sod
Made bright by the steps of the angels
of God.

Blue sea of the hills! in my spirit I
hear
Thy waters, Gennesaret, chime on my
ear; 10
Where the Lowly and Just with the
people sat down,
And thy spray on the dust of His sand-
dals was thrown.

Beyond are Bethulia's mountains of
green,
And the desolate hills of the wild
Gadarene;
And I pause on the goat-crag of Tabo
to see
The gleam of thy waters, O dark Gali-
lee!

Hark, a sound in the valley! where,
swollen and strong,
Thy river, O Kishon, is sweeping
along;
Where the Canaanite strove with Je-
hovah in vain,
And thy torrent grew dark with the
blood of the slain. 20

There down from his mountains stern
Zebulon came,
And Naphthali's stag, with his eye-
balls of flame,
And the chariots of Jabin rolled harm-
lessly on,
For the arm of the Lord was Abino-
am's son!



Palestine

There sleep the still rocks and the
 caverns which rang
 To the song which the beautiful
 prophetess sang,
 When the princes of Issachar stood by
 her side,
 And the shout of a host in its triumph
 replied.

Lo, Bethlehem's hill-site before me is
 seen,
 With the mountains around, and the
 valleys between; ³⁰
 There rested the shepherds of Judah,
 and there
 The song of the angels rose sweet on
 the air.

And Bethany's palm-trees in beauty
 still throw
 Their shadows at noon on the ruins
 below;
 But where are the sisters who has-
 tened to greet
 The lowly Redeemer, and sit at His
 feet?

I tread where the twelve in their way-
 faring trod;
 I stand where they stood with the
 chosen of God —
 Where His blessing was heard and His
 lessons were taught,
 Where the blind were restored and the
 healing was wrought. ⁴⁰

Oh, here with His flock the sad Wan-
 derer came;
 These hills He toiled over in grief are
 the same;
 The founts where He drank by the
 wayside still flow,
 And the same airs are blowing which
 breathed on His brow!

And throned on her hills sits Jerusa-
 lem yet,
 But with dust on her forehead, and
 chains on her feet;
 For the crown of her pride to the
 mocker hath gone,
 And the holy Shechinah is dark where
 it shone.

But wherefore this dream of the
earthly abode
Of Humanity clothed in the brightness
of God? ⁵⁰

Were my spirit but turned from the
outward and dim,
It could gaze, even now, on the pre-
sence of Him!

Not in clouds and in terrors, but gen-
tle as when,

In love and in meekness, He moved
among men;

And the voice which breathed peace to
the waves of the sea

In the hush of my spirit would whisper
to me!

And what if my feet may not tread
where He stood,

Nor my ears hear the dashing of Gal-
ilee's flood,

Nor my eyes see the cross which He
bowed Him to bear,

Nor my knees press Gethsemane's
garden of prayer. ⁶⁰

Yet, Loved of the Father, Thy Spirit
is near

To the meek, and the lowly, and peni-
tent here;

And the voice of Thy love is the
same even now

As at Bethany's tomb or on Olivet's brow.

Oh, the outward hath gone! but in
glory and power,

The spirit surviveth the things of an
hour;

Unchanged, undecaying, its Pentecost
flame

On the heart's secret altar is burning
the same!

HYMNS

FROM THE FRENCH OF LAMARTINE

I

"Encore un hymne, O ma lyre!
Un hymne pour le Seigneur,
Un hymne dans mon délire,
Un hymne dans mon bonheur."

ONE hymn more, O my lyre!
Praise to the God above,
Of joy and life and love,
Sweeping its strings of fire!

Oh, who the speed of bird and wind
And sunbeam's glance will lend to
me,

That, soaring upward, I may find
My resting-place and home in Thee?

Thou, whom my soul, midst doubt and
gloom,

Adoreth with a fervent flame, — ¹⁰
Mysterious spirit! unto whom

Pertains nor sign nor name!

Swiftly my lyre's soft murmurs go
Up from the cold and joyless earth,

Back to the God who bade them flow,
Whose moving spirit sent them

forth.

But as for me, O God! for me,
The lowly creature of Thy will,

Lingering and sad, I sigh to Thee,
An earth-bound pilgrim still! ²⁰

Was not my spirit born to shine
Where yonder stars and suns are

glowing?

To breathe with them the light divine
From God's own holy altar flow-

ing?

To be, indeed, whate'er the soul
In dreams hath thirsted for so

long, —
A portion of heaven's glorious whole
Of loveliness and song?

Oh, watchers of the stars at night,
Who breathe their fire, as we the

air, — ³⁰
Suns, thunders, stars, and rays of
light,

Oh, say, is He, the Eternal, there?
Bend there around His awful throne

The seraph's glance, the angel's
knee?

Or are thy inmost depths His own,
O wild and mighty sea?

Thoughts of my soul, how swift ye
go!

Swift as the eagle's glance of fire,
Or arrows from the archer's bow,

To the far aim of your desire! ⁴⁰
Thought after thought, ye thronging

rise,
Like spring-doves from the startled

wood,
Bearing like them your sacrifice

Of music unto God!

And shall these thoughts of joy and
love

Come back again no more to me?
Returning like the patriarch's dove
Wing-weary from the eternal sea,
To bear within my longing arms
The promise-bough of kindlier
skies, 50
Plucked from the green, immortal
palms
Which shadow Paradise?

All-moving spirit! freely forth
At Thy command the strong wind
goes:
Its errand to the passive earth,
Nor art can stay, nor strength op-
pose,
Until it folds its weary wing
Once more within the hand divine;
So, weary from its wandering,
My spirit turns to Thine! 60

Child of the sea, the mountain stream,
From its dark caverns, hurries on,
Ceaseless, by night and morning's
beam,
By evening's star and noontide's
sun,
Until at last it sinks to rest,
O'erwearied, in the waiting sea,
And moans upon its mother's breast,—
So turns my soul to Thee!

O Thou who bidst the torrent flow,
Who lendest wings unto the
wind, — 70
Mover of all things! where art Thou?
Oh, whither shall I go to find
The secret of Thy resting-place?
Is there no holy wing for me,
That, soaring, I may search the space
Of highest heaven for Thee?

Oh, would I were as free to rise
As leaves on autumn's whirlwind
borne, —
The arrowy light of sunset skies,
Or sound, or ray, or star of morn,
Which melts in heaven at twilight's
close, 81
Or aught which soars unchecked
and free
Through earth and heaven; that I
might lose
Myself in finding Thee!

II

LE CRI DE L'ÂME

“Quand le souffle divin qui flotte sur le
monde.”

When the breath divine is flowing,
Zephyr-like o'er all things going,
And, as the touch of viewless fingers,
Softly on my soul it lingers,
Open to a breath the lightest,
Conscious of a touch the slightest, —
As some calm, still lake, whereon
Sinks the snowy-bosomed swan,
And the glistening water-rings
Circle round her moving wings: 10
When my upward gaze is turning
Where the stars of heaven are burning

Through the deep and dark abyss, —
Flowers of midnight's wilderness,
Blowing with the evening's breath
Sweetly in their Maker's path:
When the breaking day is flushing
All the east, and light is gushing
Upward through the horizon's haze,
Sheaf-like, with its thousand rays, 20
Spreading, until all above
Overflows with joy and love,
And below, on earth's green bosom,
All is changed to light and blossom:

When my waking fancies over
Forms of brightness fit and hover
Holy as the seraphs are,
Who by Zion's fountains wear
On their foreheads, white and broad,
“Holiness unto the Lord!” 30
When, inspired with rapture high,
It would seem a single sigh
Could a world of love create;
That my life could know no date,
And my eager thoughts could fill
Heaven and Earth, o'erflowing still!

Then, O Father! Thou alone,
From the shadow of Thy throne,
To the sighing of my breast
And its rapture answerest. 40
All my thoughts, which, upward
winging,
Bathe where Thy own light is spring-
ing, —
All my yearnings to be free
Are as echoes answering Thee!

Seldom upon lips of mine,
 Father! rests that name of Thine;
 Deep within my inmost breast,
 In the secret place of mind,
 Like an awful presence shrined,
 Doth the dread idea rest! 50
 Hushed and holy dwells it there,
 Prompter of the silent prayer,
 Lifting up my spirit's eye,
 And its faint, but earnest cry,
 From its dark and cold abode,
 Unto Thee, my Guide and God!

THE FAMILIST'S HYMN

FATHER! to Thy suffering poor
 Strength and grace and faith im-
 part,
 And with Thy own love restore
 Comfort to the broken heart!
 Oh, the failing ones confirm
 With a holier strength of zeal!
 Give Thou not the feeble worm
 Helpless to the spoiler's heel!

Father! for Thy holy sake
 We are spoiled and hunted thus; 10
 Joyful, for Thy truth we take
 Bonds and burthens unto us:
 Poor, and weak, and robbed of all,
 Weary with our daily task,
 That Thy truth may never fall
 Through our weakness, Lord, we
 ask.

Round our fired and wasted homes
 Flits the forest-bird unscared,
 And at noon the wild beast comes
 Where our frugal meal was shared;
 For the song of praises there 21
 Shrieks the crow the livelong day;
 For the sound of evening prayer
 Howls the evil beast of prey.

Sweet the songs we loved to sing
 Underneath Thy holy sky;
 Words and tones that used to bring
 Tears of joy in every eye;
 Dear the wrestling hours of prayer,
 When we gathered knee to knee, 30
 Blameless youth and hoary hair,
 Bowed, O God, alone to Thee.

As Thine early children, Lord,
 Shared their wealth and daily bread,

Even so, with one accord,
 We, in love, each other fed.
 Not with us the miser's hoard,
 Not with us his grasping hand;
 Equal round a common board,
 Drew our meek and brother band! 40

Safe our quiet Eden lay
 When the war-whoop stirred the
 land
 And the Indian turned away
 From our home his bloody hand.
 Well that forest-ranger saw,
 That the burthen and the curse
 Of the white man's cruel law
 Rested also upon us.

Torn apart, and driven forth
 To our toiling hard and long, 50
 Father! from the dust of earth
 Lift we still our grateful song!
 Grateful, that in bonds we share
 In Thy love which maketh free;
 Joyful, that the wrongs we bear,
 Draw us nearer, Lord, to Thee!

Grateful! that where'er we toil, —
 By Wachuset's wooded side,
 On Nantucket's sea-worn isle,
 Or by wild Neponset's tide, — 60
 Still, in spirit, we are near,
 And our evening hymns, which rise
 Separate and discordant here,
 Meet and mingle in the skies!

Let the scoffer scorn and mock,
 Let the proud and evil priest
 Rob the needy of his flock,
 For his wine-cup and his feast, —
 Redden not Thy bolts in store
 Through the blackness of Thy
 skies! 70
 For the sighing of the poor
 Wilt Thou not, at length, arise?

Worn and wasted, oh! how long
 Shall thy trodden poor complain?
 In Thy name they bear the wrong,
 In Thy cause the bonds of pain!
 Melt oppression's heart of steel,
 Let the haughty priesthood see,
 And their blinded followers feel,
 That in us they mollow at Thee! 80

In Thy time, O Lord of hosts,
 Stretch abroad that hand to save



“ Who trembled at my warning word?
Who owned the prophet of the Lord ? ”

Which of old, on Egypt's coasts,
Smote apart the Red Sea's
waves!

Lead us from this evil land,
From the spoiler set us free,
And once more our gathered band,
Heart to heart, shall worship
Thee!

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel xxxiii. 30-33.

THEY hear Thee not, O God! nor
see;
Beneath Thy rod they mock at Thee;
The princes of our ancient line
Lie drunken with Assyrian wine;

The priests around Thy altar speak
The false words which their hearers
seek;

And hymns which Chaldea's wanton
maids

Have sung in Dura's idol-shades
Are with the Levites' chant ascending,
With Zion's holiest anthems blending!

On Israel's bleeding bosom set, 11
The heathen heel is crushing yet;
The towers upon our holy hill
Echo Chaldean footsteps still.
Our wasted shrines, — who weeps for
them?

Who mourneth for Jerusalem?
Who turneth from his gains away?
Whose knee with mine is bowed to
pray?

Who, leaving feast and purpling
cup,
Takes Zion's lamentation up? 20

A sad and thoughtful youth, I went
With Israel's early banishment;
And where the sullen Chebar crept,
The ritual of my fathers kept.
The water for the trench I drew,
The firstling of the flock I slew,
And, standing at the altar's side,
I shared the Levites' lingering pride,
That still, amidst her mocking foes,
The smoke of Zion's offering rose. 30

In sudden whirlwind, cloud and flame,
The Spirit of the Highest came!
Before mine eyes a vision passed,
A glory terrible and vast;
With dreadful eyes of living things,
And sounding sweep of angel wings,
With circling light and sapphire
throne,

And flame-like form of One thereon,
And voice of that dread Likeness
sent
Down from the crystal firmament! 40

The burden of a prophet's power
Fell on me in that fearful hour;
From off unutterable woes
The curtain of the future rose;
I saw far down the coming time
The fiery chastisement of crime;
With noise of mingling hosts, and
jar
Of falling towers and shouts of war,

I saw the nations rise and fall,
Like fire-gleams on my tent's white
wall. 50

In dream and trance, I saw the slain
Of Egypt heaped like harvest grain.
I saw the walls of sea-born Tyre
Swept over by the spoiler's fire;
And heard the low, expiring moan
Of Edom on his rocky throne;
And, woe is me! the wild lament
From Zion's desolation sent;
And felt within my heart each blow
Which laid her holy places low. 60

In bonds and sorrow, day by day,
Before the pictured tile I lay;
And there, as in a mirror, saw
The coming of Assyria's war;
Her swarthy lines of spearmen pass
Like locusts through Bethhoron's
grass;

I saw them draw their stormy hem
Of battle round Jerusalem; 68
And, listening, heard the Hebrew wail
Blend with the victor-trump of Baal!

Who trembled at my warning word?
Who owned the prophet of the Lord?
How mocked the rude, how scoffed
the vile,

How stung the Levites' scornful smile,
As o'er my spirit, dark and slow,
The shadow crept of Israel's woe
As if the angel's mournful roll
Had left its record on my soul,
And traced in lines of darkness there
The picture of its great despair! 80

Yet ever at the hour I feel
My lips in prophecy unseal.
Prince, priest, and Levite gather near,
And Salem's daughters haste to hear,
On Chebar's waste and alien shore,
The harp of Judah swept once more.
They listen, as in Babel's throng
The Chaldeans to the dancer's song,
Or wild sabbeka's nightly play,
As careless and as vain as they. 90

And thus, O Prophet-bard of old,
Hast thou thy tale of sorrow told!
The same which earth's unwelcome
seers
Have felt in all succeeding years.

Sport of the changeful multitude,
Nor calmly heard nor understood,
Their song has seemed a trick of art,
Their warnings but the actor's part.
With bonds, and scorn, and evil will,
The world requites its prophets still.

So was it when the Holy One 101
The garments of the flesh put on!
Men followed where the Highest led
For common gifts of daily bread,
And gross of ear, of vision dim,
Owned not the Godlike power of Him.
Vain as a dreamer's words to them
His wail above Jerusalem,
And meaningless the watch He kept
Through which His weak disciples
slept. 110

Yet shrink not thou, who'er thou art,
For God's great purpose set apart,
Before whose far-discerning eyes,
The Future as the Present lies!
Beyond a narrow-bounded age
Stretches thy prophet-heritage,
Through Heaven's vast spaces angel-
trod,
And through the eternal years of God!
Thy audience, worlds! — all things to
be
The witness of the Truth in thee! 120

WHAT THE VOICE SAID

MADDENED by Earth's wrong and evil,
"Lord!" I cried in sudden ire,
"From Thy right hand, clothed with
thunder,
Shake the bolted fire!

"Love is lost, and Faith is dying;
With the brute the man is sold;
And the dropping blood of labor
Hardens into gold.

"Here the dying wail of Famine,
There the battle's groan of pain; 10
And, in silence, smooth-faced Mam-
mon
Reaping men like grain.

"Where is God, that we should fear
Him?
Thus the earth-born Titans say;
'God! if Thou art living, hear us!'
Thus the weak ones pray."

"Thou, the patient Heaven upbraid-
ing,"
Spake a solemn Voice within;
"Weary of our Lord's forbearance,
Art thou free from sin? 20

"Fearless brow to Him uplifting,
Canst thou for His thunders call,
Knowing that to guilt's attraction
Evermore they fall?

"Know'st thou not all germs of evil
In thy heart await their time?
Not thyself, but God's restraining,
Stays their growth of crime.

"Couldst thou boast, O child of weak-
ness!
O'er the sons of wrong and strife, 30
Were their strong temptations planted
In thy path of life?

"Thou hast seen two streamlets gush-
ing
From one fountain, clear and free,
But by widely varying channels
Searching for the sea.

"Glideth one through greenest val-
leys,
Kissing them with lips still sweet;
One, mad roaring down the moun-
tains,
Stagnates at their feet. 40

"Is it choice whereby the Parsee
Kneels before his mother's fire?
In his black tent did the Tartar
Choose his wandering sire?

"He alone, whose hand is bounding
Human power and human will,
Looking through each soul's surround-
ing,
Knows its good or ill.

"For thyself, while wrong and sorrow
Make to thee their strong appeal, 50
Coward wert thou not to utter
What the heart must feel.

"Earnest words must needs be spoken
When the warm heart bleeds or
burns
With its scorn of wrong, or pity
For the wronged, by turns.

"But, by all thy nature's weakness,
Hidden faults and follies known,
Be thou, in rebuking evil,
Conscious of thine own. 60

"Not the less shall stern-eyed Duty
To thy lips her trumpet set,
But with harsher blasts shall mingle
Wailings of regret."

Cease not, Voice of holy speaking,
Teacher sent of God, be near,
Whispering through the day's cool
silence,
Let my spirit hear!

So, when thoughts of evil-doers
Waken scorn, or hatred move, 70
Shall a mournful fellow-feeling
Temper all with love.

THE ANGEL OF PATIENCE

A FREE PARAPHRASE OF THE GERMAN

To weary hearts, to mourning homes,
God's meekest Angel gently comes:
No power has he to banish pain,
Or give us back our lost again;
And yet in tenderest love, our dear
And Heavenly Father sends him here.

There's quiet in that Angel's glance,
There's rest in his still countenance!
He mocks no grief with idle cheer,
Nor wounds with words the mourner's
ear;
But ills and woes he may not cure
He kindly trains us to endure.

Angel of Patience! sent to calm
Our feverish brows with cooling
palm;
To lay the storms of hope and fear,
And reconcile life's smile and tear;
The throbs of wounded pride to still,
And make our own our Father's will!

O thou who mournest on thy way,
With longings for the close of day;
He walks with thee, that Angel kind,
And gently whispers, "Be resigned:
Bear up, bear on, the end shall tell
The dear Lord ordereth all things
well!"

THE WIFE OF MANOAH TO HER HUSBAND

AGAINST the sunset's glowing wall
The city towers rise black and tall,
Where Zorah, on its rocky height,
Stands like an armed man in the light.

Down Eshtaol's vales of ripened grain
Falls like a cloud the night amain,
And up the hillsides climbing slow
The barley reapers homeward go.

Look, dearest! how our fair child's
head
The sunset light hath hallow'd, 10
Where at this olive's foot he lies,
Uplinking to the tranquil skies.

Oh, while beneath the fervent heat
Thy sickle swept the bearded wheat,
I've watched, with mingled joy and
dread,
Our child upon his grassy bed.

Joy, which the mother feels alone
Whose morning hope like mine had
flown,
When to her bosom, over-blessed,
A dearer life than hers is pressed. 20

Dread, for the future dark and still,
Which shapes our dear one to its will;
Forever in his large calm eyes,
I read a tale of sacrifice.

The same foreboding awe I felt
When at the altar's side we knelt,
And he, who as a pilgrim came,
Rose, winged and glorious, through
the flame.

I slept not, though the wild bees made
A dreamlike murmuring in the shade,
And on me the warm-fingered hours 31
Pressed with the drowsy smell of flow-
ers.

Before me, in a vision, rose
The hosts of Israel's scornful foes, —
Rank over rank, helm, shield, and
spear,
Glittered in noon's hot atmosphere.

I heard their boast and bitter word,
Their mockery of the Hebrew's Lord;

I saw their hands His ark assail,
Their feet profane His holy veil. 40

No angel down the blue space spoke,
No thunder from the still sky broke;
But in their midst, in power and awe,
Like God's waked wrath, our child I
saw!

A child no more! — harsh-browed and
strong,
He towered a giant in the throng,
And down his shoulders, broad and
bare,
Swept the black terror of his hair.

He raised his arm — he smote again;
As round the reaper falls the grain, 50
So the dark host around him fell,
So sank the foes of Israel!

Again I looked. In sunlight shone
The towers and domes of Askelon;
Priest, warrior, slave, a mighty crowd
Within her idol temple bowed.

Yet one knelt not; stark, gaunt, and
blind,
His arms the massive pillars twined,—
An eyeless captive, strong with hate,
He stood there like an evil Fate. 60

The red shrines smoked, — the trum-
pets pealed:
He stooped, — the giant columns
reeled;
Reeled tower and fane, sank arch and
wall,
And the thick dust-cloud closed o'er
all!

Above the shriek, the crash, the groan
Of the fallen pride of Askelon,
I heard, sheer down the echoing sky,
A voice as of an angel cry, —

The voice of him, who at our side
Sat through the golden eventide; 70
Of him who, on thy altar's blaze,
Rose fire-winged, with his song of
praise.

"Rejoice o'er Israel's broken chain,
Gray mother of the mighty slain!
Rejoice!" it cried, "he vanquisheth!
The strong in life is strong in death!

"To him shall Zorah's daughters raise
Through coming years their hymns of
praise,
And gray old men at evening tell
Of all he wrought for Israel. 80

"And they who sing and they who hear
Alike shall hold thy memory dear,
And pour their blessings on thy head,
O mother of the mighty dead!"

It ceased; and though a sound I heard
As if great wings the still air stirred,
I only saw the barley sheaves
And hills half hid by olive leaves.

I bowed my face, in awe and fear,
On the dear child who slumbered
near; 90
"With me, as with my only son,
O God," I said, "Thy will be done!"

MY SOUL AND I

STAND still, my soul, in the silent dark
I would question thee,
Alone in the shadow drear and stark
With God and me!

What, my soul, was thy errand here?
Was it mirth or ease,
Or heaping up dust from year to year?
"Nay, none of these!"

Speak, soul, aright in His holy sight
Whose eye looks still 10
And steadily on thee through the night:
"To do His will!"

What hast thou done, O soul of mine,
That thou tremblest so?
Hast thou wrought His task, and kept
the line
He bade thee go?

What, silent all! art sad of cheer?
Art fearful now?
When God seemed far and men were
near,
How brave wert thou! 20

Aha! thou tremblest! — well I see
Thou'rt craven grown.
Is it so hard with God and me
To stand alone?

Summon thy sunshine bravery back,
 O wretched sprite!
 Let me hear thy voice through this
 deep and black
 Abyssal night.

What hast thou wrought for Right
 and Truth,
 For God and Man, ³⁰
 From the golden hours of bright-eyed
 youth
 To life's mid span?

Ah, soul of mine, thy tones I hear,
 But weak and low,
 Like far sad murmurs on my ear
 They come and go.

"I have wrestled stoutly with the
 Wrong,
 And borne the Right
 From beneath the footfall of the
 throng
 To life and light. ⁴⁰

"Wherever Freedom shivered a chain,
 God speed, quoth I;
 To Error amidst her shouting train
 I gave the lie."

Ah, soul of mine! ah, soul of mine!
 Thy deeds are well:
 Were they wrought for Truth's sake or
 for thine?
 My soul, pray tell.

"Of all the work my hand hath
 wrought
 Beneath the sky, ⁵⁰
 Save a place in kindly human thought,
 No gain have I."

Go to, go to! for thy very self
 Thy deeds were done:
 Thou for fame, the miser for pelf,
 Your end is one!

And where art thou going, soul of
 mine?
 Canst see the end?
 And whither this troubled life of thine
 Evermore doth tend? ⁶⁰

What daunts thee now? what shakes
 thee so?
 My sad soul, say.

"I see a cloud like a curtain low
 Hang o'er my way.

"Whither I go I cannot tell:
 That cloud hangs black,
 High as the heaven and deep as hell
 Across my track.

"I see its shadow coldly enwrap
 The souls before, ⁷⁰
 Sadly they enter it, step by step,
 To return no more.

"They shrink, they shudder, dear
 God! they kneel
 To Thee in prayer.
 They shut their eyes on the cloud, but
 feel
 That it still is there.

"In vain they turn from the dread
 Before
 To the Known and Gone;
 For while gazing behind them ever-
 more
 Their feet glide on. ⁸⁰

"Yet, at times, I see upon sweet pale
 faces
 A light begin
 To tremble, as if from holy places
 And shrines within.

"And at times methinks their cold
 lips move
 With hymn and prayer,
 As if somewhat of awe, but more of
 love
 And hope were there.

"I call on the souls who have left the
 light
 To reveal their lot; ⁹⁰
 I bend mine ear to that wall of night,
 And they answer not.

"But I hear around me sighs of pain
 And the cry of fear,
 And a sound like the slow sad drop-
 ping of rain,
 Each drop a tear!

"Ah, the cloud is dark, and day by day
 I am moving thither;
 I must pass beneath it on my way —
 God pity me! — whither?" ¹⁰⁰

Ah, soul of mine! so brave and wise
 In the life-storm loud,
 Fronting so calmly all human eyes
 In the sunlit crowd!

Now standing apart with God and me
 Thou art weakness all,
 Gazing vainly after the things to be
 Through Death's dread wall.

But never for this, never for this
 Was thy being lent; ¹¹⁰
 For the craven's fear is but selfish-
 ness,
 Like his merriment.

Folly and Fear are sisters twain:
 One closing her eyes,
 The other peopling the dark inane
 With spectral lies.

Know well, my soul, God's hand con-
 trols
 Whate'er thou fearest;
 Round Him in calmest music rolls
 Whate'er thou hearest. ¹²⁰

What to thee is shadow, to Him is day,
 And the end He knoweth,
 And not on a blind and aimless way
 The spirit goeth.

Man sees no future, — a phantom
 show
 Is alone before him;
 Past Time is dead, and the grasses
 grow,
 And flowers bloom o'er him.

Nothing before, nothing behind;
 The steps of Faith ¹³⁰
 Fall on the seeming void, and find
 The rock beneath.

The Present, the Present is all thou
 hast
 For thy sure possessing;
 Like the patriarch's angel hold it fast
 Till it gives its blessing.

Why fear the night? why shrink from
 Death,
 That phantom wan?
 There is nothing in heaven or earth
 beneath
 Save God and man. ¹⁴⁰

Peopling the shadows we turn from
 Him
 And from one another;
 All is spectral and vague and dim
 Save God and our brother!

Like warp and woof all destinies
 Are woven fast,
 Linked in sympathy like the keys
 Of an organ vast.

Pluck one thread, and the web ye
 mar;
 Break but one ¹⁵⁰
 Of a thousand keys, and the paining
 jar
 Through all will run.

O restless spirit! wherefore strain
 Beyond thy sphere?
 Heaven and hell, with their joy and
 pain,
 Are now and here.

Back to thyself is measured well
 All thou hast given;
 Thy neighbor's wrong is thy present
 hell,
 His bliss, thy heaven. ¹⁶⁰

And in life, in death, in dark and
 light,
 All are in God's care:
 Sound the black abyss, pierce the
 deep of night,
 And He is there!

All which is real now remaineth,
 And fadeth never:
 The hand which upholds it now sus-
 taineth
 The soul forever.

Leaning on Him, make with reverent
 meekness
 His own thy will, ¹⁷⁰
 And with strength from Him shall thy
 utter weakness
 Life's task fulfil;

And that cloud itself, which now be-
 fore thee
 Lies dark in view,
 Shall with beams of light from the
 inner glory
 Be stricken through.

And like meadow mist through autumn's dawn
 Uprolling thin,
 Its thickest folds when about thee
 drawn
 Let sunlight in. 180

Then of what is to be, and of what is
 done,
 Why queriest thou?
 The past and the time to be are one,
 And both are now!

WORSHIP

Pure religion and undefiled before God
 and the Father is this, To visit the father-
 less and widows in their affliction, and to
 keep himself unspotted from the world. —
James i. 27.

THE Pagan's myths through marble
 lips are spoken,
 And ghosts of old Beliefs still flit
 and moan
 Round fane and altar overthrown and
 broken,
 O'er tree-grown barrow and gray
 ring of stone.

Blind Faith had martyrs in those old
 high Places,
 The Syrian hill grove and the
 Druid's wood,
 With mothers offering, to the Fiend's
 embraces,
 Bone of their bone, and blood of
 their own blood.

Red altars, kindling through that
 night of error,
 Smoked with warm blood beneath
 the cruel eye 10
 Of lawless Power and sanguinary Ter-
 ror,
 Throned on the circle of a pitiless
 sky;

Beneath whose baleful shadow, over-
 casting
 All heaven above, and blighting
 earth below,
 The scourge grew red, the lip grew
 pale with fasting,
 And man's oblation was his fear and
 woe!

Then through great temples swelled
 the dismal moaning
 Of dirge-like music and sepulchral
 prayer;
 Pale wizard priests, o'er occult sym-
 bols droning,
 Swung their white censers in the
 burdened air: 20

As if the pomp of rituals, and the savor
 Of gums and spices could the Un-
 seen One please;
 As if His ear could bend, with childish
 favor,
 To the poor flattery of the organ keys!

Feet red from war-fields trod the
 church aisles holy,
 With trembling reverence: and the
 oppressor there,
 Kneeling before his priest, abased and
 lowly,
 Crushed human hearts beneath his
 knee of prayer.

Not such the service the benignant
 Father
 Requireth at His earthly children's
 hands: 30
 Not the poor offering of vain rites, but
 rather
 The simple duty man from man
 demands.

For Earth He asks it: the full joy of
 heaven
 Knoweth no change of waning or
 increase;
 The great heart of the Infinite beats
 even,
 Untroubled flows the river of His
 peace.

He asks no taper lights, on high sur-
 rounding
 The priestly altar and the saintly
 grave,
 No dolorous chant nor organ music
 sounding,
 Nor incense clouding up the twi-
 light nave. 40

For he whom Jesus loved hath truly
 spoken:
 The holier worship which He deigns
 to bless

Restores the lost, and binds the spirit
broken,
And feeds the widow and the father-
less!

Types of our human weakness and our
sorrow!

Who lives unhaunted by his loved
ones dead?

Who, with vain longing, seeketh not
to borrow

From stranger eyes the home lights
which have fled?

O brother man! fold to thy heart thy
brother;

Where pity dwells, the peace of God
is there;

To worship rightly is to love each
other,

Each smile a hymn, each kindly
deed a prayer.

Follow with reverent steps the great
example

Of Him whose holy work was "do-
ing good;"

So shall the wide earth seem our Fa-
ther's temple,

Each loving life a psalm of grati-
tude.

Then shall all shackles fall; the
stormy clangor

Of wild war music o'er the earth
shall cease;

Love shall tread out the baleful fire of
anger,

And in its ashes plant the tree of
peace!

THE HOLY LAND

Paraphrased from the lines in Lamar-
tine's *Adieu to Marseilles*, beginning

"Je n'ai pas navigué sur l'océan de sable."

I HAVE not felt, o'er seas of sand,
The rocking of the desert bark;

Nor laved at Hebron's fount my
hand,

By Hebron's palm-trees cool and
dark;

Nor pitched my tent at even-fall,
On dust where Job of old has lain,

Nor dreamed beneath its canvas wall
The dream of Jacob o'er again.

One vast world-page remains unread;
How shine the stars in Chaldea's

sky,

How sounds the reverent pilgrim's
tread,

How beats the heart with God so
nigh!

How round gray arch and column
lone

The spirit of the old time broods,
And sighs in all the winds that

moan
Along the sandy solitudes!

In thy tall cedars, Lebanon,
I have not heard the nations' cries,

Nor seen thy eagles stooping down
Where buried Tyre in ruin lies.

The Christian's prayer I have not
said

In Tadmor's temples of decay,
Nor startled, with my dreary tread,

The waste where Memnon's empire
lay.

Nor have I, from thy hallowed tide,
O Jordan! heard the low lament,

Like that sad wail along thy side
Which Israel's mournful prophet

sent!
Nor thrilled within that grotto lone

Where, deep in night, the Bard of
Kings

Felt hands of fire direct his own,
And sweep for God the conscious

strings.

I have not climbed to Olivet,
Nor laid me where my Saviour lay,

And left His trace of tears as yet
By angel eyes unwept away;

Nor watched, at midnight's solemn
time,

The garden where His prayer and
groan,

Wrung by His sorrow and our crime,
Rose to One listening ear alone.

I have not kissed the rock-hewn grot
Where in His mother's arms He lay,

Nor knelt upon the sacred spot
Where last His footsteps pressed the

clay;



"In thy tall cedars, Lebanon,
I have not heard the nations' cries"

Nor looked on that sad mountain head,
Nor smote my sinful breast, where
wide
His arms to fold the world He spread,
And bowed His head to bless — and
died!

THE REWARD

Who, looking backward from his man-
hood's prime,
Sees not the spectre of his misspent
time?

And, through the shade
Of funeral cypress planted thick behind,
Hears no reproachful whisper on the wind
From his loved dead?

Who bears no trace of passion's evil force?
Who shuns thy sting, O terrible Remorse?

Who does not cast
On the thronged pages of his memory's book,
At times, a sad and half-reluctant look,
Regretful of the past?

Alas! the evil which we fain would shun
We do, and leave the wished-for good undone;
Our strength to-day
Is but to-morrow's weakness, prone to fall;
Poor, blind, unprofitable servants all
Are we alway.

Yet who, thus looking backward o'er his years,
Feels not his eyelids wet with grateful tears,
If he hath been
Permitted, weak and sinful as he was,
To cheer and aid, in some ennobling cause,
His fellow-men?

If he hath hidden the outcast, or let in
A ray of sunshine to the cell of sin;
If he hath lent
Strength to the weak, and, in an hour of need,
Over the suffering, mindless of his creed
Or home, hath bent;

He has not lived in vain, and while he gives
The praise to Him, in whom he moves and lives,
With thankful heart;
He gazes backward, and with hope before,
Knowing that from his works he never more
Can henceforth part.

THE WISH OF TO-DAY

I ASK not now for gold to gild
With mocking shine a weary frame;
The yearning of the mind is stilled,
I ask not now for Fame.

A rose-cloud, dimly seen above,
Melting in heaven's blue depths away;
Oh, sweet, fond dream of human Love!
For thee I may not pray.

But, bowed in lowliness of mind,
I make my humble wishes known;
I only ask a will resigned,
O Father, to Thine own!

To-day, beneath Thy chastening eye
I crave alone for peace and rest,
Submissive in Thy hand to lie,
And feel that it is best.

A marvel seems the Universe,
A miracle our Life and Death;
A mystery which I cannot pierce,
Around, above, beneath.

In vain I task my aching brain,
In vain the sage's thought I scan,
I only feel how weak and vain,
How poor and blind, is man.

And now my spirit sighs for home,
And longs for light whereby to see,
And, like a weary child, would come,
O Father, unto Thee!

Though oft, like letters traced on sand,
My weak resolves have passed away,
In mercy lend Thy helping hand
Unto my prayer to-day!

ALL'S WELL

THE clouds, which rise with thunder,
slake

Our thirsty souls with rain;
The blow most dreaded falls to break
From off our limbs a chain;
And wrongs of man to man but make
The love of God more plain.
As through the shadowy lens of even
The eye looks farthest into heaven
On gleams of star and depths of blue
The glaring sunshine never knew!

INVOCATION

THROUGH Thy clear spaces, Lord, of
old,
Formless and void the dead earth
rolled;
Deaf to Thy heaven's sweet music,
blind
To the great lights which o'er it
shined;
No sound, no ray, no warmth, no
breath,—
A dumb despair, a wandering
death.

To that dark, weltering horror
came
Thy spirit, like a subtle flame, —
A breath of life electrical,
Awakening and transforming all,
Till beat and thrilled in every
part
The pulses of a living heart.

Then knew their bounds the land and
sea;
Then smiled the bloom of mead and
tree;
From flower to moth, from beast to
man,
The quick creative impulse ran;
And earth, with life from thee re-
newed,
Was in thy holy eyesight good.

As lost and void, as dark and
cold
And formless as that earth of old;
A wandering waste of storm and
night,
Midst spheres of song and realms of
light;
A blot upon thy holy sky,
Untouched, unwarned of thee, am
I.

O Thou who movest on the deep
Of spirits, wake my own from
sleep!
Its darkness melt, its coldness
warm,
The lost restore, the ill transform,
That flower and fruit henceforth may
be
Its grateful offering, worthy Thee.

QUESTIONS OF LIFE

“ And the angel that was sent unto me,
whose name was Uriel, gave me an answer,
“ And said, Thy heart hath gone too far in
this world, and thinkest thou to comprehend
the way of the Most High ?
“ Then said I, Yea, my Lord. . . .
“ Then said he unto me, Go thy way, weigh
me the weight of the fire or measure me the
blast of the wind, or call me again the hour
that is past.” — 2 *Esdras* iv.

A BENDING staff I would not break,
A feeble faith I would not shake,
Nor even rashly pluck away
The error which some truth may
stay,
Whose loss might leave the soul with-
out
A shield against the shafts of doubt.

And yet, at times, when over all
A darker mystery seems to fall,
(May God forgive the child of dust,
Who seeks to know, where Faith
should trust!)¹⁰
I raise the questions, old and dark,
Of Uzdom's tempted patriarch,
And, speech-confounded, build again
The baffled tower of Shinar's plain.

I am: how little more I know!
Whence came I? Whither do I go?
A centred self, which feels and is;
A cry between the silences;
A shadow-birth of clouds at strife
With sunshine on the hills of life;²⁰
A shaft from Nature's quiver cast
Into the Future from the Past;
Between the cradle and the shroud,
A meteor's flight from cloud to cloud.

Thorough the vastness, arching all,
I see the great stars rise and fall,
The rounding seasons come and go,
The tided oceans ebb and flow;
The tokens of a central force,
Whose circles, in their widening
course,³⁰
O'erlap and move the universe;
The workings of the law whence
springs
The rhythmic harmony of things,
Which shapes in earth the darkling
spar,
And orbs in heaven the morning star.

Of all I see, in earth and sky, —
Star, flower, beast, bird, — what part
have I?

This conscious life, — is it the same
Which thrills the universal frame,
Whereby the caverned crystal shoots 40
And mounts the sap from forest roots,
Whereby the exiled wood-bird tells
When Spring makes green her native
dells?

How feels the stone the pang of birth,
Which brings its sparkling prism
forth?

The forest-tree the throb which gives
The life-blood to its new-born leaves?
Do bird and blossom feel, like me,
Life's many-folded mystery, —
The wonder which it is to be? 50
Or stand I severed and distinct,
From Nature's chain of life unlinked?
Allied to all, yet not the less
Prisoned in separate consciousness,
Alone o'erburdened with a sense
Of life, and cause, and consequence?

In vain to me the Sphinx propounds
The riddle of her sights and sounds;
Back still the vaulted mystery gives
The echoed question it receives. 60
What sings the brook? What oracle
Is in the pine-tree's organ swell?
What may the wind's low burden
be?

The meaning of the moaning sea?
The hieroglyphics of the stars?
Or clouded sunset's crimson bars?
I vainly ask, for mocks my skill
The trick of Nature's cipher still.

I turn from Nature unto men,
I ask the stylus and the pen; 70
What sang the bards of old? What
meant

The prophets of the Orient?
The rolls of buried Egypt, hid
In painted tomb and pyramid?
What mean Idúmea's arrowy lines,
Or dusk Elora's monstrous signs?
How speaks the primal thought of
man

From the grim carvings of Copan?
Where rests the secret? Where the
keys

Of the old death-bolted mysteries? 80
Alas! the dead retain their trust;
Dust hath no answer from the dust.

The great enigma still unguessed,
Unanswered the eternal quest;
I gather up the scattered rays
Of wisdom in the early days,
Faint gleams and broken, like the
light

Of meteors in a northern night,
Betraying to the darkling earth
The unseen sun which gave them
birth; 90

I listen to the sibyl's chant,
The voice of priest and hierophant;
I know what Indian Kreeshna saith,
And what of life and what of death
The demon taught to Socrates;
And what, beneath his garden-trees
Slow pacing, with a dream-like tread,
The solemn-thoughted Plato said;
Nor lack I tokens, great or small,
Of God's clear light in each and all, 100
While holding with more dear regard
The scroll of Hebrew seer and bard,
The starry pages promise-lit
With Christ's Evangel over-writ,
Thy miracle of life and death,
O Holy One of Nazareth!

On Aztec ruins, gray and lone,
The circling serpent coils in stone, —
Type of the endless and unknown;
Whereof we seek the clue to find, 110
With groping fingers of the blind!
Forever sought, and never found,
We trace that serpent-symbol round
Our resting-place, our starting ground!
Oh, thriftlessness of dream and guess!
Oh, wisdom which is foolishness!
Why idly seek from outward things
The answer inward silence brings?
Why stretch beyond our proper sphere
And age, for that which lies so
near? 120

Why climb the far-off hills with
pain,

A nearer view of heaven to gain?
In lowliest depths of bosky dells
The hermit Contemplation dwells.
A fountain's pine-hung slope his seat,
And lotus-twined his silent feet,
Whence, piercing heaven, with screened
sight,

He sees at noon the stars, whose light
Shall glorify the coming night.

Here let me pause, my quest forego; 130
Enough for me to feel and know

That He in whom the cause and end,
The past and future, meet and
blend, —

Who, girt with his Immensities,
Our vast and star-hung system sees,
Small as the clustered Pleiades, —
Moves not alone the heavenly quires,
But waves the spring-time's grassy
spires,

Guards not archangel feet alone,
But deigns to guide and keep my
own; ¹⁴⁰

Speaks not alone the words of fate
Which worlds destroy, and worlds
create,

But whispers in my spirit's ear,
In tones of love, or warning fear,
A language none beside may hear.
To Him, from wanderings long and
wild,

I come, an over-wearied child,
In cool and shade His peace to find,
Like dew-fall settling on my mind.
Assured that all I know is best, ¹⁵⁰
And humbly trusting for the rest,
I turn from Fancy's cloud-built scheme
Dark creed, and mournful eastern
dream

Of power, impersonal and cold,
Controlling all, itself controlled,
Maker and slave of iron laws,
Alike the subject and the cause;
From vain philosophies, that try
The sevenfold gates of mystery,
And, baffled ever, babble still, ¹⁶⁰
Word-prodigal of fate and will;
From Nature, and her mockery, Art,
And book and speech of men apart,
To the still witness in my heart;
With reverence waiting to behold
His Avatâr of love untold,
The Eternal Beauty new and old!

FIRST-DAY THOUGHTS

IN calm and cool and silence, once
again
I find my old accustomed place
among
My brethren, where, perchance, no
human tongue
Shall utter words; where never
hymn is sung,
Nor deep-toned organ blown, nor
censer swung,

Nor dim light falling through the pic-
tured pane!

There, syllabled by silence, let me
hear

The still small voice which reached the
prophet's ear;

Read in my heart a still diviner law
Than Israel's leader on his tables
saw!

There let me strive with each besetting
sin,

Recall my wandering fancies, and
restrain

The sore disquiet of a restless brain;
And, as the path of duty is made
plain,

May grace be given that I may walk
therein,

Not like the hireling, for his selfish
gain,

With backward glances and reluctant
tread,

Making a merit of his coward dread,
But, cheerful, in the light around
me thrown,

Walking as one to pleasant service
led;

Doing God's will as if it were my
own,

Yet trusting not in mine, but in His
strength alone!

TRUST

THE same old baffling questions! O
my friend,

I cannot answer them. In vain I send
My soul into the dark, where never
burn

The lamps of science, nor the nat-
ural light

Of Reason's sun and stars! I cannot
learn

Their great and solemn meanings, nor
discern

The awful secrets of the eyes which
turn

Evermore on us through the day
and night

With silent challenge and a dumb
demand,

Proffering the riddles of the dread un-
known,

Like the calm Sphinxes, with their
eyes of stone,

Questioning the centuries from their
veils of sand!
I have no answer for myself or thee,
Save that I learned beside my mother's knee;
"All is of God that is, and is to be;
And God is good." Let this suffice
us still,
Resting in childlike trust upon His
will
Who moves to His great ends un-
thwarted by the ill.

TRINITAS

At morn I prayed, "I fain would see
How Three are One, and One is Three;
Read the dark riddle unto me."

I wandered forth; the sun and air
I saw bestowed with equal care
On good and evil, foul and fair.

No partial favor dropped the rain;
Alike the righteous and profane
Rejoiced above their heading grain.

And my heart murmured, "Is it meet
That blindfold Nature thus should
treat
With equal hand the tares and
wheat?"

A presence melted through my
mood,—
A warmth, a light, a sense of good,
Like sunshine through a winter wood.

I saw that presence, mailed complete
In her white innocence, pause to greet
A fallen sister of the street.

Upon her bosom snowy pure
The lost one clung, as if secure 20
From inward guilt or outward lure.

"Beware!" I said; "in this I see
No gain to her, but loss to thee:
Who touches pitch defiled must be."

I passed the haunts of shame and
sin,
And a voice whispered, "Who therein
Shall these lost souls to Heaven's
peace win?"

"Who there shall hope and health dis-
pense,
And lift the ladder up from thence
Whose rounds are prayers of peni-
tence?" 30

I said, "No higher life they know;
These earth-worms love to have it so.
Who stoops to raise them sinks as
low."

That night with painful care I read
What Hippo's saint and Calvin said;
The living seeking to the dead!

In vain I turned, in weary quest,
Old pages, where (God give them rest!)
The poor creed-mongers dreamed and
guessed.

And still I prayed, "Lord, let me see
How Three are One, and One is
Three; 40
Read the dark riddle unto me!"

Then something whispered, "Dost
thou pray
For what thou hast? This very day
The Holy Three have crossed thy way.

"Did not the gifts of sun and air
To good and ill alike declare
The all-compassionate Father's care?"

"In the white soul that stooped to raise
The lost one from her evil ways, 50
Thou saw'st the Christ, whom angels
praise!

"A bodiless Divinity,
The still small Voice that spake to
thee
Was the Holy Spirit's mystery!

"O blind of sight, of faith how small!
Father, and Son, and Holy Call;
This day thou hast denied them all!

"Revealed in love and sacrifice,
The Holiest passed before thine eyes,
One and the same, in threefold guise. 60

"The equal Father in rain and sun,
His Christ in the good to evil done,
His Voice in thy soul;— and the
Three are One!"

I shut my grave Aquinas fast;
The monkish gloss of ages past,
The schoolman's creed aside I cast.

And my heart answered, "Lord, I see
How Three are One, and One is Three;
Thy riddle hath been read to me!"

THE SISTERS

A PICTURE BY BARRY

THE shade for me, but over thee
The lingering sunshine still;
As, smiling, to the silent stream
Comes down the singing rill.

So come to me, my little one, —
My years with thee I share,
And mingle with a sister's love
A mother's tender care.

But keep the smile upon thy lip,
The trust upon thy brow;
Since for the dear one God hath called
We have an angel now.

Our mother from the fields of heaven
Shall still her ear incline;
Nor need we fear her human love
Is less for love divine.

The songs are sweet they sing beneath
The trees of life so fair,
But sweetest of the songs of heaven
Shall be her children's prayer.

Then, darling, rest upon my breast,
And teach my heart to lean
With thy sweet trust upon the arm
Which folds us both unseen!

"THE ROCK" IN EL GHOR

DEAD Petra in her hill-tomb sleeps,
Her stones of emptiness remain;
Around her sculptured mystery sweeps
The lonely waste of Edom's plain.

From the doomed dwellers in the cleft
The bow of vengeance turns not
back;
Of all her myriads none are left
Along the Wady Mousa's track.

Clear in the hot Arabian day
Her arches spring, her statues
climb

Unchanged, the graven wonders pay
No tribute to the spoiler, Time!

Unchanged the awful lithograph
Of power and glory undertrod;
Of nations scattered like the chaff
Blown from the threshing-floor of
God.

Yet shall the thoughtful stranger turn
From Petra's gates with deeper
awe,
To mark afar the burial urn
Of Aaron on the cliffs of Hor;

And where upon its ancient guard
Thy Rock, El Ghor, is standing
yet, —
Looks from its turrets desertward,
And keeps the watch that God has
set.

The same as when in thunders loud
It heard the voice of God to man,
As when it saw in fire and cloud
The angels walk in Israel's van!

Or when from Ezion-Geber's way
It saw the long procession file,
And heard the Hebrew timbrels play
The music of the lordly Nile;

Or saw the tabernacle pauc,
Cloud-bound, by Kadesh Barnea's
wells,
While Moses graved the sacred laws,
And Aaron swung his golden bells.

Rock of the desert, prophet-sung!
How grew its shadowing pile at
length,
A symbol, in the Hebrew tongue,
Of God's eternal love and strength.

On lip of bard and scroll of seer,
From age to age went down the
name,
Until the Shiloh's promised year,
And Christ, the Rock of Ages, came!

The path of life we walk to-day
Is strange as that the Hebrews
trod;



"Dead Petra in her hill-tomb sleeps,
Her stones of emptiness remain"

We need the shadowing rock, as
they, —
We need, like them, the guides of
God.

God send His angels, Cloud and Fire,
To lead us o'er the desert sand!
God give our hearts their long desire,
His shadow in a weary land!

THE OVER-HEART

"For of him, and through him, and to
him are all things: to whom be glory for-
ever!" — *Romans xi. 36.*

ABOVE, below, in sky and sod,
In leaf and spar, in star and man,
Well might the wise Athenian scan
The geometric signs of God,
The measured order of His plan.

And India's mystics sang aright,
Of the One Life pervading all, —
One Being's tidal rise and fall
In soul and form, in sound and
sight, —
Eternal outflow and recall. 10

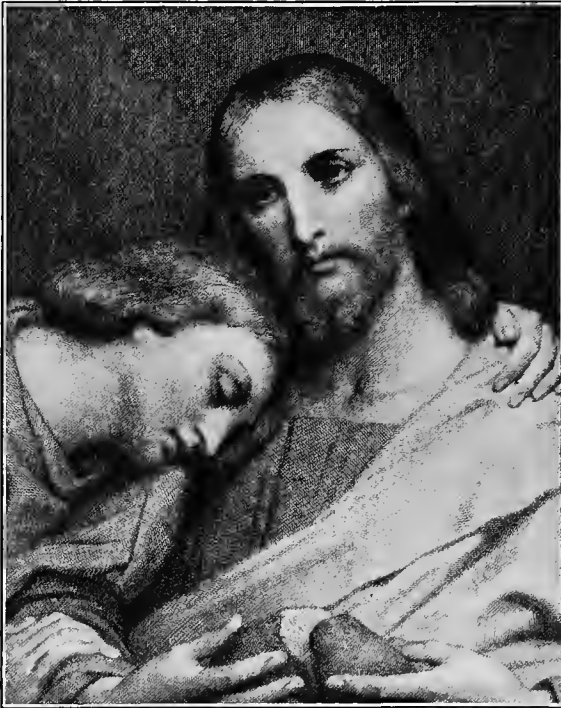
God is: and man in guilt and
fear
The central fact of Nature owns;
Kneels, trembling, by his altar
stones,
And darkly dreams the ghastly smear
Of blood appeases and atones.

Guilt shapes the Terror: deep within
The human heart the secret lies
Of all the hideous deities;
And, painted on a ground of sin,
The fabled gods of torment rise! 20

And what is He? The ripe grain nods,
 The sweet dews fall, the sweet flow-
 ers blow;
 But darker signs His presence show:
 The earthquake and the storm are
 God's,
 And good and evil interflow.

Whose need the sage and magian
 owned,
 The loving heart of God behold,
 The hope for which the ages groaned!

Fade, pomp of dreadful imagery
 Wherewith mankind have deified



“ Who lean like John upon His breast ”

O hearts of love! O souls that turn
 Like sunflowers to the pure and
 best!
 To you the truth is manifest:
 For they the mind of Christ discern
 Who lean like John upon His
 breast! 30

In him of whom the sibyl told,
 For whom the prophet's harp was
 toned,

Their hate, and selfishness, and
 pride!
 Let the scared dreamer wake to see
 The Christ of Nazareth at his side!

What doth that holy Guide re-
 quire? 41
 No rite of pain, nor gift of blood,
 But man a kindly brotherhood,
 Looking, where duty is desire,
 To Him, the beautiful and good.

Gone be the faithlessness of fear,
 And let the pitying heaven's sweet
 rain
 Wash out the altar's bloody stain;
 The law of Hatred disappear,
 The law of Love alone remain. 50

How fall the idols false and grim!
 And lo! their hideous wreck above
 The emblems of the Lamb and
 Dove!

Man turns from God, not God from
 him;
 And guilt, in suffering, whispers
 Love!

The world sits at the feet of Christ,
 Unknowing, blind, and unconsoled;
 It yet shall touch His garment's
 fold,
 And feel the heavenly Alchemist
 Transform its very dust to gold. 60

The theme befitting angel tongues
 Beyond a mortal's scope has grown.
 O heart of mine! with reverence
 own

The fulness which to it belongs,
 And trust the unknown for the
 known.

THE SHADOW AND THE LIGHT

"And I sought, whence is Evil: I set before the eye of my spirit the whole creation; whatsoever we see therein, — sea, earth, air, stars, trees, moral creatures, — yea, whatsoever there is we do not see, — angels and spiritual powers. Where is evil, and whence comes it, since God the Good hath created all things? Why made He anything at all of evil, and not rather by His Almightyness cause it not to be? These thoughts I turned in my miserable heart, overcharged with most gnawing cares." "And, admonished to return to myself, I entered even into my inmost soul, Thou being my guide, and beheld even beyond my soul and mind the Light unchangeable. He who knows the Truth knows what that Light is, and he that knows it knows Eternity! O Truth, who art Eternity! Love, who art Truth! Eternity, who art Love! And I beheld that Thou madest all things good, and to Thee is nothing whatsoever evil. From the angel to the worm, from the first motion to the last, Thou settest each in its place, and everything is good in its kind. Woe is me!

—how high art Thou in the highest, how deep in the deepest! and Thou never departest from us, and we scarcely return to Thee." — AUGUSTINE'S *Soliloquies*, Book VII.

THE fourteen centuries fall away
 Between us and the Afric saint,
 And at his side we urge, to-day,
 The immemorial quest and old complaint.

No outward sign to us is given, —
 From sea or earth comes no
 reply;
 Hushed as the warm Numidian heaven
 He vainly questioned bends our frozen
 sky.

No victory comes of all our strife, —
 From all we grasp the meaning
 slips;
 The Sphinx sits at the gate of life,
 With the old question on her awful
 lips.

In paths unknown we hear the feet
 Of fear before, and guilt behind;
 We pluck the wayside fruit, and eat
 Ashes and dust beneath its golden
 rind.

From age to age descends unchecked
 The sad bequest of sire to son,
 The body's taint, the mind's defect;
 Through every web of life the dark
 threads run. 20

Oh, why and whither? God knows
 all;
 I only know that He is good,
 And that whatever may befall
 Or here or there, must be the best that
 could.

Between the dreadful cherubim
 A Father's face I still discern,
 As Moses looked of old on Him,
 And saw His glory into goodness
 turn!

For He is merciful as just;
 And so, by faith correcting sight,
 I bow before His will, and trust 31
 Howe'er they seem He doeth all things
 right.

And dare to hope that He will make
The rugged smooth, the doubtful
plain;

His mercy never quite forsake;
His healing visit every realm of pain;

That suffering is not His revenge
Upon His creatures weak and frail,
Sent on a pathway new and strange
With feet that wander and with eyes
that fail; 40

That, o'er the crucible of pain,
Watches the tender eye of Love
The slow transmuting of the chain
Whose links are iron below to gold
above!

Ah me! we doubt the shining skies,
Seen through our shadows of of-
fence,
And drown with our poor childish
cries
The cradle-hymn of kindly Providence.

And still we love the evil cause,
And of the just effect complain: 50
We tread upon life's broken laws,
And murmur at our self-inflicted pain;

We turn us from the light, and find
Our spectral shapes before us
thrown,
As they who leave the sun behind
Walk in the shadows of themselves
alone.

And scarce by will or strength of
ours
We set our faces to the day;
Weak, wavering, blind, the Eternal
Powers
Alone can turn us from ourselves
away. 60

Our weakness is the strength of sin,
But love must needs be stronger
far,
Outreaching all and gathering in
The erring spirit and the wandering
star.

A Voice grows with the growing
years;
Earth, hushing down her bitter
cry,

Looks upward from her graves, and
hears,
"The Resurrection and the Life am I."

O Love Divine! — whose constant
beam
Shines on the eyes that will not
see, 70
And waits to bless us, while we
dream
Thou leavest us because we turn from
thee!

All souls that struggle and aspire,
All hearts of prayer by thee are
lit;
And, dim or clear, thy tongues of
fire
On dusky tribes and twilight centuries
sit.

Nor bounds, nor clime, nor creed
thou know'st,
Wide as our need thy favors fall;
The white wings of the Holy Ghost
Stoop, seen or unseen, o'er the heads
of all. 80

O Beauty, old yet ever new!
Eternal Voice, and Inward Word,
The Logos of the Greek and Jew,
The old sphere-music which the Sa-
mian heard!

Truth which the sage and prophet
saw,
Long sought without, but found
within,
The Law of Love beyond all law,
The Life o'erflooding mortal death and
sin!

Shine on us with the light which
glowed
Upon the trance-bound shep-
herd's way, 90
Who saw the Darkness overflowed
And drowned by tides of everlasting
Day.

Shine, light of God! — make broad
thy scope
To all who sin and suffer; more
And better than we dare to hope
With Heaven's compassion make our
longings poor!

THE CRY OF A LOST SOUL

IN that black forest, where, when day
is done,
With a snake's stillness glides the
Amazon
Darkly from sunset to the rising sun,
A cry, as of the pained heart of the
wood,
The long, despairing moan of solitude
And darkness and the absence of all
good,

Startles the traveller, with a sound so
drear,
So full of hopeless agony and fear,
His heart stands still and listens like
his ear.

The guide, as if he heard a dead-bell
toll,¹⁰
Starts, drops his oar against the gun-
wale's thole,
Crosses himself, and whispers, "A lost
soul!"

"No, Señor, not a bird. I know it well,—
It is the pained soul of some infidel
Or cursed heretic that cries from hell.

"Poor fool! with hope still mocking
his despair,
He wanders, shrieking on the mid-
night air
For human pity and for Christian
prayer.

"Saints strike him dumb! Our Holy
Mother hath
No prayer for him who, sinning unto
death,²⁰
Burns always in the furnace of God's
wrath!"

Thus to the baptized pagan's cruel lie,
Lending new horror to that mournful
cry,
The voyager listens, making no reply.

Dim burns the boat-lamp; shadows
deepen round,
From giant trees with snake-like creep-
ers wound,
And the black water glides without a
sound.

But in the traveller's heart a secret
sense
Of nature plastic to benign intents,
And an eternal good in Providence,³⁰

Lifts to the starry calm of heaven his
eyes;
And lo! rebuking all earth's ominous
cries,
The Cross of pardon lights the tropic
skies!

"Father of all!" he urges his strong
plea,
"Thou lovest all: Thy erring child
may be
Lost to himself, but never lost to Thee!"

"All souls are Thine; the wings of
morning bear
None from that Presence which is
everywhere,
Nor hell itself can hide, for Thou art
there.

"Through sins of sense, perversities of
will,⁴⁰
Through doubt and pain, through
guilt and shame and ill,
Thy pitying eye is on Thy creature
still.

"Wilt thou not make, Eternal Source
and Goal!
In Thy long years, life's broken circle
whole,
And change to praise the cry of a lost
soul?"

ANDREW RYKMAN'S PRAYER

ANDREW RYKMAN's dead and gone;
You can see his leaning slate
In the graveyard, and thereon
Read his name and date.

"Trust is truer than our fears,"
Runs the legend through the moss,
"Gain is not in added years,
Nor in death is loss."

Still the feet that thither trod,
All the friendly eyes are dim;¹⁰
Only Nature, now, and God
Have a care for him.

There the dews of quiet fall,
Singing birds and soft winds stray;
Shall the tender Heart of all
Be less kind than they?

What he was and what he is
They who ask may haply find,
If they read this prayer of his
Which he left behind. 20

Pardon, Lord, the lips that dare
Shape in words a mortal's prayer!
Prayer, that, when my day is done,
And I see its setting sun,
Shorn and beamless, cold and dim,
Sink beneath the horizon's rim, —
When this ball of rock and clay
Crumbles from my feet away,
And the solid shores of sense
Melt into the vague immense, 30
Father! I may come to Thee
Even with the beggar's plea,
As the poorest of Thy poor,
With my needs, and nothing more.

Not as one who seeks his home
With a step assured I come;
Still behind the tread I hear
Of my life-companion, Fear;
Still a shadow deep and vast
From my westering feet is cast, 40
Wavering, doubtful, undefined,
Never shapen nor outlined:
From myself the fear has grown,
And the shadow is my own.
Yet, O Lord, through all a sense
Of Thy tender providence
Stays my failing heart on Thee,
And confirms the feeble knee;
And, at times, my worn feet press
Spaces of cool quietness, 50
Lilied whiteness shone upon
Not by light of moon or sun.
Hours there be of inmost calm,
Broken but by grateful psalm,
When I love Thee more than fear
Thee,
And Thy blessed Christ seems near
me,
With forgiving look, as when
He beheld the Magdalen.
Well I know that all things move
To the spheral rhythm of love, — 60
That to Thee, O Lord of all!
Nothing can of chance befall:

Child and seraph, mote and star,
Well Thou knowest what we are!
Through Thy vast creative plan
Looking, from the worm to man,
There is pity in Thine eyes,
But no hatred nor surprise.
Not in blind caprice of will,
Not in cunning sleight of skill, 70
Not for show of power, was wrought
Nature's marvel in Thy thought.
Never careless hand and vain
Smites these chords of joy and pain;
No immortal selfishness
Plays the game of curse and bless:
Heaven and earth are witnesses
That Thy glory goodness is.
Not for sport of mind and force
Hast Thou made Thy universe, 80
But as atmosphere and zone
Of Thy loving heart alone.
Man, who walketh in a show,
Sees before him, to and fro,
Shadow and illusion go;
All things flow and fluctuate,
Now contract and now dilate.
In the welter of this sea,
Nothing stable is but Thee;
In this whirl of swooning trance, 90
Thou alone art permanence;
All without Thee only seems,
All beside is choice of dreams.
Never yet in darkest mood
Doubted I that Thou wast good,
Nor mistook my will for fate,
Pain of sin for heavenly hate, —
Never dreamed the gates of pearl
Rise from out the burning marl,
Or that good can only live 100
Of the bad conservative,
And through counterpoise of hell
Heaven alone be possible.

For myself alone I doubt;
All is well, I know, without;
I alone the beauty mar,
I alone the music jar.
Yet, with hands by evil stained,
And an ear by discord pained,
I am groping for the keys 110
Of the heavenly harmonies;
Still within my heart I bear
Love for all things good and fair.
Hands of want or souls in pain
Have not sought my door in vain;
I have kept my fealty good
To the human brotherhood;

Scarcely have I asked in prayer
 That which others might not share.
 I, who hear with secret shame 120
 Praise that paineth more than blame,
 Rich alone in favors lent,
 Virtuous by accident,
 Doubtful where I fain would rest,
 Frailest where I seem the best,
 Only strong for lack of test, —
 What am I, that I should press
 Special pleas of selfishness,
 Coolly mounting into heaven
 On my neighbor unforgiven? 130
 Ne'er to me, howe'er disguised,
 Comes a saint unrecognized;
 Never fails my heart to greet
 Noble deed with warmer beat;
 Halt and maimed, I own not less
 All the grace of holiness;
 Nor, through shame or self-distrust,
 Less I love the pure and just.
 Lord, forgive these words of mine:
 What have I that is not Thine? 140
 Whatsoe'er I fain would boast
 Needs Thy pitying pardon most.
 Thou, O Elder Brother! who
 In Thy flesh our trial knew,
 Thou, who hast been touched by these
 Our most sad infirmities,
 Thou alone the gulf canst span
 In the dual heart of man,
 And between the soul and sense
 Reconcile all difference. 150
 Change the dream of me and mine
 For the truth of Thee and Thine,
 And, through chaos, doubt, and strife,
 Interfuse Thy calm of life.
 Haply, thus by Thee renewed,
 In Thy borrowed goodness good,
 Some sweet morning yet in God's
 Dim, æonian periods,
 Joyful I shall wake to see
 Those I love who rest in Thee, 160
 And to them in Thee allied,
 Shall my soul be satisfied.

Scarcely Hope hath shaped for me
 What the future life may be.
 Other lips may well be bold;
 Like the publican of old,
 I can only urge the plea,
 "Lord, be merciful to me!"
 Nothing of desert I claim,
 Unto me belongeth shame. 170
 Not for me the crowns of gold,
 Palms, and harpings manifold;

Not for erring eye and feet
 Jasper wall and golden street.
 What thou wilt, O Father, give!
 All is gain that I receive.
 If my voice I may not raise
 In the elders' song of praise,
 If I may not, sin-defiled,
 Claim my birthright as a child, 180
 Suffer it that I to Thee
 As an hired servant be;
 Let the lowliest task be mine,
 Grateful, so the work be Thine;
 Let me find the humblest place
 In the shadow of Thy grace:
 Blest to me were any spot
 Where temptation whispers not.
 If there be some weaker one,
 Give me strength to help him on; 190
 If a blinder soul there be,
 Let me guide him nearer Thee.
 Make my mortal dreams come true
 With the work I fain would do;
 Clothe with life the weak intent,
 Let me be the thing I meant;
 Let me find in Thy employ
 Peace that dearer is than joy;
 Out of self to love be led
 And to heaven acclimated, 200
 Until all things sweet and good
 Seem my natural habitude.

So we read the prayer of him
 Who, with John of Labadie,
 Trod, of old, the oozy rim
 Of the Zuyder Zee.

Thus did Andrew Rykman pray.
 Are we wiser, better grown,
 That we may not, in our day,
 Make his prayer our own? 210

THE ANSWER

SPARE me, dread angel of reproof,
 And let the sunshine weave to-day
 Its gold-threads in the warp and woof
 Of life so poor and gray.

Spare me awhile; the flesh is weak.
 These lingering feet, that fain would
 stray
 Among the flowers, shall some day
 seek
 The strait and narrow way.

Take off thy ever-watchful eye,
The awe of thy rebuking frown; 10
The dullest slave at times must sigh
To fling his burdens down;

To drop his galley's straining oar,
And press, in summer warmth and
calm,
The lap of some enchanted shore
Of blossom and of balm.

Grudge not my life its hour of bloom,
My heart its taste of long desire;
This day be mine: be those to come
As duty shall require. 20

The deep voice answered to my own,
Smiting my selfish prayers away;
"To-morrow is with God alone,
And man hath but to-day.

"Say not, thy fond, vain heart within,
The Father's arm shall still be wide,
When from these pleasant ways of sin
Thou turn'st at eventide.

"'Cast thyself down,' the tempter
saith,
'And angels shall thy feet upbear.' 30
He bids thee make a lie of faith,
And blasphemy of prayer.

"Though God be good and free be
heaven,
No force divine can love compel;
And, though the song of sins forgiven
May sound through lowest hell,

"The sweet persuasion of His voice
Respects thy sanctity of will.
He giveth day: thou hast thy choice
To walk in darkness still; 40

"As one who, turning from the light,
Watches his own gray shadow fall,
Doubting, upon his path of night,
If there be day at all!

"No word of doom may shut thee out,
No wind of wrath may downward
whirl,
No swords of fire keep watch about
The open gates of pearl;

"A tenderer light than moon or sun,
Thansong of eartha sweeter hymn, 50

May shine and sound forever on,
And thou be deaf and dim.

"Forever round the Mercy-seat
The guiding lights of Love shall
burn;
But what if, habit-bound, thy feet
Shall lack the will to turn?

"What if thine eye refuse to see,
Thine ear of Heaven's free welcome
fail,
And thou a willing captive be,
Thyself thy own dark jail? 60

"Oh, doom beyond the saddest guess,
As the long years of God unroll,
To make thy dreary selfishness
The prison of a soul!

"To doubt the love that fain would
break
The fetters from thy self-bound
limb;
And dream that God can thee forsake
As thou forsakest Him!"

THE ETERNAL GOODNESS

O FRIENDS! with whom my feet have
trod
The quiet aisles of prayer,
Glad witness to your zeal for God
And love of man I bear.

I trace your lines of argument;
Your logic linked and strong
I weigh as one who dreads dissent,
And fears a doubt as wrong.

But still my human hands are weak
To hold your iron creeds: 10
Against the words ye bid me speak
My heart within me pleads.

Who fathoms the Eternal Thought?
Who talks of scheme and plan?
The Lord is God! He needeth not
The poor device of man.

I walk with bare, hushed feet the
ground
Ye tread with boldness shod;
I dare not fix with mete and bound
The love and power of God. 20

Ye praise His justice; even such
His pitying love I deem:
Ye seek a king; I fain would touch
The robe that hath no seam.

Ye see the curse which overbroods
A world of pain and loss;
I hear our Lord's beatitudes
And prayer upon the cross.

More than your schoolmen teach,
within
Myself, alas! I know: 30
Too dark ye cannot paint the sin,
Too small the merit show.

I bow my forehead to the dust,
I veil mine eyes for shame,
And urge, in trembling self-distrust,
A prayer without a claim.

I see the wrong that round me lies,
I feel the guilt within;
I hear, with groan and travail-cries,
The world confess its sin. 40

Yet, in the maddening maze of things,
And tossed by storm and flood,
To one fixed trust my spirit clings;
I know that God is good!

Not mine to look where cherubim
And seraphs may not see,
But nothing can be good in Him
Which evil is in me.

The wrong that pains my soul below
I dare not throne above, 50
I know not of His hate, — I know
His goodness and His love.

I dimly guess from blessings known
Of greater out of sight,
And, with the chastened Psalmist,
own
His judgments too are right.

I long for household voices gone,
For vanished smiles I long,
But God hath led my dear ones on,
And He can do no wrong. 60

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak
To bear an untried pain,
The bruised reed He will not break,
But strengthen and sustain.

No offering of my own I have,
Nor works my faith to prove; 70
I can but give the gifts He gave,
And plead His love for love.

And so beside the Silent Sea
I wait the muffled oar;
No harm from Him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care. 80

O brothers! if my faith is vain,
If hopes like these betray,
Pray for me that my feet may gain
The sure and safer way.

And Thou, O Lord! by whom are seen
Thy creatures as they be,
Forgive me if too close I lean
My human heart on Thee!

THE COMMON QUESTION

BEHIND us at our evening meal
The gray bird ate his fill,
Swung downward by a single claw,
And wiped his hooked bill.

He shook his wings and crimson tail,
And set his head aslant,
And, in his sharp, impatient way,
Asked, "What does Charlie want?"

"Fie, silly bird!" I answered, "tuck
Your head beneath your wing,
And go to sleep;" — but o'er and o'er
He asked the self-same thing.

Then, smiling, to myself I said:
How like are men and birds!
We all are saying what he says,
In action or in words.

The boy with whip and top and drum,
The girl with hoop and doll,
And men with lands and houses, ask
The question of Poor Poll.

However full, with something more
 We fain the bag would cram;
 We sigh above our crowded nets
 For fish that never swam.

No bounty of indulgent Heaven
 The vague desire can stay;
 Self-love is still a Tartar mill
 For grinding prayers away.

The dear God hears and pities all;
 He knoweth all our wants;
 And what we blindly ask of Him
 His love withholds or grants.

And so I sometimes think our prayers
 Might well be merged in one;
 And nest and perch and hearth and
 church
 Repeat, "Thy will be done."

OUR MASTER

IMMORTAL Love, forever full,
 Forever flowing free,
 Forever shared, forever whole,
 A never-ebbing sea!

Our outward lips confess the name
 All other names above;
 Love only knoweth whence it came
 And comprehendeth love.

Blow, winds of God, awake and blow
 The mists of earth away! 10
 Shine out, O Light Divine, and show
 How wide and far we stray!

Hush every lip, close every book,
 The strife of tongues forbear;
 Why forward reach, or backward look,
 For love that clasps like air?

We may not climb the heavenly steeps
 To bring the Lord Christ down:
 In vain we search the lowest deeps,
 For Him no depths can drown. 20

Nor holy bread, nor blood of grape,
 The lineaments restore
 Of Him we know in outward shape
 And in the flesh no more.

He cometh not a king to reign;
 The world's long hope is dim;

The weary centuries watch in vain
 The clouds of heaven for Him.

Death comes, life goes; the asking
 eye
 And ear are answerless; 30
 The grave is dumb, the hollow sky
 Is sad with silentness.

The letter fails, and systems fall,
 And every symbol wanes;
 The Spirit over-brooding all
 Eternal Love remains.

And not for signs in heaven above
 Or earth below they look,
 Who know with John His smile of
 love
 With Peter His rebuke. 40

In joy of inward peace, or sense
 Of sorrow over sin,
 He is His own best evidence,
 His witness is within.

No fable old, nor mythic lore,
 Nor dream of bards and seers,
 No dead fact stranded on the shore
 Of the oblivious years;—

But warm, sweet, tender, even yet
 A present help is He; 50
 And faith has still its Olivet,
 And love its Galilee.

The healing of His seamless dress
 Is by our beds of pain;
 We touch Him in life's throng and
 press,
 And we are whole again.

Through Him the first fond prayers
 are said
 Our lips of childhood frame,
 The last low whispers of our dead
 Are burdened with His name. 60

Our Lord and Master of us all!
 Whate'er our name or sign,
 We own Thy sway, we hear Thy call,
 We test our lives by Thine.

Thou judgest us; Thy purity
 Doth all our lusts condemn;
 The love that draws us nearer Thee
 Is hot with wrath to them.

Our thoughts lie open to Thy sight;
 And, naked to Thy glance, 70
 Our secret sins are in the light
 Of Thy pure countenance.

Thy healing pains, a keen distress
 Thy tender light shines in;
 Thy sweetness is the bitterness,
 Thy grace the pang of sin.

Yet, weak and blinded though we
 be,
 Thou dost our service own;
 We bring our varying gifts to Thee,
 And Thou rejectest none. 80

To Thee our full humanity,
 Its joys and pains, belong;
 The wrong of man to man on Thee
 Inflicts a deeper wrong.

Who hates, hates Thee, who loves be-
 comes
 Therein to Thee allied;
 All sweet accords of hearts and homes
 In Thee are multiplied.

Deep strike Thy roots, O heavenly
 Vine,
 Within our earthly sod, 90
 Most human and yet most divine,
 The flower of man and God!

O Love! O Life! Our faith and sight
 Thy presence maketh one,
 As through transfigured clouds of
 white
 We trace the noon-day sun.

So, to our mortal eyes subdued,
 Flesh-veiled, but not concealed,
 We know in Thee the fatherhood
 And heart of God revealed. 100

We faintly hear, we dimly see,
 In differing phrase we pray;
 But, dim or clear, we own in Thee
 The Light, the Truth, the Way!

The homage that we render Thee
 Is still our Father's own;
 No jealous claim or rivalry
 Divides the Cross and Throne.

To do Thy will is more than praise,
 As words are less than deeds, 110

And simple trust can find Thy ways
 We miss with chart of creeds.

No pride of self Thy service hath,
 No place for me and mine;
 Our human strength is weakness,
 death
 Our life, apart from Thine.

Apart from Thee all gain is loss,
 All labor vainly done;
 The solemn shadow of Thy Cross
 Is better than the sun. 120

Alone, O Love ineffable!
 Thy saving name is given;
 To turn aside from Thee is hell,
 To walk with Thee is heaven!

How vain, secure in all Thou art,
 Our noisy championship!
 The sighing of the contrite heart
 Is more than flattering lip.

Not Thine the bigot's partial plea,
 Nor Thine the zealot's ban; 130
 Thou well canst spare a love of
 Thee
 Which ends in hate of man.

Our Friend, our Brother, and our
 Lord,
 What may Thy service be? —
 Nor name, nor form, nor ritual word,
 But simply following Thee.

We bring no ghastly holocaust,
 We pile no graven stone;
 He serves thee best who loveth most
 His brothers and Thy own. 140

Thy litanies, sweet offices
 Of love and gratitude;
 Thy sacramental liturgies
 The joy of doing good.

In vain shall waves of incense drift
 The vaulted nave around,
 In vain the minster turret lift
 Its brazen weights of sound.

The heart must ring Thy Christmas
 bells,
 Thy inward altars raise; 150
 Its faith and hope Thy canticles,
 And its obedience praise!

THE MEETING

THE elder folks shook hands at last,
Down seat by seat the signal passed.
To simple ways like ours unused,
Half solemnized and half amused,
With long-drawn breath and shrug,
my guest

His sense of glad relief expressed.
Outside, the hills lay warm in sun;
The cattle in the meadow-run
Stood half-leg deep; a single bird
The green repose above us stirred. 10
"What part or lot have you," he said,
"In these dull rites of drowsy-head?
Is silence worship? Seek it where
It soothes with dreams the summer
air,

Not in this close and rude-benched
hall,

But where soft lights and shadows
fall,

And all the slow, sleep-walking hours
Glide soundless over grass and flow-
ers!

From time and place and form apart,
Its holy ground the human heart, 20
Nor ritual-bound nor templeward
Walks the free spirit of the Lord!
Our common Master did not pen
His followers up from other men;
His service liberty indeed,
He built no church, He framed no
creed;

But while the saintly Pharisee
Made broader his phylactery,
As from the synagogue was seen
The dusty-sandalled Nazarene 30
Through ripening cornfields lead the
way

Upon the awful Sabbath day,
His sermons were the healthful talk
That shorter made the mountain-walk,
His wayside texts were flowers and
birds,

Where mingled with His gracious
words

The rustle of the tamarisk-tree
And ripple-wash of Galilee."

"Thy words are well, O friend," I said;
"Unmeasured and unlimited, 40
With noiseless slide of stone to stone,
The mystic Church of God has grown.
Invisible and silent stands
The temple never made with hands,

Unheard the voices still and small
Of its unseen confessional.
He needs no special place of prayer
Whose hearing ear is everywhere;
He brings not back the childish days
That ringed the earth with stones of
praise, 50

Roofed Karnak's hall of gods, and laid
The plinths of Philæ's colonnade.
Still less He owns the selfish good
And sickly growth of solitude,—
The worthless grace that, out of sight,
Flowers in the desert anchorite;
Dissevered from the suffering whole,
Love hath no power to save a soul.
Not out of Self, the origin,
And native air and soil of sin, 60
The living waters spring and flow,
The trees with leaves of healing grow.

"Dream not, O friend, because I seek
This quiet shelter twice a week,
I better deem its pine-laid floor
Than breezy hill or sea-sung shore;
But nature is not solitude:
She crowds us with her thronging
wood;

Her many hands reach out to us,
Her many tongues are garrulous; 70
Perpetual riddles of surprise
She offers to our ears and eyes;
She will not leave our senses still,
But drags them captive at her will:
And, making earth too great for hea-
ven,
She hides the Giver in the given.

"And so I find it well to come
For deeper rest to this still room,
For here the habit of the soul
Feels less the outer world's control; 80
The strength of mutual purpose pleads
More earnestly our common needs;
And from the silence multiplied
By these still forms on either side,
The world that time and sense have
known
Falls off and leaves us God alone.

"Yet rarely through the charmed re-
pose
Unmixed the stream of motive flows,
A flavor of its many springs,
The tints of earth and sky it brings; 90
In the still waters needs must be
Some shade of human sympathy;

And here, in its accustomed place,
I look on memory's dearest face;
The blind by-sitter guesseth not
What shadow haunts that vacant spot;

No eyes save mine alone can see
The love wherewith it welcomes me!
And still, with those alone my kin,
In doubt and weakness, want and
sieu, 100

I bow my head, my heart I bare,
As when that face was living there,
And strive (too oft, alas! in vain)
The peace of simple trust to gain,
Fold fancy's restless wings, and lay
The idols of my heart away.

"Welcome the silence all unbroken,
Nor less the words of fitness spoken, —
Such golden words as hers for whom
Our autumn flowers have just made
room; 110
Whose hopeful utterance through and
through

The freshness of the morning blew;
Who loved not less the earth that
light

Fell on it from the heavens in sight,
But saw in all fair forms more fair
The Eternal beauty mirrored there.
Whose eighty years but added grace
And saintlier meaning to her face, —
The look of one who bore away
Glad tidings from the hills of day, 120
While all our hearts went forth to
meet

The coming of her beautiful feet!
Or haply hers, whose pilgrim tread
Is in the paths where Jesus led;
Who dreams her childhood's sabbath
dream

By Jordan's willow-shaded stream,
And, of the hymns of hope and faith,
Sung by the monks of Nazareth,
Hears pious echoes, in the call
To prayer, from Moslem minarets fall,
Repeating where His works were
wrought 131

The lesson that her Master taught,
Of whom an elder Sibyl gave,
The prophecies of Cumæ's cave!

"I ask no organ's soulless breath
To drone the themes of life and death,
No altar candle-lit by day,
No ornate wordsman's rhetoric-play,

No cool philosophy to teach
Its bland audacities of speech 140
To double-tasked idolaters
Themselves their gods and worship-
pers,

No pulpit hammered by the fist
Of loud-asserting dogmatist,
Who borrows for the Hand of love
The smoking thunderbolts of Jove.
I know how well the fathers taught,
What work the later schoolmen
wrought;

I reverence old-time faith and men,
But God is near us now as then; 150
His force of love is still unspent,
His hate of sin as imminent;
And still the measure of our needs
Outgrows the cramping bounds of
creeds;

The manna gathered yesterday
Already savors of decay;
Doubts to the world's child-heart un-
known

Question us now from star and stone;
Too little or too much we know,
And sight is swift and faith is slow; 160
The power is lost to self-deceive
With shallow forms of make-believe.
We walk at high noon, and the
bells

Call to a thousand oracles,
But the sound deafens, and the light
Is stronger than our dazzled sight;
The letters of the sacred Book
Glimmer and swim beneath our look;
Still struggles in the Age's breast
With deepening agony of quest 170
The old entreaty: 'Art thou He,
Or look we for the Christ to be?'

"God should be most where man is
least:

So, where is neither church nor priest,
And never rag of form or creed
To clothe the nakedness of need, —
Where farmer-folk in silence meet, —
I turn my bell-unsummoned feet;
I lay the critic's glass aside,
I tread upon my lettered pride, 180
And, lowest-seated, testify
To the oneness of humanity;
Confess the universal want,
And share whatever Heaven may
grant.

He findeth not who seeks his own,
The soul is lost that's saved alone.

Not on one favored forehead fell
Of old the fire-tongued miracle,
But flamed o'er all the thronging
host

The baptism of the Holy Ghost; 190
Heart answers heart; in one desire
The blending lines of prayer aspire;
'Where, in my name, meet two or
three,'

Our Lord hath said, 'I there will be!'

"So sometimes comes to soul and
sense

The feeling which is evidence
That very near about us lies
The realm of spiritual mysteries.
The sphere of the supernal powers
Impinges on this world of ours. 200
The low and dark horizon lifts,
To light the scenic terror shifts;
The breath of a diviner air
Blows down the answer of a prayer:
That all our sorrow, pain, and doubt
A great compassion clasps about,
And law and goodness, love and force,
Are wedded fast beyond divorce.
Then duty leaves to love its task,
The beggar Self forgets to ask; 210
With smile of trust and folded hands,
The passive soul in waiting stands,
To feel, as flowers the sun and dew,
The One true Life its own renew.

"So to the calmly gathered thought
The innermost of truth is taught,
The mystery dimly understood,
That love of God is love of good,
And, chiefly, its divinest trace
In Him of Nazareth's holy face; 220
That to be saved is only this, —
Salvation from our selfishness,
From more than elemental fire,
The soul's unsanctified desire,
From sin itself, and not the pain
That warns us of its chafing chain;
That worship's deeper meaning lies
In mercy, and not sacrifice,
Not proud humilities of sense
And posturing of penitence, 230
But love's unforced obedience;
That Book and Church and Day are
given

For man, not God, — for earth, not
heaven, —

The blessed means to holiest ends,
Not masters, but benignant friends;

That the dear Christ dwells not afar,
The king of some remoter star,
Listening, at times, with flattered ear
To homage wrung from selfish fear, 230
But here, amidst the poor and blind,
The bound and suffering of our kind,
In works we do, in prayers we pray,
Life of our life, He lives to-day."

THE CLEAR VISION

I did but dream. I never knew
What charms our sternest season
wore.

Was never yet the sky so blue,
Was never earth so white before.
Till now I never saw the glow
Of sunset on yon hills of snow,
And never learned the bough's designs
Of beauty in its leafless lines.

Did ever such a morning break
As that my eastern windows see? 10
Did ever such a moonlight take
Weird photographs of shrub and
tree?

Rang ever bells so wild and fleet
The music of the winter street?
Was ever yet a sound by half
So merry as yon school-boy's laugh?

O Earth! with gladness overfraught,
No added charm thy face hath
found;

Within my heart the change is
wrought,
My footsteps make enchanted
ground. 20
From couch of pain and curtained
room

Forth to thy light and air I come,
To find in all that meets my eyes
The freshness of a glad surprise.

Fair seem these winter days, and soon
Shall blow the warm west-winds of
spring,

To set the unbound rills in tune
And hither urge the bluebird's
wing.

The vales shall laugh in flowers, the
woods

Grow misty green with leafing buds, 30
And violets and wind-flowers sway
Against the throbbing heart of May.



"I never knew
What charms our sternest season wore"

Break forth, my lips, in praise, and
own

The wiser love severely kind;
Since, richer for its chastening grown,
I see, whereas I once was blind.

The world, O Father! hath not
wronged

With loss the life by Thee pro-
longed;

But still, with every added year,
More beautiful Thy works appear! 40

As Thou hast made thy world without,
Make Thou more fair my world
within;
Shine through its lingering clouds of
doubt;

Rebuke its haunting shapes of sin;
Fill, brief or long, my granted span
Of life with love to thee and man;
Strike when thou wilt the hour of rest,
But let my last days be my best!

2d mo., 1868.

DIVINE COMPASSION

LONG since, a dream of heaven I had,
 And still the vision haunts me oft;
 I see the saints in white robes clad,
 The martyrs with their palms aloft;
 But hearing still, in middle song,
 The ceaseless dissonance of wrong;
 And shrinking, with hid faces, from
 the strain
 Of sad, beseeching eyes, full of re-
 morse and pain.

The glad song falters to a wail,
 The harping sinks to low lament;
 Before the still unlifted veil
 I see the crown'd foreheads bent,
 Making more sweet the heavenly air
 With breathings of unselfish prayer;
 And a Voice saith: 'O Pity which is
 pain,
 O Love that weeps, fill up my suffer-
 ings which remain!

"Shall souls redeemed by me refuse
 To share my sorrow in their turn?
 Or, sin-forgiven, my gift abuse
 Of peace with selfish unconcern?
 Has saintly ease no pitying care?
 Has faith no work, and love no
 prayer?
 While sin remains, and souls in dark-
 ness dwell,
 Can heaven itself be heaven, and look
 unmoved on hell?"

Then through the Gates of Pain, I
 dream,
 A wind of heaven blows coolly in;
 Fainter the awful discords seem,
 The smoke of torment grows more
 thin,
 Tears quench the burning soil, and
 thence
 Spring sweet, pale flowers of peni-
 tence:
 And through the dreary realm of
 man's despair,
 Star-crown'd an angel walks, and lo!
 God's hope is there!

Is it a dream? Is heaven so high
 That pity cannot breathe its air?
 Its happy eyes forever dry,
 Its holy lips without a prayer!

My God! my God! if thither led
 By Thy free grace unmerited,
 No crown nor palm be mine, but let
 me keep
 A heart that still can feel, and eyes
 that still can weep.

THE PRAYER-SEEKER

ALONG the aisle where prayer was
 made,
 A woman, all in black arrayed,
 Close-veiled, between the kneeling host,
 With gliding motion of a ghost,
 Passed to the desk, and laid thereon
 A scroll which bore these words alone,
Pray for me!

Back from the place of worshipping
 She glided like a guilty thing:
 The rustle of her draperies, stirred
 By hurrying feet, alone was heard;
 While, full of awe, the preacher read,
 As out into the dark she sped:
Pray for me!

Back to the night from whence she came,
 To unimagined grief or shame!
 Across the threshold of that door
 None knew the burden that she bore;
 Alone she left the written scroll,
 The legend of a troubled soul, —
Pray for me!

Glide on, poor ghost of woe or sin!
 Thou leav'st a common need within;
 Each bears, like thee, some nameless
 weight,
 Some misery inarticulate,
 Some secret sin, some shrouded dread,
 Some household sorrow all unsaid.
Pray for us!

Pass on! The type of all thou art,
 Sad witness to the common heart!
 With face in veil and seal on lip,
 In mute and strange companionship,
 Like thee we wander to and fro,
 Dumbly imploring as we go:
Pray for us!

Ah, who shall pray, since he who
 pleads
 Our want perchance hath greater
 needs?

Yet they who make their loss the gain
Of others shall not ask in vain,
And Heaven bends low to hear the
prayer 40
Of love from lips of self-despair:
Pray for us !

In vain remorse and fear and hate
Beat with bruised hands against a fate
Whose walls of iron only move
And open to the touch of love.
He only feels his burdens fall
Who, taught by suffering, pities all.
Pray for us !

He prayeth best who leaves unguessed
The mystery of another's breast. 51
Why cheeks grow pale, why eyes o'er-
flow,
Or heads are white, thou need'st not
know.
Enough to note by many a sign
That every heart hath needs like
thine.
Pray for us !

THE BREWING OF SOMA

"These libations mixed with milk have
been prepared for Indra : offer Soma to the
drinker of Soma." — *Vashista*, translated
by MAX MÜLLER.

THE fagots blazed, the caldron's
smoke
Up through the green wood curled;
"Bring honey from the hollow oak,
Bring milky sap," the brewers spoke,
In the childhood of the world.

And brewed they well or brewed they
ill,
The priests thrust in their rods,
First tasted, and then drank their
fill,
And shouted, with one voice and
will,
"Behold the drink of gods!" 10

They drank, and lo! in heart and
brain
A new, glad life began;
The gray of hair grew young again,
The sick man laughed away his pain,
The cripple leaped and ran.

"Drink, mortals, what the gods have
sent,
Forget your long annoy."
So sang the priests. From tent to tent
The Soma's sacred madness went,
A storm of drunken joy. 20

Then knew each rapt inebriate
A winged and glorious birth,
Soared upward, with strange joy elate,
Beat, with dazed head, Varuna's gate,
And, sobered, sank to earth.

The land with Soma's praises rang;
On Gibon's banks of shade
Its hymns the dusky maidens sang;
In joy of life or mortal pang
All men to Soma prayed. 30

The morning twilight of the race
Sends down these matin psalms;
And still with wondering eyes we trace
The simple prayers to Soma's grace,
That Vedic verse embalms.

As in that child-world's early year,
Each after age has striven
By music, incense, vigils drear,
And trance, to bring the skies more
near,
Or lift men up to heaven! 40

Some fever of the blood and brain,
Some self-exalting spell,
The scourger's keen delight of pain,
The Dervish dance, the Orphic strain,
The wild-haired Bacchant's yell, —

The desert's hair-grown hermit sunk
The saner brute below;
The naked Santon, haschish-drunk,
The cloister madness of the monk,
The fakir's torture-show! 50

And yet the past comes round again,
And new doth old fulfil;
In sensual transports wild as vain
We brew in many a Christian fane
The heathen Soma still!

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise. 60

In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity
Interpreted by love! 70

With that deep hush subduing all
Our words and works that drown
The tender whisper of Thy call,
As noiseless let Thy blessing fall
As fell Thy manna down.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and
stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace. 80

Breathe through the heats of our de-
sire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind,
and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

A WOMAN

OH, dwarfed and wronged, and stained
with ill,
Behold! thou art a woman still!
And, by that sacred name and dear,
I bid thy better self appear.
Still, through thy foul disguise, I see
The rudimental purity,
That, spite of change and loss, makes
good
Thy birthright-claim of womanhood;
An inward loathing, deep, intense;
A shame that is half innocence.
Cast off the grave-clothes of thy
sin!
Rise from the dust thou liest in,
As Mary rose at Jesus' word,
Redeemed and white before the Lord!
Reclaim thy lost soul! In His name
Rise up, and break thy bonds of
shame.

Art weak? He's strong. Art fearful?
Hear
The world's O'ercomer; "Be of cheer!
What lip shall judge when he ap-
proves?
Who dare to scorn the child He loves?"

THE PRAYER OF AGASSIZ

On the isle of Penikese,
Ringed about by sapphire seas,
Fanned by breezes salt and cool,
Stood the Master with his school.
Over sails that not in vain
Wooded the west-wind's steady strain,
Line of coast that low and far
Stretched its undulating bar,
Wings aslant across the rim
Of the waves they stooped to skim, 10
Rock and isle and glistening bay,
Fell the beautiful white day.

Said the Master to the youth:
"We have come in search of truth,
Trying with uncertain key
Door by door of mystery;
We are reaching, through His laws,
To the garment-hem of Cause,
Him, the endless, unbegun,
The Unnamable, the One 20
Light of all our light the Source,
Life of life, and Force of force.
As with fingers of the blind,
We are groping here to find
What the hieroglyphics mean
Of the Unseen in the seen,
What the Thought which underlies
Nature's masking and disguise,
What it is that hides beneath
Blight and bloom and birth and death.
By past efforts unavailing, 30
Doubt and error, loss and failing,
Of our weakness made aware,
On the threshold of our task
Let us light and guidance ask,
Let us pause in silent prayer!"

Then the Master in his place
Bowed his head a little space,
And the leaves by soft airs stirred,
Lapse of wave and cry of bird, 40
Left the solemn hush unbroken
Of that wordless prayer unspoken,
While its wish, on earth unsaid,
Rose to heaven interpreted.



Agassiz

As, in life's best hours, we hear
 By the spirit's finer ear
 His low voice within us, thus
 The All-Father heareth us;
 And His holy ear we pain
 With our noisy words and vain.
 Not for Him our violence
 Storming at the gates of sense,
 His the primal language, His
 The eternal silences!

Even the careless heart was moved,
 And the doubting gave assent,
 With a gesture reverent,
 To the Master well-beloved.
 As thin mists are glorified
 By the light they cannot hide,
 All who gazed upon him saw,
 Through its veil of tender awe,
 How his face was still uplit
 By the old sweet look of it,
 Hopeful, trustful, full of cheer,
 And the love that casts out fear.
 Who the secret may declare
 Of that brief, unuttered prayer?

Did the shade before him come
 Of th' inevitable doom,
 Of the end of earth so near,
 And Eternity's new year? 70

50 In the lap of sheltering seas
 Rests the isle of Penikese;
 But the lord of the domain
 Comes not to his own again:
 Where the eyes that follow fail,
 On a vaster sea his sail
 Drifts beyond our beck and hail.
 Other lips within its bound 80
 Shall the laws of life expound;
 Other eyes from rock and shell
 Read the world's old riddles well:
 60 But when breezes light and bland
 Blow from Summer's blossomed land,
 When the air is glad with wings,
 And the blithe song-sparrow sings,
 Many an eye with his still face
 Shall the living ones displace,
 Many an ear the word shall seek 90
 He alone could fitly speak.
 And one name forevermore

Shall be uttered o'er and o'er
 By the waves that kiss the shore,
 By the curlew's whistle sent
 Down the cool, sea-scented air;
 In all voices known to her,
 Nature owns her worshipper,
 Half in triumph, half lament.
 Thither Love shall tearful turn, 100
 Friendship pause uncovered there,
 And the wisest reverence learn
 From the Master's silent prayer.

IN QUEST

HAVE I not voyaged, friend beloved,
 with thee
 On the great waters of the unsounded
 sea,
 Momently listening with suspended oar
 For the low rote of waves upon a shore
 Changeless as heaven, where never
 fog-cloud drifts
 Over its windless wood, nor mirage
 lifts
 The steadfast hills; where never birds
 of doubt
 Sing to mislead, and every dream dies
 out,
 And the dark riddles which perplex us
 here
 In the sharp solvent of its light are
 clear? 10
 Thou knowest how vain our quest;
 how, soon or late,
 The baffling tides and circles of debate
 Swept back our bark unto its starting-
 place,
 Where, looking forth upon the blank,
 gray space,
 And round about us seeing, with sad
 eyes,
 The same old difficult hills and cloud-
 cold skies,
 We said; "This outward search avail-
 eth not
 To find Him. He is farther than we
 thought,
 Or, haply, nearer. To this very spot
 Whereon we wait, this commonplace
 of home, 20
 As to the well of Jacob, He may come
 And tell us all things." As I listened
 there,
 Through the expectant silences of
 prayer,

Somewhat I seemed to hear, which
 hath to me
 Been hope, strength, comfort, and I
 give it thee.

"The riddle of the world is understood
 Only by him who feels that God is
 good,
 As only he can feel who makes his
 love
 The ladder of his faith, and climbs
 above
 On th' rounds of his best instincts;
 draws no line 30
 Between mere human goodness and
 divine,
 But, judging God by what in him is
 best,
 With a child's trust leans on a Fa-
 ther's breast,
 And hears unmoved the old creeds
 babble still
 Of kingly power and dread caprice of
 will,
 Chary of blessing, prodigal of curse,
 The pitiless doomsman of the uni-
 verse.
 Can Hatred ask for love? Can Selfish-
 ness
 Invite to self-denial? Is He less
 Than man in kindly dealing? Can He
 break 40
 His own great law of fatherhood, for-
 sake
 And curse His children? Not for
 earth and heaven
 Can separate tables of the law be
 given.
 No rule can bind which He himself
 denies;
 The truths of time are not eternal lies."
 So heard I; and the chaos round me
 spread
 To light and order grew; and, "Lord,"
 I said,
 "Our sins are our tormentors, worst of
 all
 Felt in distrustful shame that dares
 not call
 Upon Thee as our Father. We have
 set 50
 A strange god up, but Thou remainest
 yet.
 All that I feel of pity Thou hast known
 Before I was; my best is all Thy own.

From Thy great heart of goodness
mine but drew
Wishes and prayers; but Thou, O
Lord, wilt do,
In Thy own time, by ways I cannot
see,
All that I feel when I am nearest
Thee!"

THE FRIEND'S BURIAL

MY thoughts are all in yonder town,
Where, wept by many tears,
To-day my mother's friend lays down
The burden of her years.

True as in life, no poor disguise
Of death with her is seen,
And on her simple casket lies
No wreath of bloom and green.

Oh, not for her the florist's art,
The mocking weeds of woe; 10
Dear memories in each mourner's
heart
Like heaven's white lilies blow.

And all about the softening air
Of new-born sweetness tells,
And the ungathered May-flowers wear
The tints of ocean shells.

The old, assuring miracle
Is fresh as heretofore;
And earth takes up its parable
Of life from death once more. 20

Here organ-swell and church-bell toll
Methinks but discord were;
The prayerful silence of the soul
Is best befitting her.

No sound should break the quietude
Alike of earth and sky;
O wandering wind in Seabrook wood,
Breathe but a half-heard sigh!

Sing softly, spring-bird, for her sake;
And thou not distant sea, 30
Lapse lightly as if Jesus spake,
And thou wert Galilee!

For all her quiet life flowed on
As meadow streamlets flow,
Where fresher green reveals alone
The noiseless ways they go.

From her loved place of prayer I see
The plain-robed mourners pass,
With slow feet treading reverently
The graveyard's springing grass. 40

Make room, O mourning ones, for me,
Where, like the friends of Paul,
That you no more her face shall see
You sorrow most of all.

Her path shall brighten more and
more
Unto the perfect day;
She cannot fail of peace who bore
Such peace with her away.

O sweet, calm face that seemed to
wear
The look of sins forgiven! 50
O voice of prayer that seemed to bear
Our own needs up to heaven!

How reverent in our midst she stood,
Or knelt in grateful praise!
What grace of Christian womanhood
Was in her household ways!

For still her holy living meant
No duty left undone;
The heavenly and the human blent
Their kindred loves in one. 60

And if her life small leisure found
For feasting ear and eye,
And Pleasure, on her daily round,
She passed unpausing by,

Yet with her went a secret sense
Of all things sweet and fair,
And Beauty's gracious providence
Refreshed her unaware.

She kept her line of rectitude
With love's unconscious ease; 70
Her kindly instincts understood
All gentle courtesies.

An inborn charm of graciousness
Made sweet her smile and tone,
And glorified her farm-wife dress
With beauty not its own.

The dear Lord's best interpreters
Are humble human souls;
The Gospel of a life like hers
Is more than books or scrolls. 80

From scheme and creed the light goes
out,
The saintly fact survives;
The blessed Master none can doubt
Revealed in holy lives.

A CHRISTMAS CARMEN

I

SOUND over all waters, reach out from
all lands,
The chorus of voices, the clasping of
hands;
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars
of the morn,
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus
was born!
With glad jubilations
Bring hope to the nations!
The dark night is ending and dawn has
begun:
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the
sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts
beat as one!

II

Sing the bridal of nations! with cho-
rals of love
Sing out the war-vulture and sing in
the dove,
Till the hearts of the peoples keep
time in accord,
And the voice of the world is the voice
of the Lord!
Clasp hands of the nations
In strong gratulations:
The dark night is ending and dawn has
begun;
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts
beat as one!

III

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of
peace;
East, west, north, and south let the
long quarrel cease:
Sing the song of great joy that the
angels began,
Sing of glory to God and of good-will
to man!

Hark! joining in chorus
The heavens bend o'er us!
The dark night is ending and dawn
has begun;
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the
sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts
beat as one!

VESTA

O CHRIST of God! whose life and
death
Our own have reconciled,
Most quietly, most tenderly
Take home Thy star-named child!

Thy grace is in her patient eyes,
Thy words are on her tongue;
The very silence round her seems
As if the angels sung.

Her smile is as a listening child's
Who hears its mother call;
The lilies of Thy perfect peace
About her pillow fall.

She leans from out our clinging arms
To rest herself in Thine;
Alone to Thee, dear Lord, can we
Our well-beloved resign!

Oh, less for her than for ourselves
We bow our heads and pray;
Her setting star, like Bethlehem's,
To Thee shall point the way!

CHILD-SONGS

STILL linger in our noon of time
And on our Saxon tongue
The echoes of the home-born hymns
The Aryan mothers sung.

And childhood had its litanies
In every age and clime;
The earliest cradles of the race
Were rocked to poet's rhyme.

Nor sky, nor wave, nor tree, nor
flower,
Nor green earth's virgin sod, 10
So moved the singer's heart of old
As these small ones of God.

The mystery of unfolding life
 Was more than dawning morn,
 Than opening flower or crescent moon
 The human soul new-born!

And still to childhood's sweet appeal
 The heart of genius turns.
 And more than all the sages teach
 From lisping voices learns, — 20

The voices loved of him who sang,
 Where Tweed and Teviot glide,
 That sound to-day on all the winds
 That blow from Rydal-side, —

Heard in the Teuton's household
 songs,
 And folk-lore of the Finn,
 Where'er to holy Christmas hearths
 The Christ-child enters in!

Before life's sweetest mystery still
 The heart in reverence kneels; 30
 The wonder of the primal birth
 The latest mother feels.

We need love's tender lessons taught
 As only weakness can;
 God hath His small interpreters;
 The child must teach the man.

We wander wide through evil years,
 Our eyes of faith grow dim;
 But he is freshest from His hands
 And nearest unto Him! 40

And haply, pleading long with Him
 For sin-sick hearts and cold,
 The angels of our childhood still
 The Father's face behold.

Of such the kingdom! — Teach Thou
 us,
 O Master most divine,
 To feel the deep significance
 Of these wise words of Thine!

The haughty eye shall seek in vain
 What innocence beholds; 50
 No cunning finds the key of heaven,
 No strength its gate unfolds.

Alone to guilelessness and love
 That gate shall open fall;
 The mind of pride is nothingness,
 The childlike heart is all!

THE TWO ANGELS

God called the nearest angels who
 dwell with Him above:
 The tenderest one was Pity, the dear-
 est one was Love.

"Arise," He said, "my angels! a wail
 of woe and sin
 Steals through the gates of heaven,
 and saddens all within.

"My harps take up the mournful strain
 that from a lost world swells,
 The smoke of torment clouds the light
 and blights the asphodels.

"Fly downward to that under world,
 and on its souls of pain
 Let Love drop smiles like sunshine,
 and Pity tears like rain!"

Two faces bowed before the Throne,
 veiled in their golden hair;
 Four white wings lessened swiftly
 down the dark abyss of air.

The way was strange, the flight was
 long; at last the angels came
 Where swung the lost and nether world,
 red-wrapped in rayless flame.

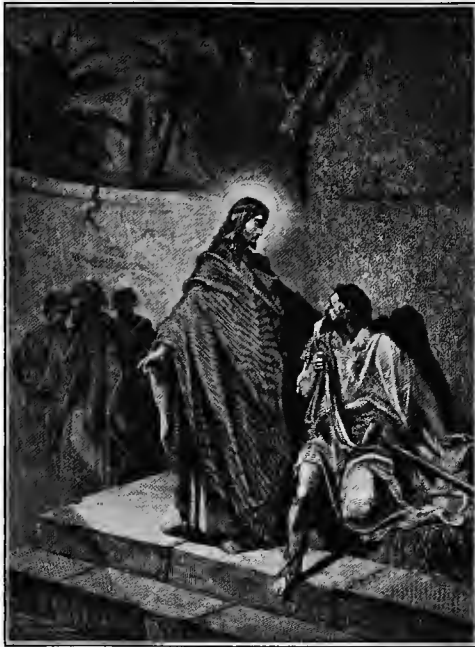
There Pity, shuddering, wept; but Love,
 with faith too strong for fear,
 Took heart from God's almightiness
 and smiled a smile of cheer.

And lo! that tear of Pity quenched
 the flame whereon it fell,
 And, with the sunshine of that smile,
 hope entered into hell!

Two unveiled faces full of joy looked
 upward to the Throne,
 Four white wings folded at the feet of
 Him who sat thereon!

And deeper than the sound of seas,
 more soft than falling flake,
 Amidst the hush of wing and song the
 Voice Eternal spake:

"Welcome, my angels! ye have
 brought a holier joy to heaven;
 Henceforth its sweetest song shall be
 the song of sin forgiven!"



“ So stood of old the holy Christ
Amidst the suffering throng ”

THE HEALER

TO A YOUNG PHYSICIAN, WITH DORÉ'S
PICTURE OF CHRIST HEALING THE SICK

So stood of old the holy Christ
Amidst the suffering throng;
With whom His lightest touch sufficed
To make the weakest strong.

That healing gift He lends to them
Who use it in His name;
The power that filled His garment's hem
Is evermore the same.

For lo! in human hearts unseen
The Healer dwelleth still,
And they who make His temples clean
The best subserve His will.

The holiest task by Heaven decreed,
An errand all divine,

The burden of our common need
To render less is thine.

The paths of pain are thine. Go forth
With patience, trust, and hope;
The sufferings of a sin-sick earth
Shall give thee ample scope.

Beside the unveiled mysteries
Of life and death go stand,
With guarded lips and reverent eyes
And pure of heart and hand.

So shalt thou be with power endued
From Him who went about
The Syrian hillsides doing good,
And casting demons out.

That Good Physician liveth yet
Thy friend and guide to be;
The Healer by Gennesaret
Shall walk the rounds with thee.

OVERRULED

THE threads our hands in blindness
spin

No self-determined plan weaves in;
The shuttle of the unseen powers
Works out a pattern not as ours.

Ah! small the choice of him who sings
What sound shall leave the smitten
strings;

Fate holds and guides the hand of
art;

The singer's is the servant's part.

The wind-harp chooses not the tone
That through its trembling threads is
blown;

The patient organ cannot guess
What hand its passive keys shall press.

Through wish, resolve, and act, our
will

Is moved by undreamed forces still;
And no man measures in advance
His strength with untried circum-
stance.

As streams take hue from shade and
sun,

As runs the life the song must run;
But, glad or sad, to His good end
God grant the varying notes may
tend!

HYMN OF THE DUNKERS

KLOSTER KEDAR, EPHRATA, PENNSYL-
VANIA (1738)

SISTER MARIA CHRISTINA *sings*.

WAKE, sisters, wake! the day-star
shines;

Above Ephrata's eastern pines
The dawn is breaking, cool and calm.
Wake, sisters, wake to prayer and
psalm!

Praised be the Lord for shade and
light,

For toil by day, for rest by night!
Praised be His name who deigns to
bless

Our Kedar of the wilderness!

Our refuge when the spoiler's hand
Was heavy on our native land; 10
And freedom, to her children due,
The wolf and vulture only knew.

We praised Him when to prison led,
We owned Him when the stake blazed
red;

We knew, whatever might befall,
His love and power were over all.

He heard our prayers; with out-
stretched arm

He led us forth from cruel harm;
Still, wheresoe'er our steps were bent,
His cloud and fire before us went! 20

The watch of faith and prayer He set,
We kept it then, we keep it yet.

At midnight, crow of cock, or noon,
He cometh sure, He cometh soon.

He comes to chasten, not destroy,
To purge the earth from sin's alloy.

At last, at last shall all confess
His mercy as His righteousness.

The dead shall live, the sick be whole,
The scarlet sin be white as wool; 30

No discord mar below, above,
The music of eternal love!

Sound, welcome trump, the last
alarm!

Lord God of hosts, make bare thine
arm,

Fulfil this day our long desire,
Make sweet and clean the world with
fire!

Sweep, flaming besom, sweep from
sight

The lies of time; be swift to smite,
Sharp sword of God, all idols down,
Genevan creed and Roman crown. 40

Quake, earth, through all thy zones,
till all

The fanes of pride and priestcraft fall,
And lift thou up in place of them
Thy gates of pearl, Jerusalem!

Lo! rising from baptismal flame,
Transfigured, glorious, yet the same,
Within the heavenly city's bound
Our Kloster Kedar shall be found.

He cometh soon! at dawn or noon
 Or set of sun, He cometh soon. 50
 Our prayers shall meet Him on His
 way;
 Wake, sisters, wake! arise and pray!

GIVING AND TAKING

I have attempted to put in English verse
 a prose translation of a poem by Tinneva-
 luva, a Hindoo poet of the third century of
 our era.

Who gives and hides the giving hand,
 Nor counts on favor, fame, or
 praise,
 Shall find his smallest gift outweighs
 The burden of the sea and land.

Who gives to whom hath naught been
 given,
 His gift in need, though small indeed
 As is the grass-blade's wind-blown
 seed,
 Is large as earth and rich as heaven.

Forget it not, O man, to whom
 A gift shall fall, while yet on earth;
 Yea, even to thy seven-fold birth
 Recall it in the lives to come.

Who broods above a wrong in thought
 Sins much; but greater sin is his
 Who, fed and clothed with kind-
 nesses,
 Shall count the holy alms as naught.

Who dares to curse the hands that bless
 Shall know of sin the deadliest cost;
 The patience of the heavens is lost
 Beholding man's unthankfulness.

For he who breaks all laws may still
 In Sivam's mercy be forgiven;
 But none can save, in earth or
 heaven,
 The wretch who answers good with ill.

THE VISION OF ECHARD

THE Benedictine Echard
 Sat by the wayside well,
 Where Marsberg sees the bridal
 Of the Sarre and the Moselle.

Fair with its sloping vineyards
 And tawny chestnut bloom,
 The happy vale Ausonius sung
 For holy Treves made room.

On the shrine Helena builded
 To keep the Christ coat well, 10
 On minster tower and kloster cross,
 The westering sunshine fell.

There, where the rock-hewn circles
 O'erlooked the Roman's game,
 The veil of sleep fell on him,
 And his thought a dream became.

He felt the heart of silence
 Throb with a soundless word,
 And by the inward ear alone
 A spirit's voice he heard. 20

And the spoken word seemed writ-
 ten
 On air and wave and sod,
 And the bending walls of sapphire
 Blazed with the thought of God:

"What lack I, O my children?
 All things are in my hand;
 The vast earth and the awful stars
 I hold as grains of sand.

"Need I your alms? The silver
 And gold are mine alone; 30
 The gifts ye bring before me
 Were evermore my own.

"Heed I the noise of viols,
 Your pomp of masque and show?
 Have I not dawns and sunsets?
 Have I not winds that blow?

"Do I smell your gums of in-
 cense?
 Is my ear with chantings fed?
 Taste I your wine of worship,
 Or eat your holy bread? 40

"Of rank and name and honors
 Am I vain as ye are vain?
 What can Eternal Fulness
 From your lip-service gain?

"Ye make me not your debtor
 Who serve yourselves alone;
 Ye boast to me of homage
 Whose gain is all your own.



“The veil of sleep fell on him,
And his thought a dream became”

“For you I gave the prophets,
For you the Psalmist’s lay:
For you the law’s stone tables,
And holy book and day.

“Ye change to weary burdens
The helps that should uplift;
Ye lose in form the spirit,
The Giver in the gift.

“Who called ye to self-torment,
To fast and penance vain?

50

Dream ye Eternal Goodness
Has joy in mortal pain?

60

“For the death in life of Nitria,
For your Chartreuse ever dumb,
What better is the neighbor,
Or happier the home?

“Who counts his brother’s welfare
As sacred as his own,
And loves, forgives and pities,
He serveth me alone.

"I note each gracious purpose,
Each kindly word and deed; 70
Are ye not all my children?
Shall not the Father heed?"

"No prayer for light and guid-
ance
Is lost upon mine ear:
The child's cry in the darkness
Shall not the Father hear?"

"I loathe your wrangling councils,
I tread upon your creeds; -
Who made ye mine avengers,
Or told ye of my needs? 80

"I bless men and ye curse them,
I love them and ye hate;
Ye bite and tear each other,
I suffer long and wait.

"Ye bow to ghastly symbols,
To cross and scourge and thorn;
Ye seek his Syrian manger
Who in the heart is born.

"For the dead Christ, not the liv-
ing, 90
Ye watch His empty grave,
Whose life alone within you
Has power to bless and save.

"O blind ones, outward groping,
The idle guest forego;
Who listens to His inward voice
Alone of Him shall know.

"His love all love exceeding
The heart must needs recall,
Its self-surrendering freedom,
Its loss that gaineth all. 100

"Climb not the holy mountains,
Their eagles know not me;
Seek not the Blessed Islands,
I dwell not in the sea.

"Gone is the mount of Meru,
The triple gods are gone,
And, deaf to all the lama's prayers,
The Buddha slumbers on.

"No more from rocky Horeb
The smitten waters gush; 110
Fallen is Bethel's ladder,
Quenched is the burning bush.

"The jewels of the Urim
And Thummim all are dim;
The fire has left the altar,
The sign the teraphim.

"No more in ark or hill grove
The Holiest abides;
Not in the scroll's dead letter
The eternal secret hides. 120

"The eye shall fail that searches
For me the hollow sky;
The far is even as the near,
The low is as the high.

"What if the earth is hiding
Her old faiths, long outworn?
What is it to the changeless truth
That yours shall fail in turn?"

"What if the o'erturned altar
Lays bare the ancient lie? 130
What if the dreams and legends
Of the world's childhood die?"

"Have ye not still my witness
Within yourselves always,
My hand that on the keys of life
For bliss or bale I lay?"

"Still, in perpetual judgment,
I hold assize within,
With sure reward of holiness,
And dread rebuke of sin. 140

"A light, a guide, a warning,
A presence ever near,
Through the deep silence of the flesh
I reach the inward ear.

"My Gerizim and Ebal
Are in each human soul,
The still, small voice of blessing,
And Sinai's thunder-roll.

"The stern behest of duty,
The doom-book open thrown, 150
The heaven ye seek, the hell ye fear,
Are with yourselves alone."

A gold and purple sunset
Flowed down the broad Moselle;
On hills of vine and meadow lands
The peace of twilight fell.

A slow, cool wind of evening
 Blew over leaf and bloom;
 And, faint and far, the Angelus 150
 Rang from Saint Matthew's tomb.

Then up rose Master Echard,
 And marvelled: "Can it be
 That here, in dream and vision,
 The Lord hath talked with me?"

He went his way; behind him
 The shrines of saintly dead,
 The holy coat and nail of cross,
 He left unvisited.

He sought the vale of Eltzbach
 His burdened soul to free, 170
 Where the foot-hills of the Eifel
 Are glassed in Laachersee.

And, in his Order's kloster,
 He sat, in night-long parle,
 With Tauler of the Friends of God,
 And Nicolas of Basle.

And lo! the twain made answer:
 "Yea, brother, even thus
 The Voice above all voices 180
 Hath spoken unto us.

"The world will have its idols,
 And flesh and sense their sign:
 But the blinded eyes shall open,
 And the gross ear be fine.

"What if the vision tarry?
 God's time is always best;
 The true Light shall be witnessed,
 The Christ within confessed.

"In mercy or in judgment
 He shall turn and overturn, 190
 Till the heart shall be His temple
 Where all of Him shall learn."

THE MINISTER'S DAUGHTER

In the minister's morning sermon
 He had told of the primal fall,
 And how thenceforth the wrath of God
 Rested on each and all.

And how of His will and pleasure,
 All souls, save a chosen few,
 Weredoomed to the quenchless burning,
 And held in the way thereto.

Yet never by faith's unreason
 A saintlier soul was tried, 10
 And never the harsh old lesson
 A tenderer heart belied.

And, after the painful service
 On that pleasant Sabbath day,
 He walked with his little daughter
 Through the apple-bloom of May.

Sweet in the fresh green meadows
 Sparrow and blackbird sung;
 Above him their tinted petals
 The blossoming orchards hung. 20

Around on the wonderful glory
 The minister looked and smiled;
 "How good is the Lord who gives us
 These gifts from His hand, my
 child!

"Behold in the bloom of apples
 And the violets in the sward
 A hint of the old, lost beauty
 Of the Garden of the Lord!"

Then up spake the little maiden,
 Treading on snow and pink: 30
 "O father! these pretty blossoms
 Are very wicked, I think.

"Had there been no Garden of Eden
 There never had been a fall;
 And if never a tree had blossomed
 God would have loved us all."

"Hush, child!" the father answered,
 "By His decree man fell;
 His ways are in clouds and dark-
 ness,
 But He doeth all things well. 40

"And whether by His ordaining
 To us cometh good or ill,
 Joy or pain, or light or shadow
 We must fear and love Him still."

"Oh, I fear Him!" said the daughter,
 "And I try to love Him, too;
 But I wish He was good and gentle,
 Kind and loving as you."

The minister groaned in spirit
 As the tremulous lips of pain 50
 And wide, wet eyes uplifted
 Questioned his own in vain.



"With warning hand I mark Time's rapid flight"

Bowing his head he pondered
 The words of the little one;
 Had he erred in his life-long teaching?
 Had he wrong to his Master done?

To what grim and dreadful idol
 Had he lent the holiest name?
 Did his own heart, loving and human,
 The God of his worship shame? 60

And lo! from the bloom and greenness,
 From the tender skies above,
 And the face of his little daughter,
 He read a lesson of love.

No more as the cloudy terror
 Of Sinai's mount of law,

But as Christ in the Syrian lilies
 The vision of God he saw.

And, as when in the clefts of Horeb,
 Of old was His presence known, 70
 The dread Ineffable Glory
 Was Infinite Goodness alone.

Thereafter his hearers noted
 In his prayers a tenderer strain,
 And never the gospel of hatred
 Burned on his lips again.

And the scoffing tongue was prayerful,
 And the blinded eyes found sight,
 And hearts, as flint aforesight,
 Grew soft in his warmth and light. 80



Dorothea Dix

INSCRIPTIONS

ON A SUN-DIAL

FOR DR. HENRY I. BOWDITCH

WITH warning hand I mark Time's
 rapid flight
 From life's glad morning to its solemn
 night;
 Yet, through the dear God's love, I
 also show
 There's Light above me by the Shade
 below.

ON A FOUNTAIN

FOR DOROTHEA L. DIX

STRANGER and traveller,
 Drink freely and bestow
 A kindly thought on her
 Who bade this fountain flow,
 Yet hath no other claim
 Than as the minister
 Of blessing in God's name.
 Drink, and in His peace go!

BY THEIR WORKS

CALL him not heretic whose works at-
test
His faith in goodness by no creed con-
fessed.
Whatever in love's name is truly done
To free the bound and lift the fallen
one
Is done to Christ. Whoso in deed and
word
Is not against Him labors for our Lord.
When He, who, sad and weary, long-
ing sore
For love's sweet service, sought the
sisters' door,
One saw the heavenly, one the human
guest,
But who shall say which loved the
Master best?

THE WORD

VOICE of the Holy Spirit, making
known
Man to himself, a witness swift and
sure,
Warning, approving, true and wise
and pure,
Counsel and guidance that misleadeth
none!
By thee the mystery of life is read;
The picture-writing of the world's
gray seers,
The myths and parables of the
primal years,
Whose letter kills, by thee interpreted
Take healthful meanings fitted to our
needs,
And in the soul's vernacular express
The common law of simple right-
eousness.
Hatred of cant and doubt of human
creeds
May well be felt: the unpardonable
sin
Is to deny the Word within!

THE BOOK

GALLERY of sacred pictures manifold,
A minster rich in holy effigies,
And bearing on entablature and
frieze

The hieroglyphic oracles of old.
Along its transept aureoled martyrs sit;
And the low chancel side-lights half
acquaint
The eye with shrines of prophet,
bard, and saint,
Their age-dimmed tablets traced in
doubtful writ!
But only when on form and word
obscure
Falls from above the white supernal
light
We read the mystic characters
aright,
And life informs the silent portraiture,
Until we pause at last, awe-held, be-
fore
The One ineffable Face, love, wonder,
and adore.

REQUIREMENT

WE live by Faith; but Faith is not the
slave
Of text and legend. Reason's voice
and God's,
Nature's and Duty's, never are at
odds.
What asks our Father of His children,
save
Justice and mercy and humility,
A reasonable service of good deeds,
Pure living, tenderness to human
needs,
Reverence and trust, and prayer for
light to see
The Master's footprints in our daily
ways?
No knotted scourge nor sacrificial
knife,
But the calm beauty of an ordered
life
Whose very breathing is unworded
praise! —
A life that stands as all true lives
have stood,
Firm-rooted in the faith that God is
Good.

HELP

DREAM not, O Soul, that easy is the
task
Thus set before thee. If it proves at
length,

As well it may, beyond thy natural strength,
 Faint not, despair not. As a child may ask
 A father, pray the Everlasting Good
 For light and guidance midst the subtle snares
 Of sin thick planted in life's thoroughfares.
 For spiritual strength and moral hard-
 hood;
 Still listening, through the noise of
 time and sense,
 To the still whisper of the Inward
 Word;
 Bitter in blame, sweet in approval,
 heard,
 Itself its own confirming evi-
 dence:
 To health of soul a voice to cheer and
 please,
 To guilt the wrath of the Eumenides.

UTTERANCE

BUT what avail inadequate words to
 reach
 The innermost of Truth? Who shall
 essay,
 Blinded and weak, to point and lead
 the way,
 Or solve the mystery in familiar
 speech?
 Yet, if it be that something not thy
 own,
 Some shadow of the Thought to
 which our schemes,
 Creeds, cult, and ritual are at best
 but dreams,
 Is even to thy unworthiness made
 known,
 Thou mayst not hide what yet thou
 shouldst not dare
 To utter lightly, lest on lips of
 thine
 The real seem false, the beauty un-
 divine.
 So, weighing duty in the scale of
 prayer,
 Give what seems given thee. It may
 prove a seed
 Of goodness dropped in fallow-grounds
 of need.

ORIENTAL MAXIMS

PARAPHRASE OF SANSKRIT TRANSLA- TIONS

THE INWARD JUDGE

From *Institutes of Manu*.

THE soul itself its awful witness is.
 Say not in evil doing, "No one sees,"
 And so offend the conscious One
 within,
 Whose ear can hear the silences of sin
 Ere they find voice, whose eyes un-
 sleeping see
 The secret motions of iniquity.
 Nor in thy folly say, "I am alone."
 For, seated in thy heart, as on a
 throne,
 The ancient Judge and Witness liveth
 still,
 To note thy act and thought; and as
 thy ill
 Or good goes from thee, far beyond
 thy reach,
 The solemn Doomsman's seal is set on
 each.

LAYING UP TREASURE

From the *Mahābhārata*.

BEFORE the Ender comes, whose char-
 ioteer
 Is swift or slow Disease, lay up each
 year
 Thy harvests of well-doing, wealth
 that kings
 Nor thieves can take away. When all
 the things
 Thou callest thine, goods, pleasures,
 honors fall,
 Thou in thy virtue shalt survive them
 all.

CONDUCT

From the *Mahābhārata*.

HEED how thou livest. Do not act by
 day
 Which from the night shall drive thy
 peace away.

In months of sun so live that months
of rain
Shall still be happy. Evermore re-
strain
Evil and cherish good, so shall there be
Another and a happier life for thee.

AN EASTER FLOWER GIFT

O DEAREST bloom the seasons know,
Flowers of the Resurrection, blow,
Our hope and faith restore;
And through the bitterness of death
And loss and sorrow, breathe a breath
Of life forevermore!

The thought of Love Immortal blends
With fond remembrances of friends;
In you, O sacred flowers,
By human love made doubly sweet,
The heavenly and the earthly meet,
The heart of Christ and ours!

THE MYSTIC'S CHRISTMAS

"All hail!" the bells of Christmas
rang,
"All hail!" the monks at Christmas
sang,
The merry monks who kept with
cheer
The gladdest day of all their year.

But still apart, unmoved thereat,
A pious elder brother sat
Silent, in his accustomed place,
With God's sweet peace upon his face.

"Why sitt'st thou thus?" his breth-
ren cried.
"It is the blessed Christmas-tide; 10
The Christmas lights are all aglow,
The sacred lilies bud and blow.

"Above our heads the joy-bells ring,
Without the happy children sing,
And all God's creatures hail the morn
On which the holy Christ was born!

"Rejoice with us; no more rebuke
Our gladness with thy quiet look."
The gray monk answered: "Keep, I
pray,
Even as ye list, the Lord's birthday. 20

"Let heathen Yule fires flicker red
Where refectory feasts are
spread;
With mystery-play and masque and
mime
And wait-songs speed the holy time!

"The blindest faith may haply save;
The Lord accepts the things we have;
And reverence, howsoe'er it strays,
May find at last the shining ways.

"They needs must grope who cannot
see,
The blade before the ear must be; 30
As ye are feeling I have felt,
And where ye dwell I too have dwelt.

"But now, beyond the things of sense,
Beyond occasions and events,
I know, through God's exceeding
grace,
Release from form and time and place.

"I listen, from no mortal tongue,
To hear the song the angels sung;
And wait within myself to know
The Christmas lilies bud and blow. 40

"The outward symbols disappear
From him whose inward sight is clear;
And small must be the choice of days
To him who fills them all with praise!

"Keep while you need it, brothers
mine,
With honest zeal your Christmas sign,
But judge not him who every morn
Feels in his heart the Lord Christ
born!"

AT LAST

WHEN on my day of life the night is
falling,
And, in the winds from unsunned
spaces blown,
I hear far voices out of darkness call-
ing
My feet to paths unknown,
Thou who hast made my home of life
so pleasant,
Leave not its tenant when its walls
decay;

O Love Divine, O Helper ever present,
Be Thou my strength and stay!

Be near me when all else is from me
drifting;
Earth, sky, home's pictures, days
of shade and shine,
And kindly faces to my own uplifting
The love which answers mine.

I have but Thee, my Father! let Thy
spirit
Be with me then to comfort and up-
hold;
No gate of pearl, no branch of palm I
merit,
Nor street of shining gold.

Suffice it if — my good and ill unreck-
oned,
And both forgiven through Thy
abounding grace —

I find myself by hands familiar beck-
oned
Unto my fitting place.

Some humble door among Thy many
mansions,
Some sheltering shade where sin and
striving cease,
And flows forever through heaven's
green expansions
The river of Thy peace.

There, from the music round about
me stealing,
I fain would learn the new and holy
song,
And find at last, beneath Thy trees of
healing,
The life for which I long.

WHAT THE TRAVELLER SAID AT SUNSET

THE shadows grow and deepen round
me,
I feel the dew-fall in the air;
The muezzin of the darkening thicket,
I hear the night-thrush call to
prayer.

The evening wind is sad with fare-
wells,
And loving hands unclasp from mine;

Alone I go to meet the darkness
Across an awful boundary-line.

As from the lighted hearths behind me
I pass with slow, reluctant feet, ¹⁰
What waits me in the land of strange-
ness?
What face shall smile, what voice
shall greet?

What space shall awe, what brightness
blind me?
What thunder-roll of music stun?
What vast processions sweep before
me
Of shapes unknown beneath the sun?

I shrink from unaccustomed glory,
I dread the myriad-voicèd strain;
Give me the unforgotten faces,
And let my lost ones speak again. ²⁰

He will not chide my mortal yearning
Who is our Brother and our Friend;
In whose full life, divine and human,
The heavenly and the earthly blend.

Mine be the joy of soul-communion,
The sense of spiritual strength re-
newed,
The reverence for the pure and holy,
The dear delight of doing good.

No fitting ear is mine to listen
An endless anthem's rise and fall; ³⁰
No curious eye is mine to measure
The pearl gate and the jasper wall.

For love must needs be more than
knowledge;
What matter if I never know
Why Aldebaran's star is ruddy,
Or warmer Sirius white as snow!

Forgive my human words, O Father!
I go Thy larger truth to prove;
Thy mercy shall transcend my long-
ing; ³⁹
I seek but love, and Thou art Love!

I go to find my lost and mourned for
Safe in Thy sheltering goodness
still,
And all that hope and faith fore-
shadow
Made perfect in Thy holy will!



“Immortal in her blameless maidenhood”

“THE STORY OF IDA”

WEARY of jangling noises never stilled,
 The skeptic's sneer, the bigot's hate,
 the din
 Of clashing texts, the webs of creed
 men spin
 Round simple truth, the children
 grown who build
 With gilded cards their new Jerusalem,
 Busy, with sacerdotal tailorings
 And tinsel gauds, bedizening holy
 things,

I turn, with glad and grateful heart,
 from them
 To the sweet story of the Florentine,
 Immortal in her blameless maiden-
 hood,
 Beautiful as God's angels and as
 good;
 Feeling that life, even now, may be
 divine
 With love no wrong can ever change
 to hate,
 No sin make less than all-compassion-
 ate!

THE LIGHT THAT IS FELT

A TENDER child of summers three,
 Seeking her little bed at night,
 Paused on the dark stair timidly.
 "Oh, mother! Take my hand," said
 she,
 "And then the dark will all be
 light."

We older children grope our way
 From dark behind to dark before;
 And only when our hands we lay,
 Dear Lord, in Thine, the night is
 day,
 And there is darkness nevermore.

Reach downward to the sunless
 days
 Wherein our guides are blind as
 we,
 And faith is small and hope delays;
 Take Thou the hands of prayer we
 raise,
 And let us feel the light of Thee!

THE TWO LOVES

SMOOTHING soft the nestling head
 Of a maiden fancy-led,
 Thus a grave-eyed woman said:

"Richest gifts are those we make,
 Dearer than the love we take
 That we give for love's own sake.

"Well I know the heart's unrest;
 Mine has been the common quest,
 To be loved and therefore blest.

"Favors undeserved were mine;
 At my feet as on a shrine
 Love has laid its gifts divine.

"Sweet the offerings seemed, and yet
 With their sweetness came regret,
 And a sense of unpaid debt.

"Heart of mine unsatisfied,
 Was it vanity or pride
 That a deeper joy denied?

"Hands that ope but to receive
 Empty close; they only live
 Richly who can richly give.

"Still," she sighed, with moistening
 eyes,
 "Love is sweet in any guise;
 But its best is sacrifice!

"He who, giving, does not crave
 Liketh is to Him who gave
 Life itself the loved to save.

"Love, that self-forgetful gives,
 Sows surprise of ripened sheaves,
 Late or soon its own receives."

ADJUSTMENT

THE tree of Faith its bare, dry boughs
 must shed
 That nearer heaven the living ones
 may climb;
 The false must fail, though from our
 shores of time
 The old lament be heard, "Great Pan
 is dead!"
 That wail is Error's, from his high
 place hurled;
 This sharp recoil is Evil under-
 trod;
 Our time's unrest, an angel sent of
 God
 Troubling with life the waters of the
 world.
 Even as they list the winds of the
 Spirit blow
 To turn or break our century-rusted
 vanes;
 Sands shift and waste; the rock
 alone remains
 Where, led of Heaven, the strong tides
 come and go,
 And storm-clouds, rent by thunder-
 bolt and wind,
 Leave, free of mist, the permanent
 stars behind.
 Therefore I trust, although to out-
 ward sense
 Both true and false seem shaken; I
 will hold
 With newer light my reverence for
 the old
 And calmly wait the births of Provi-
 dence.
 No gain is lost; the clear-eyed saints
 look down
 Untroubled on the wreck of schemes
 and creeds;

Love yet remains, its rosary of good
deeds
Counting in task-field and o'erpeopled
town.
Truth has charmed life; the Inward
Word survives,
And, day by day, its revelation
brings;
Faith, hope, and charity, whatso-
ever things
Which cannot be shaken, stand. Still
holy lives
Reveal the Christ of whom the letter
told,
And the new gospel verifies the old.

HYMNS OF THE BRAHMO SOMAJ

I

THE mercy, O Eternal One!
By man unmeasured yet,
In joy or grief, in shade or sun,
I never will forget.
I give the whole, and not a part,
Of all Thou gavest me;
My goods, my life, my soul and heart,
I yield them all to Thee!

II

We fast and plead, we weep and pray,
From morning until even;
We feel to find the holy way,
We knock at the gate of heaven!
And when in silent awe we wait,
And word and sign forbear,
The hinges of the golden gate
Move, soundless, to our prayer!
Who hears the eternal harmonies
Can heed no outward word;
Blind to all else is he who sees
The vision of the Lord!

III

O soul, be patient, restrain thy tears,
Have hope, and not despair;
As a tender mother heareth her child
God hears the penitent prayer.
And not forever shall grief be thine;
On the Heavenly Mother's breast,
Washed clean and white in waters of
joy

Shall His seeking child find rest.
Console thyself with His word of grace
And cease thy wail of woe,
For His mercy never an equal hath,
And His love no bounds can know.
Lean close unto Him in faith and hope;
How many like thee have found
In Him a shelter and home of peace,
By His mercy compassed round!
There, safe from sin and the sorrow it
brings,
They sing their grateful psalms,
And rest, at noon, by the wells of God,
In the shade of His holy palms!

REVELATION

"And I went into the Vale of Beavor,
and as I went I preached repentance to the
people. And one morning sitting by the
fire, a great cloud came over me, and a
temptation beset me. And it was said: *All
things come by Nature*; and the Elements
and the Stars came over me. And as I sat
still and let it alone, a living hope arose in
me, and a true Voice which said: *There is
a living God who made all things*. And im-
mediately the cloud and the temptation
vanished, and Life rose over all, and my
heart was glad and I praised the living
God." — *Journal of George Fox, 1690.*

STILL, as of old, in Beavor's Vale,
O man of God! our hope and faith
The Elements and Stars assail,
And the awed spirit holds its breath,
Blown over by a wind of death.

Takes Nature thought for such as we,
What place her human atom fills,
The weed-drift of her careless sea,
The mist on her unheeding hills?
What reckes she of our helpless wills?

Strange god of Force, with fear, not love,
Its trembling worshipper! Can
prayer
Reach the shut ear of Fate, or move
Unpitying Energy to spare?
What doth the cosmic Vastness
care?

In vain to this dread Unconcern
For the All-Father's love we look;
In vain, in quest of it, we turn
The storied leaves of Nature's book,
The prints her rocky tablets took.

I pray for faith, I long to trust;
 I listen with my heart, and hear
 A Voice without a sound: Be just,
 Be true, be merciful, revere
 The Word within thee: God is near!

“A light to sky and earth unknown
 Pales all their lights: a mightier
 force

Than theirs the powers of Nature own,
 And, to its goal as at its source,
 His Spirit moves the Universe.

“Believe and trust. Through stars
 and suns,
 Through life and death, through
 soul and sense,

His wise, paternal purpose runs;
 The darkness of His providence
 Is star-lit with benign intents.”

O joy supreme! I know the Voice,
 Like none beside on earth or sea;

Yea, more, O soul of mine, rejoice,
 By all that He requires of me,
 I know what God himself must be.

No picture to my aid I call,
 I shape no image in my prayer;
 I only know in Him is all
 Of life, light, beauty, everywhere,
 Eternal Goodness here and there!

I know He is, and what He is,
 Whose one great purpose is the good
 Of all. I rest my soul on His
 Immortal Love and Fatherhood;
 And trust Him, as His children
 should.

I fear no more. The clouded face
 Of Nature smiles; through all her
 things

Of time and space and sense I trace
 The moving of the Spirit's wings,
 And hear the song of hope she sings.



"There's a well-sweep at every door in town"

(See p. 577)

AT SUNDOWN

TO E. C. S.

POET and friend of poets, if thy glass
 Detects no flower in winter's tuft of
 grass,
 Let this slight token of the debt I owe
 Outlive for thee December's frozen
 day,

And, like the arbutus budding under
 snow,
 Take bloom and fragrance from
 some morn of May
 When he who gives it shall have
 gone the way
 Where faith shall see and reverent
 trust shall know.

THE CHRISTMAS OF 1888

Low in the east, against a white, cold
dawn,
The black-lined silhouette of the
woods was drawn,
And on a wintry waste
Of frosted streams and hillsides bare
and brown,
Through thin cloud-films a pallid
ghost looked down,
The waning moon half-faced!

In that pale sky and sere, snow-wait-
ing earth,
What sign was there of the immortal
birth?
What herald of the One?
Lo! swift as thought the heavenly
radiance came,
A rose-red splendor swept the sky like
flame,
Up rolled the round, bright sun!

And all was changed. From a trans-
figured world
The moon's ghost fled, the smoke of
home-hearths curled
Up the still air unblown.
In Orient warmth and brightness, did
that morn
O'er Nain and Nazareth, when the
Christ was born,
Break fairer than our own?

The morning's promise noon and eve
fulfilled
In warm, soft sky and landscape hazy-
hilled
And sunset fair as they;
A sweet reminder of His holiest
time,
A summer-miracle in our winter
clime,
God gave a perfect day.

The near was blended with the old
and far,
And Bethlehem's hillside and the
Magi's star
Seemed here, as there and then,—
Our homestead pine-tree was the
Syrian palm,
Our heart's desire the angels' mid-
night psalm,
Peace, and good-will to men!

THE VOW OF WASHINGTON

Read in New York, April 30, 1889, at the
Centennial Celebration of the Inauguration
of George Washington as the first President
of the United States.

THE sword was sheathed: in April's
sun
Lay green the fields by Freedom
won;
And severed sections, weary of de-
bates,
Joined hands at last and were United
States.

O City sitting by the Sea!
How proud the day that dawned on
thee,
When the new era, long desired, be-
gan,
And, in its need, the hour had found
the man!

One thought the cannon salvos
spoke,
The resonant bell-tower's vibrant
stroke,
The voiceful streets, the plaudit-echo-
ing halls,
And prayer and hymn borne heaven-
ward from St. Paul's!

How felt the land in every part
The strong throb of a nation's heart,
As its great leader gave, with rever-
ent awe,
His pledge to Union, Liberty, and
Law!

That pledge the heavens above him
heard,
That vow the sleep of centuries
stirred;
In world-wide wonder listening peo-
ples bent
Their gaze on Freedom's great experi-
ment.

Could it succeed? Of honor sold
And hopes deceived all history
told.
Above the wrecks that strewed the
mournful past,
Was the long dream of ages true at
last?

Thank God! the people's choice
 was just,
 The one man equal to his trust,
 Wise beyond lore, and without weak-
 ness good,
 Calm in the strength of flawless recti-
 tude!

His rule of justice, order, peace,
 Made possible the world's release; 30
 Taught prince and serf that power is
 but a trust,
 And rule alone, which serves the
 ruled, is just;

That Freedom generous is, but
 strong
 In hate of fraud and selfish wrong,
 Pretence that turns her holy truth to
 lies,
 And lawless license masking in her
 guise.

Land of his love! with one glad voice
 Let thy great sisterhood rejoice;
 A century's suns o'er thee have risen
 and set,
 And, God be praised, we are one nation
 yet. 40

And still we trust the years to be
 Shall prove his hope was destiny,
 Leaving our flag, with all its added
 stars,
 Unrent by faction and unstained by
 wars.

Lo! where with patient toil he
 nursed
 And trained the new-set plant at
 first,
 The widening branches of a stately
 tree
 Stretch from the sunrise to the sunset
 sea.

And in its broad and sheltering
 shade,
 Sitting with none to make afraid, 50
 Were we now silent, through each
 mighty limb,
 The winds of heaven would sing the
 praise of him.

Our first and best! — his ashes lie
 Beneath his own Virginian sky.

Forgive, forget, O true and just and
 brave,
 The storm that swept above thy sa-
 cred grave!

For, ever in the awful strife
 And dark hours of the nation's life,
 Through the fierce tumult pierced his
 warning word,
 Their father's voice his erring children
 heard! 60

The change for which he prayed and
 sought
 In that sharp agony was wrought;
 No partial interest draws its alien
 line
 'Twixt North and South, the cypress
 and the pine!

One people now, all doubt beyond,
 His name shall be our Union-bond;
 We lift our hands to Heaven, and here
 and now
 Take on our lips the old Centennial
 vow.

For rule and trust must needs be
 ours;
 Chooser and chosen both are pow-
 ers 70
 Equal in service as in rights; the
 claim
 Of Duty rests on each and all the
 same.

Then let the sovereign millions,
 where
 Our banner floats in sun and air,
 From the warm palm-lands to Alaska's
 cold,
 Repeat with us the pledge a century
 old!

THE CAPTAIN'S WELL

FROM pain and peril, by land and
 main,
 The shipwrecked sailor came back
 again;

And like one from the dead, the
 threshold crossed
 Of his wondering home, that had
 mourned him lost,

Where he sat once more with his kith
and kin,
And welcomed his neighbors throng-
ing in.

But when morning came he called for
his spade.
"I must pay my debt to the Lord," he
said.

"Why dig you here?" asked the
passer-by;
"Is there gold or silver the road so
nigh?" ¹⁰

"No, friend," he answered: "but un-
der this sod
Is the blessed water, the wine of
God."

"Water! the Powow is at your back,
And right before you the Merrimac,

"And look you up, or look you
down,
There's a well-sweep at every door in
town."

"True," he said, "we have wells of our
own;
But this I dig for the Lord alone."

Said the other: "This soil is dry, you
know,
I doubt if a spring can be found be-
low;" ²⁰

"You had better consult, before you
dig,
Some water-witch, with a hazel twig."

"No, wet or dry, I will dig it here,
Shallow or deep, if it takes a year.

"In the Arab desert, where shade is
none,
The waterless land of sand and sun,

"Under the pitiless, brazen sky
My burning throat as the sand was
dry;

"My crazed brain listened in fever
dreams
For plash of buckets and ripple of
streams;" ³⁰

"And opening my eyes to the blinding
glare,
And my lips to the breath of the blis-
tering air,

"Tortured alike by the heavens and
earth,
I cursed, like Job, the day of my birth.

"Then something tender, and sad, and
mild
As a mother's voice to her wandering
child,

"Rebuked my frenzy; and bowing
my head,
I prayed as I never before had prayed:

*"Pity me, God! for I die of thirst; 40
Take me out of this land accurst;*

*"And if ever I reach my home again,
Where earth has springs, and the sky
has rain,*

*"I will dig a well for the passers-by,
And none shall suffer from thirst as I.*

"I saw, as I prayed, my home once
more,
The house, the barn, the elms by the
door,

"The grass-lined road, that riverward
wound,
The tall slate stones of the burying-
ground,

"The belfry and steeple on meeting-
house hill,
The brook with its dam, and gray grist
mill," ⁵⁰

"And I knew in that vision beyond
the sea,
The very place where my well must
be.

"God heard my prayer in that evil
day;
He led my feet in their homeward way,

"From false mirage and dried-up
well,
And the hot sand storms of a land of
hell,

"Till I saw at last through the coast-
hill's gap,
A city held in its stony lap,

"The mosques and the domes of
scorched Muscat,
And my heart leaped up with joy
thereat; 60

"For there was a ship at anchor
lying,
A Christian flag at its mast-head
flying,

"And sweetest of sounds to my home-
sick ear
Was my native tongue in the sailor's
cheer.

"Now the Lord be thanked, I am back
again,
Where earth has springs, and the skies
have rain,

"And the well I promised by Oman's
Sea,
I am digging for him in Amesbury."

His kindred wept, and his neighbors
said:

"The poor old captain is out of his
head." 70

But from morn to noon, and from
noon to night,
He toiled at his task with main and
might;

And when at last, from the loosened
earth,
Under his spade the stream gushed
forth,

And fast as he climbed to his deep
well's brim,
The water he dug for followed him,

He shouted for joy: "I have kept my
word,
And here is the well I promised the
Lord!"

The long years came and the long
years went,
And he sat by his roadside well con-
tent; 80

He watched the travellers, heat-op-
pressed,
Pause by the way to drink and rest,

And the sweltering horses dip, as they
drank,
Their nostrils deep in the cool, sweet
tank,

And grateful at heart, his memory
went
Back to that waterless Orient,

And the blessed answer of prayer,
which came
To the earth of iron and sky of flame.

And when a wayfarer weary and hot
Kept to the mid road, pausing not 90

For the well's refreshing, he shook his
head;

"He don't know the value of water,"
he said;

"Had he prayed for a drop, as I have
done,
In the desert circle of sand and sun,

"He would drink and rest, and go
home to tell
That God's best gift is the wayside
well!"

AN OUTDOOR RECEPTION

On these green banks, where falls too
soon

The shade of Autumn's afternoon,
The south wind blowing soft and
sweet,

The water gliding at my feet,
The distant northern range uplift
By the slant sunshine over it,
With changes of the mountain mist
From tender blush to amethyst,
The valley's stretch of shade and
gleam

Fair as in Mirza's Bagdad dream, 10
With glad young faces smiling near
And merry voices in my ear,
I sit, methinks, as Hafiz might
In Iran's Garden of Delight.
For Persian roses blushing red,
Aster and gentian bloom instead;

For Shiraz wine, this mountain air;
For feast, the blueberries which I
share

With one who proffers with stained
hands

Her gleanings from yon pasture lands,
Wild fruit that art and culture
spoil, ²¹

The harvest of an untilled soil;
And with her one whose tender eyes
Reflect the change of April skies,
Midway 'twixt child and maiden
yet,

Fresh as Spring's earliest violet;
And one whose look and voice and
ways

Make where she goes idyllic days;
And one whose sweet, still counte-
nance

Seems dreamful of a child's romance;
And others, welcome as are these, ³¹
Like and unlike, varieties

Of pearls on nature's chaplet strung,
And all are fair, for all are young.
Gathered from seaside cities old,
From midland prairie, lake, and wold,
From the great wheat-fields, which
might feed

The hunger of a world at need,
In healthful change of rest and play
Their school-vacations glide away. ⁴⁰

No critics these: they only see
An old and kindly friend in me,
In whose amused, indulgent look
Their innocent mirth has no rebuke.
They scarce can know my rugged
rhymes,

The harsher songs of evil times,
Nor graver themes in minor keys
Of life's and death's solemnities;
But haply as they bear in mind
Some verse of lighter, happier kind, —
Hints of the boyhood of the man, ⁵¹
Youth viewed from life's meridian,
Half seriously and half in play
My pleasant interviewers pay
Their visit, with no fell intent
Of taking notes and punishment.

As yonder solitary pine
Is ringed below with flower and vine,
More favored than that lonely tree,
The bloom of girlhood circles me. ⁶⁰
In such an atmosphere of youth
I half forget my age's truth;

The shadow of my life's long date
Runs backward on the dial-plate,
Until it seems a step might span
The gulf between the boy and man.

My young friends smile, as if some
jay

On bleak December's leafless spray
Essayed to sing the songs of May.
Well, let them smile, and live to know,
When their brown locks are flecked
with snow, ⁷¹

'T is tedious to be always sage
And pose the dignity of age,
While so much of our early lives
On memory's playground still sur-
vives,

And owns, as at the present hour,
The spell of youth's magnetic power.

But though I feel, with Solomon,
'T is pleasant to behold the sun,
I would not if I could repeat ⁸⁰

A life which still is good and sweet;
I keep in age, as in my prime,
A not uncheerful step with time,
And, grateful for all blessings sent,
I go the common way, content
To make no new experiment.

On easy terms with law and fate,
For what must be I calmly wait,
And trust the path I cannot see, —
That God is good sufficeth me. ⁹⁰

And when at last on life's strange play
The curtain falls, I only pray
That hope may lose itself in truth,
And age in Heaven's immortal youth,
And all our loves and longing prove
The foretaste of diviner love!

The day is done. Its afterglow
Along the west is burning low.
My visitors, like birds, have flown;
I hear their voices, fainter grown, ¹⁰⁰
And dimly through the dusk I see
Their kerchiefs wave good-night to
me, —

Light hearts of girlhood, knowing
naught

Of all the cheer their coming brought;
And, in their going, unaware
Of silent-following feet of prayer:
Heaven make their budding promise
good

With flowers of gracious woman-
hood!



“ And ye, O ancient pine-trees, at whose feet
He watched in life the sunset's reddening glow ”

R. S. S., AT DEER ISLAND ON
THE MERRIMAC

MAKE, for he loved thee well, our Mer-
rimac,

From wave and shore a low and long
lament

For him whose last look sought
thee, as he went

The unknown way from which no step
comes back.

And ye, O ancient pine-trees, at whose
feet

He watched in life the sunset's red-
dening glow,

Let the soft south wind through
your needles blow

A fitting requiem tenderly and
sweet!

No fonder lover of all lovely things
Shall walk where once he walked,
no smile more glad

Greet friends than his who friends
in all men had,

Whose pleasant memory to that Is-
land clings,

Where a dear mourner in the home he
left

Of love's sweet solace cannot be be-
reft.

BURNING DRIFT-WOOD

BEFORE my drift-wood fire I sit,
And see, with every waif I burn,
Old dreams and fancies coloring it,
And folly's unlaid ghosts return.

O ships of mine, whose swift keels cleft
The enchanted sea on which they
sailed,

Are these poor fragments only left
Of vain desires and hopes that
failed?

Did I not watch from them the light
Of sunset on my towers in Spain, 10
And see, far off, uploom in sight
The Fortunate Isles I might not gain?

Did sudden lift of fog reveal
Arcadia's vales of song and spring,
And did I pass, with grazing keel,
The rocks whereon the sirens sing?

Have I not drifted hard upon
The unmapped regions lost to man,
The cloud-pitched tents of Prester
John,
The palace domes of Kubla Khan? 20

Did land winds blow from jasmine
flowers,
Where Youth the ageless Fountain
fills?

Did Love make sign from rose-blown
bowers,
And gold from Eldorado's hills?

Alas! the gallant ships, that sailed
On blind Adventure's errand sent,
Howe'er they laid their courses, failed
To reach the haven of Content.

And of my ventures, those alone
Which Love had freighted, safely
sped, 30
Seeking a good beyond my own,
By clear-eyed Duty piloted.

O mariners, hoping still to meet
The luck Arabian voyagers met,
And find in Bagdad's moonlit street,
Haroun al Raschid walking yet,

Take with you, on your Sea of Dreams,
The fair, fond fancies dear to youth.

I turn from all that only seems,
And seek the sober grounds of
truth. 40

What matter that it is not May,
That birds have flown, and trees are
bare,
That darker grows the shortening day,
And colder blows the wintry air!

The wrecks of passion and desire,
The castles I no more rebuild,
May fitly feed my drift-wood fire,
And warm the hands that age has
chilled.

Whatever perished with my ships,
I only know the best remains; 50
A song of praise is on my lips
For losses which are now my gains.

Heap high my hearth! No worth is
lost;
No wisdom with the folly dies.
Burn on, poor shreds, your holocaust
Shall be my evening sacrifice!

Far more than all I dared to dream,
Unsought before my door I see;
On wings of fire and steeds of steam
The world's great wonders come to
me, 60

And holier signs, unmarked before,
Of Love to seek and Power to save,—
The righting of the wronged and poor,
The man evolving from the slave;

And life, no longer chance or fate,
Safe in the gracious Fatherhood.
I fold o'er-wearied hands and wait,
In full assurance of the good.

And well the waiting time must be,
Though brief or long its granted
days, 70
If Faith and Hope and Charity
Sit by my evening hearth-fire's
blaze.

And with them, friends whom Heaven
has spared,
Whose love my heart has com-
forted,
And, sharing all my joys, has shared
My tender memories of the dead, —



“What matter that it is not May,
That birds have flown, and trees are bare”

Dear souls who left us lonely here,
Bound on their last, long voyage, to
whom
We, day by day, are drawing near,
Where every bark has sailing
room. 80

I know the solemn monotone
Of waters calling unto me;
I know from whence the airs have
blown
That whisper of the Eternal Sea.

As low my fires of drift-wood burn,
I hear that sea's deep sounds in-
crease,
And, fair in sunset light, discern
Its mirage-lifted Isles of Peace.

O. W. HOLMES ON HIS EIGHTI- ETH BIRTHDAY

CLIMBING a path which leads back
never more
We heard behind his footsteps and
his cheer;
Now, face to face, we greet him stand-
ing here
Upon the lonely summit of Fourscore!
Welcome to us, o'er whom the length-
ened day
Is closing and the shadows colder
grow,
His genial presence, like an after-
glow,
Following the one just vanishing
away.

Long be it ere the table shall be
 set
 For the last breakfast of the Auto-
 crat,
 And love repeat with smiles and
 tears thereat
 His own sweet songs that time shall
 not forget.
 Waiting with us the call to come up
 higher,
 Life is not less, the heavens are only
 nigher!

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

FROM purest wells of English unde-
 filed
 None deeper drank than he, the New
 World's child,
 Who in the language of their farm-
 fields spoke
 The wit and wisdom of New England
 folk,
 Shaming a monstrous wrong. The
 world-wide laugh
 Provoked thereby might well have
 shaken half
 The walls of Slavery down, ere yet the
 ball
 And mine of battle overthrew them
 all.

HAVERHILL

1640-1890

Read at the Celebration of the Two Hun-
 dred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the City,
 July 2, 1890.

O RIVER winding to the sea!
 We call the old time back to thee;
 From forest paths and water-ways
 The century-woven veil we raise.

The voices of to-day are dumb,
 Unheard its sounds that go and
 come;
 We listen, through long-lapsing years,
 To footsteps of the pioneers.

Gone steeped town and cultured plain,
 The wilderness returns again, 10
 The drear, untrodden solitude,
 The gloom and mystery of the wood!

Once more the bear and panther prowl,
 The wolf repeats his hungry howl,
 And, peering through his leafy screen,
 The Indian's copper face is seen.

We see, their rude-built huts beside,
 Grave men and women anxious-eyed,
 And wistful youth remembering still
 Dear homes in England's Haverhill. 20

We summon forth to mortal view
 Dark Passaquo and Saggahew, —
 Wild chiefs, who owned the mighty
 sway
 Of wizard Passaconaway.

Weird memories of the border town,
 By old tradition handed down,
 In chance and change before us pass
 Like pictures in a magic glass, —

The terror of the midnight raid,
 The death-concealing ambushade, 30
 The winter march, through deserts wild,
 Of captive mother, wife, and child.

Ah! bleeding hands alone subdued
 And tamed the savage habitude
 Of forests hiding beasts of prey,
 And human shapes as fierce as they.

Slow from the plough the woods with-
 drew,
 Slowly each year the corn-lands grew;
 Nor fire, nor frost, nor foe could kill
 The Saxon energy of will. 40

And never in the hamlet's bound
 Was lack of sturdy manhood found,
 And never failed the kindred good
 Of brave and helpful womanhood.

That hamlet now a city is,
 Its log-built huts are palaces;
 The wood-path of the settler's cow
 Is Traffic's crowded highway now.

And far and wide it stretches still,
 Along its southward sloping hill, 50
 And overlooks on either hand
 A rich and many-watered land.

And, gladdening all the landscape, fair
 As Pison was to Eden's pair,
 Our river to its valley brings
 The blessing of its mountain springs.



"What tropic splendor can outvie
Our autumn woods"

And Nature holds with narrowing
space,
From mart and crowd, her old-time
grace,
And guards with fondly jealous arms
The wild growths of outlying farms. 60

Her sunsets on Kenoza fall,
Her autumn leaves by Saltonstall;
No lavished gold can richer make
Her opulence of hill and lake.

Wise was the choice which led our
sires
To kindle here their household fires,
And share the large content of all
Whose lines in pleasant places fall.

More dear, as years on years advance,
We prize the old inheritance, 70
And feel, as far and wide we roam,
That all we seek we leave at home.

Our palms are pines, our oranges
Are apples on our orchard trees;
Our thrushes are our nightingales,
Our larks the blackbirds of our vales.

No incense which the Orient burns
Is sweeter than our hillside ferns;
What tropic splendor can outvie
Our autumn woods, our sunset sky? 80

If, where the slow years came and went,
And left not affluence, but content,

Now flashes in our dazzled eyes
The electric light of enterprise;

And if the old idyllic ease
Seems lost in keen activities,
And crowded workshops now replace
The hearth's and farm-field's rustic
grace;

No dull, mechanic round of toil
Life's morning charm can quite de-
spoil; ⁹⁰
And youth and beauty, hand in hand,
Will always find enchanted land.

No task is ill where hand and brain
And skill and strength have equal
gain,
And each shall each in honor hold,
And simple manhood outweigh gold.

Earth shall be near to Heaven when all
That severs man from man shall fall,
For, here or there, salvation's plan
Alone is love of God and man. ¹⁰⁰

O dwellers by the Merrimac,
The heirs of centuries at your back,
Still reaping where you have not sown,
A broader field is now your own.

Hold fast your Puritan heritage,
But let the free thought of the age
Its light and hope and sweetness add
To the stern faith the fathers had.

Adrift on Time's returnless tide,
As waves that follow waves, we glide.
God grant we leave upon the shore ¹¹¹
Some waif of good it lacked before;

Some seed, or flower, or plant of worth,
Some added beauty to the earth;
Some larger hope, some thought to
make
The sad world happier for its sake.

As tenants of uncertain stay,
So may we live our little day
That only grateful hearts shall fill
The homes we leave in Haverhill. ¹²⁰

The singer of a farewell rhyme,
Upon whose outmost verge of time
The shades of night are falling down,
I pray, God bless the good old town!

INSCRIPTION

For the bas-relief by Preston Powers,
carved upon the huge boulder in Denver
Park, Col., and representing the Last Indian
and the Last Bison.

THE eagle, stooping from yon snow-
blown peaks,
For the wild hunter and the bison
seeks,
In the changed world below; and
finds alone
Their graven semblance in the eternal
stone.

LYDIA H. SIGOURNEY

Inscription on her Memorial Tablet in
Christ Church at Hartford, Conn.

SHE sang alone, ere womanhood had
known
The gift of song which fills the air
to-day:
Tender and sweet, a music all her
own
May fitly linger where she knelt to
pray.

MILTON

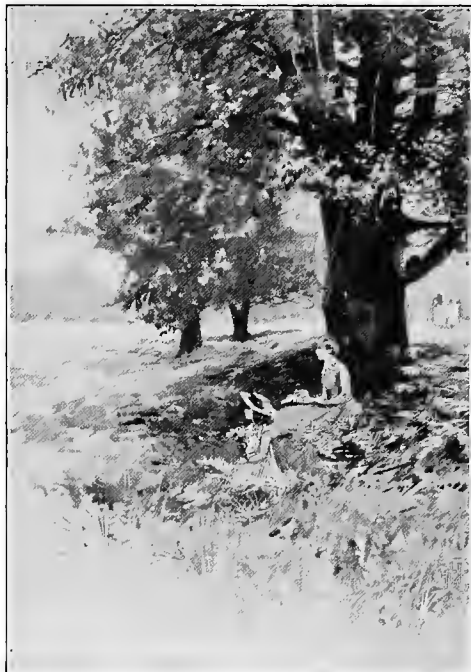
Inscription on the Memorial Window in
St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, the
gift of George W. Childs, of America.

THE new world honors him whose
lofty plea
For England's freedom made her
own more sure,
Whose song, immortal as its theme,
shall be
Their common freehold while both
worlds endure.

TO G. G.

AN AUTOGRAPH

GRACEFUL in name and in thyself, our
river
None fairer saw in John Ward's pil-
grim flock,



“ Think of our thrushes when the lark sings clear,
Of our sweet Mayflowers when the daisies bloom ”

Proof that upon their century-
rooted stock
The English roses bloom as fresh as
ever.

Take the warm welcome of new
friends with thee,
And listening to thy home's familiar
chime
Dream that thou hearest, with it
keeping time,
The bells on Merrimac sound across
the sea.

Think of our thrushes when the lark
sings clear,
Of our sweet Mayflowers when the
daisies bloom;
And bear to our and thy ancestral
home
The kindly greeting of its children here.

Say that our love survives the sever-
ing strain;
That the New England, with the
Old, holds fast
The proud, fond memories of a com-
mon past;
Unbroken still the ties of blood re-
main!

THE BIRTHDAY WREATH

December 17, 1891.

Blossom and greenness, making all
The winter birthday tropical
And the plain Quaker parlors gay,
Have gone from bracket, stand, and
wall;
We saw them fade, and droop, and fall
And laid them tenderly away.

White virgin lilies, mignonette,
Blown rose, and pink, and violet,
A breath of fragrance passing
by;

Visions of beauty and decay.
Colors and shapes that could not
stay,
The fairest, sweetest, first to die.

But still this rustic wreath of mine,
Of acorned oak and needled pine,
And lighter growths of forest
lands,
Woven and wound with careful pains,
And tender thoughts and prayers, re-
mains,
As when it dropped from love's dear
hands.

And not unfitly garlanded,
Is he, who, country born and bred,
Welcomes the sylvan ring which
gives
A feeling of old summer days,
The wild delight of woodland ways,
The glory of the autumn leaves.

And, if the flowery meed of song
To other bards may well belong,
Be his, who from the farm-field
spoke
A word for Freedom when her need
Was not of dulcimer and reed,
This Isthmian wreath of pine and
oak.

THE WIND OF MARCH

Up from the sea the wild north wind is
blowing
Under the sky's gray arch;
Smiling, I watch the shaken elm-
boughs, knowing
It is the wind of March.

Between the passing and the coming
season,
This stormy interlude
Gives to our winter-wearied hearts a
reason
For trustful gratitude.

Welcome to waiting ears its harsh
forewarning
Of light and warmth to come,

The longed-for joy of Nature's Easter
morning,
The earth arisen in bloom!

In the loud tumult winter's strength is
breaking;
I listen to the sound,
As to a voice of resurrection, wak-
ing
To life the dead, cold ground.

Between these gusts, to the soft lapse
I hearken
Of rivulets on their way;
I see these tossed and naked tree-tops
darken
With the fresh leaves of May.

This roar of storm, this sky so gray
and lowering
Invite the airs of Spring,
A warmer sunshine over fields of flow-
ering,
The bluebird's song and wing.

Closely behind, the Gulf's warm
breezes follow
This northern hurricane,
And, borne thereon, the bobolink and
swallow
Shall visit us again.

And, in green wood-paths, in the kine-
fed pasture
And by the whispering rills,
Shall flowers repeat the lesson of the
Master,
Taught on his Syrian hills.

Blow, then, wild wind! thy roar shall
end in singing,
Thy chill in blossoming;
Come, like Bethesda's troubling angel,
bringing
The healing of the Spring.

BETWEEN THE GATES

BETWEEN the gates of birth and
death
An old and saintly pilgrim passed,
With look of one who witness-
eth
The long-sought goal at last.

"O thou whose reverent feet have
found

The Master's footprints in thy
way
And walked thereon as holy ground,
A boon of thee I pray.

"My lack would borrow thy excess,
My feeble faith the strength of
thine;
I need thy soul's white saintliness
To hide the stains of mine.

"The grace and favor else denied
May well be granted for thy sake."
So, tempted, doubting, sorely tried,
A younger pilgrim spake.

"Thy prayer, my son, transcends my
gift;
No power is mine," the sage replied,
"The burden of a soul to lift
Or stain of sin to hide.

"Howe'er the outward life may
seem,
For pardoning grace we all must
pray;
No man his brother can redeem
Or a soul's ransom pay.

"Not always age is growth of good;
Its years have losses with their
gain;
Against some evil youth withstood
Weak hands may strive in vain.

"With deeper voice than any speech
Of mortal lips from man to man,
What earth's unwisdom may not
teach
The Spirit only can.

"Make thou that holy guide thine
own,
And following where it leads the
way,
The known shall lapse in the unknown
As twilight into day.

"The best of earth shall still remain,
And heaven's eternal years shall
prove
That life and death, and joy and
pain,
Are ministers of Love."

THE LAST EVE OF SUMMER

SUMMER's last sun nigh unto setting
shines
Through yon columnar pines,
And on the deepening shadows of the
lawn
Its golden lines are drawn.

Dreaming of long gone summer days
like this,
Feeling the wind's soft kiss,
Grateful and glad that failing ear and
sight
Have still their old delight,

I sit alone, and watch the warm, sweet
day
Lapse tenderly away;
And, wistful, with a feeling of forecast,
I ask, "Is this the last?"

"Will nevermore for me the seasons
run
Their round, and will the sun
Of ardent summers yet to come forget
For me to rise and set?"

Thou shouldst be here, or I should be
with thee
Wherever thou mayst be,
Lips mute, hands clasped, in silences
of speech
Each answering unto each.

For this still hour, this sense of mys-
tery far
Beyond the evening star,
No words outworn suffice on lip or
scroll:
The soul would fain with soul

Wait, while these few swift-passing
days fulfil
The wise-disposing Will,
And, in the evening as at morning,
trust
The All-Merciful and Just.

The solemn joy that soul-communion
feels
Immortal life reveals;
And human love, its prophecy and
sign,
Interprets love divine.



"Dreaming of long gone summer days like this,
Feeling the wind's soft kiss"

Come then, in thought, if that alone
may be,
O friend! and bring with thee
Thy calm assurance of transcendent
Spheres
And the Eternal Years!
Aug. 31, 1890.

TO OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

8TH MO. 29TH, 1892

[This, the last of Mr. Whittier's poems,
was written but a few weeks before his
death.]

AMONG the thousands who with hail
and cheer
Will welcome thy new year,

How few of all have passed, as thou
and I,
So many milestones by!

We have grown old together; we
have seen,
Our youth and age between,
Two generations leave us, and to-
day
We with the third hold way,

Loving and loved. If thought must
backward run
To those who, one by one, 10
In the great silence and the dark
beyond
Vanished with farewells fond,

Unseen, not lost; our grateful memories still

Their vacant places fill,
And with the full-voiced greeting of
new friends
A tenderer whisper blends.

Linked close in a pathetic brotherhood

Of mingled ill and good,
Of joy and grief, of grandeur and of
shame,
For pity more than blame, — 20

The gift is thine the weary world to
make

More cheerful for thy sake,
Soothing the ears its Miserere pains,
With the old Hellenic strains,

Lighting the sullen face of discontent
With smiles for blessing sent.

Enough of selfish wailing has been
had,
Thank God! for notes more glad.

Life is indeed no holiday; therein
Are want, and woe, and sin, 30

Death and its nameless fears, and over
all
Our pitying tears must fall.

Sorrow is real; but the counterfeit
Which folly brings to it,
We need thy wit and wisdom to resist,
O rarest Optimist!

Thy hand, old friend! the service of
our days,
In differing moods and ways
May prove to those who follow in our
train
Not valueless nor vain. 40

Far off, and faint as echoes of a
dream,
The songs of boyhood seem,
Yet on our autumn boughs, unflown
with spring,
The evening thrushes sing.

The hour draws near, howe'er delayed
and late,
When at the Eternal Gate
We leave the words and works we call
our own,
And lift void hands alone

For love to fill. Our nakedness of soul
Brings to that Gate no toll; 50
Giftless we come to Him, who all
things gives,
And live because He lives.

POEMS BY ELIZABETH H. WHITTIER

Originally published in the volume entitled *Hazel Blossoms*, and accompanied by the following prefatory note:—

I have ventured, in compliance with the desire of dear friends of my beloved sister, ELIZABETH H. WHITTIER, to add to this little volume the few poetical pieces which she left behind her. . . . These poems, with perhaps two or three exceptions, afford but slight indications of the inward life of the writer, who had an almost morbid dread of spiritual and intellectual egotism, or of her tenderness of sympathy, chastened mirthfulness, and pleasant play of thought and fancy, when her shy, beautiful soul opened like a flower in the warmth of social communion. In the lines on Dr. Kane her friends will see something of her fine individuality,—the rare mingling of delicacy and intensity of feeling which made her dear to them. This little poem reached Cuba while the great explorer lay on his death-bed, and we are told that he listened with grateful tears while it was read to him by his mother.

I am tempted to say more, but I write as under the eye of her who, while with us, shrank with painful deprecation from the praise or mention of performances which seemed so far below her ideal of excellence. To those who best knew her, the beloved circle of her intimate friends, I dedicate this slight memorial.

AMESBURY, 9th mo., 1874.

J. G. W.

THE DREAM OF ARGYLE

EARTHLY arms no more uphold him
On his prison's stony floor;
Waiting death in his last slumber,
Lies the doomed MacCallum More.

And he dreams a dream of boyhood;
Rise again his heathery hills,
Sound again the hound's long baying,
Cry of moor-fowl, laugh of rills.

Now he stands amidst his clansmen
In the low, long banquet-hall, 10
Over grim ancestral armor
Sees the ruddy firelight fall.

Once again, with pulses beating,
Hears the wandering minstrel tell
How Montrose on Inverary
Thief-like from his mountains fell.

Down the glen, beyond the castle,
Where the linn's swift waters shine,
Round the youthful heir of Argyle
Shy feet glide and white arms
twine. 20

Fairest of the rustic dancers,
Blue-eyed Effie smiles once more,
Bends to him her snooded tresses,
Treads with him the grassy floor.

Now he hears the pipes lamenting,
Harpers for his mother mourn,
Slow, with sable plume and pennon,
To her cairn of burial borne.

Then anon his dreams are darker,
Sounds of battle fill his ears, 30
And the pibroch's mournful wailing
For his father's fall he hears.

Wild Lochaber's mountain echoes
Wail in concert for the dead,
And Loch Awe's deep waters mur-
mur
For the Campbell's glory fled!

Fierce and strong the godless tyrants
Trample the apostate land,
While her poor and faithful remnant
Wait for the Avenger's hand. 60

Once again at Inverary,
Years of weary exile o'er,
Armed to lead his scattered clans-
men,
Stands the bold MacCallum More.

Once again to battle calling
Sound the war-pipes through the
glen;
And the court-yard of Dunstaffnage
Rings with tread of armed men.

All is lost! The godless triumph,
And the faithful ones and true 70
From the scaffold and the prison
Covenant with God anew.

On the darkness of his dreaming
Great and sudden glory shone;
Over bonds and death victorious
Stands he by the Father's throne!

From the radiant ranks of martyrs
Notes of joy and praise he hears,
Songs of his poor land's deliverance
Sounding from the future years. 80

Lo, he wakes! but airs celestial
Bathe him in immortal rest,
And he sees with unsealed vision
Scotland's cause with victory blest.

Shining hosts attend and guard him
As he leaves his prison door;
And to death as to a triumph
Walks the great MacCallum More!

LINES

WRITTEN ON THE DEPARTURE OF JOSEPH STURGE, AFTER HIS VISIT TO THE ABOLITIONISTS OF THE UNITED STATES

FAIR islands of the sunny sea! midst
all rejoicing things,
No more the wailing of the slave a
wild discordance brings;
On the lifted brows of freemen the
tropic breezes blow,
The mildew of the bondman's toil the
land no more shall know.

How swells from those green islands,
where bird and leaf and flower
Are praising in their own sweet
way the dawn of freedom's
hour,
The glorious resurrection song from
hearts rejoicing poured,
Thanksgiving for the priceless gift,—
man's regal crown restored!

How beautiful through all the green
and tranquil summer land,
Uplifted, as by miracle, the solemn
churches stand! 10

The grass is trodden from the paths
where waiting freemen throng,
Athirst and fainting for the cup of life
denied so long.

Oh, blessed were the feet of him whose
generous errand here
Was to unloose the captive's chain
and dry the mourner's tear;
To lift again the fallen ones a brother's
robber hand
Had left in pain and wretchedness by
the waysides of the land.

The islands of the sea rejoice; the harvest
anthems rise;
The sower of the seed must own 't is
marvellous in his eyes;
The old waste places are rebuilt,—
the broken walls restored,—
And the wilderness is blooming like
the garden of the Lord! 20

Thanksgiving for the holy fruit!
should not the laborer rest,
His earnest faith and works of love
have been so richly blest?
The pride of all fair England shall her
ocean islands be,
And their peasantry with joyful hearts
keep ceaseless jubilee.

Rest, never! while his countrymen
have trampled hearts to bleed,
The stifled murmur of their wrongs
his listening ear shall heed,
Where England's far dependencies
her *might*, not *mercy*, know,
To all the crushed and suffering there
his pitying love shall flow.

The friend of freedom everywhere,
how mourns he for our land,
The brand of whose hypocrisy burns
on her guilty hand! 30
Her thrift a theft, the robber's greed
and cunning in her eye,
Her glory shame, her flaunting flag on
all the winds a lie!

For us with steady strength of heart
and zeal forever true,
The champion of the island slave the
conflict doth renew,
His labor here hath been to point the
Pharisaic eye

Away from empty creed and form to
where the wounded lie.

How beautiful to us should seem the
coming feet of such!

Their garments of self-sacrifice have
healing in their touch;

Their gospel mission none may doubt,
for they heed the Master's call,

Who here walked with the multitude,
and sat at meat with all! 40

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

HE rests with the immortals; his
journey has been long:

For him no wail of sorrow, but a pæan
full and strong!

So well and bravely has he done the
work he found to do,

To justice, freedom, duty, God, and
man forever true.

Strong to the end, a man of men, from
out the strife he passed;

The grandest hour of all his life was
that of earth the last.

Now midst his snowy hills of home
to the grave they bear him

down,
The glory of his fourscore years rest-
ing on him like a crown.

The mourning of the many bells, the
drooping flags, all seem

Like some dim, unreal pageant pass-
ing onward in a dream;

And following with the living to his
last and narrow bed,

Methinks I see a shadowy band, a
train of noble dead.

'T is a strange and weird procession
that is slowly moving on,

The phantom patriots gathered to the
funeral of their son!

In shadowy guise they move along,
brave Otis with hushed tread,

And Warren walking reverently by
the father of the dead.

Gliding foremost in the misty band a
gentle form is there,

In the white robes of the angels and
their glory round her hair.

She hovers near and bends above her
world-wide honored child,

And the joy that heaven alone can
know beams on her features
mild.

And so they bear him to his grave in
the fulness of his years,

True sage and prophet, leaving us in a
time of many fears.

Nevermore amid the darkness of our
wild and evil day

Shall his voice be heard to cheer us,
shall his finger point the way.

DR. KANE IN CUBA

A NOBLE life is in thy care,

A sacred trust to thee is given;
Bright Island! let thy healing air

Be to him as the breath of Heaven.

The marvel of his daring life, —

The self-forgetting leader bold —

Stirs, like the trumpet's call to strife,

A million hearts of meaner mould.

Eyes that shall never meet his own

Look dim with tears across the sea,

Where from the dark and icy zone,

Sweet Isle of Flowers! he comes to
thee.

Fold him in rest, O pitying clime!

Give back his wasted strength again,

Soothe, with thy endless summer time,

His winter-wearied heart and brain.

Sing soft and low, thou tropic bird,

From out the fragrant, flowery

tree, —

The ear that hears thee now has heard

The ice-break of the winter sea.

Through his long watch of awful night,

He saw the Bear in Northern skies;

Now, to the Southern Cross of light

He lifts in hope his weary eyes.

Prayers from the hearts that watched

in fear

When the dark North no answer

gave,

Rise, trembling, to the Father's ear,

That still His love may help and save,

LADY FRANKLIN

FOLD thy hands, thy work is over;
Cool thy watching eyes with tears;
Let thy poor heart, over-wearied,
Rest alike from hopes and fears, —

Hopes, that saw with sleepless vision
One sad picture fading slow;
Fears, that followed, vague and name-
less,

Lifting back the veils of snow.

For thy brave one, for thy lost one,
Truest heart of woman, weep!
Owning still the love that granted
Unto thy beloved sleep.

Not for him that hour of terror
When, the long ice-battle o'er,
In the sunless day his comrades
Deathward trod the Polar shore.

Spared the cruel cold and famine,
Spared the fainting heart's despair,
What but that could mercy grant
him?

What but that has been thy prayer?

Dear to thee that last memorial
From the cairn beside the sea;
Evermore the month of roses
Shall be sacred time to thee.

Sad it is the mournful yew-tree
O'er his slumbers may not wave;
Sad it is the English daisy
May not blossom on his grave.

But his tomb shall storm and winter
Shape and fashion year by year,
Pile his mighty mausoleum,
Block by block, and tier on tier.

Guardian of its gleaming portal
Shall his stainless honor be,
While thy love, a sweet immortal,
Hovers o'er the winter sea.

NIGHT AND DEATH

THE storm-wind is howling
Through old pines afar;
The drear night is falling
Without moon or star.

The roused sea is lashing
The bold shore behind,
And the moan of its ebbing
Keeps time with the wind.

On, on through the darkness,
A spectre, I pass 10
Where, like moaning of broken
hearts,
Surges the grass!

I see her lone head-stone, —
'T is white as a shroud;
Like a pall hangs above it
The low drooping cloud.

Who speaks through the dark
night
And lull of the wind?
'T is the sound of the pine-leaves
And sea-waves behind. 20

The dead girl is silent, —
I stand by her now;
And her pulse beats no quicker,
Nor crimson her brow.

The small hand that trembled,
When last in my own,
Lies patient and folded,
And colder than stone.

Like the white blossoms falling
To-night in the gale, 30
So she in her beauty
Sank mournful and pale.

Yet I loved her! I utter
Such words by her grave,
As I would not have spoken
Her last breath to save.

Of her love the angels
In heaven might tell,
While mine would be whispered
With shudders in hell! 40

'T was well that the white ones
Who bore her to bliss
Shut out from her new life
The vision of this;

Else, sure as I stand here,
And speak of my love,
She would leave for my darkness
Her glory above.

THE MEETING WATERS

CLOSE beside the meeting waters,
 Long I stood as in a dream,
 Watching how the little river
 Fell into the broader stream.

Calm and still the mingled current
 Glided to the waiting sea;
 On its breast serenely pictured
 Floating cloud and skirting tree.

And I thought, "O human spirit!
 Strong and deep and pure and blest,
 Let the stream of my existence
 Blend with thine, and find its rest!"

I could die as dies the river,
 In that current deep and wide;
 I would live as live its waters,
 Flashing from a stronger tide!

THE WEDDING VEIL

DEAR Anna, when I brought her veil,
 Her white veil, on her wedding
 night,
 Threw o'er my thin brown hair its
 folds,
 And, laughing, turned me to the
 light.

"See, Bessie, see! you wear at last
 The bridal veil, forsworn for years!"
 She saw my face, — her laugh was
 hushed,
 Her happy eyes were filled with
 tears.

With kindly haste and trembling hand
 She drew away the gauzy mist;
 "Forgive, dear heart!" her sweet
 voice said:
 Her loving lips my forehead kissed.

We passed from out the searching
 light;

The summer night was calm and fair:
 I did not see her pitying eyes,
 I felt her soft hand smooth my hair.

Her tender love unlocked my heart;
 'Mid falling tears, at last I said,
 "Forsworn indeed to me that veil
 Because I only love the dead!"

She stood one moment statue-still,
 And, musing, spake, in undertone,
 "The living love may colder grow;
 The dead is safe with God alone!"

CHARITY

THE pilgrim and stranger who through
 the day

Holds over the desert his trackless way,
 Where the terrible sands no shade
 have known,

No sound of life save his camel's moan,
 Hears, at last, through the mercy of
 Allah to all,

From his tent-door at evening the
 Bedouin's call:

*"Whoever thou art whose need is great,
 In the name of God, the Compassionate
 And Merciful One, for thee I wait!"*

For gifts in His name of food and rest
 The tents of Islam of God are blest;
 Thou who hast faith in the Christ
 above,
 Shall the Koran teach thee the Law of
 Love? —

O Christian! open thy heart and door,
 Cry east and west to the wandering
 poor:

*"Whoever thou art whose need is great,
 In the name of Christ, the Compassionate
 And Merciful One, for thee I wait!"*

APPENDIX

I. EARLY AND UNCOLLECTED VERSES

I AM yielding to what seems, under the circumstances, almost a necessity, in adding to the pieces assigned for one reason or another to the limbo of an appendix, some of my very earliest attempts at verse, which have been kept alive in the newspapers for the last half century. A few of them have even been printed in book form without my consent, and greatly to my annoyance, with all their accumulated errors of the press added to their original defects and crudity. I suppose they should have died a natural death long ago, but their feline tenacity of life seems to contradict the theory of the "survival of the fittest." I have consented, at my publishers' request, to take the poor vagrants home and give them a more presentable appearance, in the hope that they may at least be of some interest to those who are curious enough to note the weak beginnings of the graduate of a small country district school, sixty years ago. That they met with some degree of favor at that time may be accounted for by the fact that the makers of verse were then few in number, with little competition in their unprofitable vocation, and that the standard of criticism was not discouragingly high.

The earliest of the author's verses that found their way into print were published in the *Newburyport Free Press*, edited by William Lloyd Garrison, in 1826. [The poems here collected, with the exception of the last, were written during the years 1825-1833.]

THE EXILE'S DEPARTURE

FOND scenes, which delighted my youthful existence,

With feelings of sorrow I bid ye adieu —
A lasting adieu! for now, dim in the distance,
The shores of Hibernia recede from my view.

Farewell to the cliffs, tempest-beaten and gray,

Which guard the lov'd shores of my own native land;

Farewell to the village and sail-shadow'd bay,

The forest-crown'd hill and the water-wash'd strand.

I've fought for my country — I've brav'd all the dangers

That throng round the path of the warrior in strife;

I now must depart to a nation of strangers,

And pass in seclusion the remnant of life;

Far, far from the friends to my bosom most dear,

With none to support me in peril and pain,
And none but the stranger to drop the sad tear

On the grave where the heart-broken exile is lain.

Friends of my youth! I must leave you forever,

And hasten to dwell in a region unknown: —

Yet time cannot change, nor the broad ocean sever,

Hearts firmly united and tried as our own.

Ah, no! though I wander, all sad and forlorn,

In a far distant land, yet shall memory trace,

When far o'er the ocean's white surges I'm borne,

The scene of past pleasures, — my own native place.

Farewell, shores of Erin, green land of my fathers: —

Once more, and forever, a mournful adieu!
For round thy dim headlands the oceanist gathers,

And shrouds the fair isle I no longer can view.

I go — but wherever my footsteps I bend,
For freedom and peace to my own native isle,

And contentment and joy to each warm-hearted friend

Shall be the heart's prayer of the lonely Exile!

THE DEITY

THE Prophet stood
On the high mount, and saw the tempest cloud

Pour the fierce whirlwind from its reservoir
Of congregated gloom. The mountain oak,

Torn from the earth, heaved high its roots where once

Its branches waved. The fir-tree's shapely form,

Smote by the tempest, lashed the mountain's side.

Yet, calm in conscious purity, the Seer
Beheld the awful desolation, for

The Eternal Spirit moved not in the storm.

The tempest ceased. The caverned earthquake burst

Forth from its prison, and the mountain
 rocked
 Even to its base. The topmost crags were
 thrown,
 With fearful crashing, down its shuddering
 sides.
 Unawed, the Prophet saw and heard; he felt
 Not in the earthquake moved the God of
 Heaven.
 The murmur died away; and from the
 height,
 Torn by the storm and shattered by the
 shock,
 Rose far and clear a pyramid of flame
 Mighty and vast; the startled mountain deer
 Shrank from its glare, and cowered within
 the shade:
 The wild fowl shrieked — but even then the
 Seer
 Untrembling stood and marked the fearful
 glow,
 For Israel's God came not within the
 flame!

The fiery beacon sank. A still, small voice,
 Unlike to human sound, at once conveyed
 Deep awe and reverence to his pious heart.
 Then bowed the holy man; his face he
 veiled
 Within his mantle — and in meekness
 owned
 The presence of his God, discerned not in
 The storm, the earthquake, or the mighty
 flame.

THE VALE OF THE MERRIMAC

THERE are streams which are famous in
 history's story,
 Whose names are familiar to pen and to
 tongue,
 Renowned in the records of love and of
 glory,
 Where knighthood has ridden and min-
 strels have sung: —
 Fair streams thro' more populous regions
 are gliding,
 Tower, temple, and palace their borders
 adorning,
 With tall-masted ships on their broad
 bosoms riding,
 Their banners stretch'd out in the breezes
 of morning;
 And their vales may be lovely and pleasant
 — but never
 Was skiff ever wafted, or wav'd a white
 sail
 O'er a lovelier wave than my dear native
 river,
 Or brighter tides roll'd than in Merri-
 mac's vale!

And fair streams may glide where the cli-
 mate is milder,
 Where winter ne'er gathers and spring
 ever blooms,
 And others may roll where the region is
 wilder,
 Their dark waters hid in some forest's
 deep gloom.

Where the thunder-scath'd peaks of Hel-
 vetia are frowning,
 And the Rhine's rapid waters encircle
 their bases,
 Where the snows of long years are the
 hoary Alps crowning,
 And the tempest-charg'd vapor their tall
 tops embraces: —
 There sure might be fix'd, amid scenery so
 frightful,
 The region of romance and wild fairy-
 tale, —
 But such scenes could not be to my heart
 so delightful
 As the home of my fathers, — fair Merri-
 mac's vale!

There are streams where the bounty of
 Providence musters
 The fairest of fruits by their warm sunny
 sides,
 The vine bending low with the grape's
 heavy clusters,
 And the orange-tree waving its fruit o'er
 their tides: —
 But I envy not him whose lot has been cast
 there,
 For oppression is there — and the hand of
 the spoiler,
 Regardless of justice or mercy, has past
 there,
 And made him a wretched and indigent
 toiler.
 No — dearer to me are the scenes of my
 childhood,
 The moss-cover'd bank and the breeze-
 wafted sail,
 The age-stinted oak and the green groves
 of wild-wood
 That wave round the borders of Merri-
 mac's vale!

Oh, lovely the scene, when the gray misty
 vapor
 Of morning is lifted from Merrimac's
 shore;
 When the fire-fly, lighting his wild gleam-
 ing taper,
 Thy dimly seen lowlands comes glimmer-
 ing o'er;
 When on thy calm surface the moonbeam
 falls brightly,
 And the dull bird of night is his covert
 forsaking,
 When the whippoorwill's notes from thy
 margin sound lightly,
 And break on the sound which thy small
 waves are making,
 O brightest of visions! my heart shall for-
 ever,
 Till memory shall perish and reason shall
 fail,
 Still preference give to my own native river,
 The home of my fathers, and Merrimac's
 vale!

BENEVOLENCE

HAIL, heavenly gift! within the human
 breast,
 Germ of unnumber'd virtues — by thy aid

The fainting heart, with riving grief oppress,
Survives the ruin adverse scenes have made:

Woes that have wrung the bosom, cares that preyed

Long on the spirit, are dissolv'd by thee—
Misfortune's frown, despair's disastrous shade,

Ghastly disease, and pining poverty,
Thy influence dread, and at thy approach they flee.

Thy spirit led th' immortal Howard on: 10
Nurtur'd by thee, on many a foreign shore

Imperishable fame, by virtue won,
Adorns his memory, tho' his course is o'er;

Thy animating smile his aspect wore,
To cheer the sorrow-desolated soul,
Compassion's balm in grief-worn hearts to pour,

And snatch the prisoner from despair's control,
Steal half his woes away, and lighter make the whole.

Green be the sod on Cherson's honor'd field,

Where wraps the turf around his mon-
dering clay; 20

There let the earth her choicest beauties yield,

And there the breeze in gentlest mur-
murs play;

There let the widow and the orphan stray,
To wet with tears their benefactor's tomb;

There let the rescued prisoner bend his way,

And mourn o'er him, who in the dungeon's gloom

Had sought him and averted misery's fear-
ful doom.

His grave perfum'd with heartfelt sighs of grief,

And moistened by the tear of grati-
tude,—

Oh, how unlike the spot where war's grim chief 30

Sinks on the field, in sanguine waves in-
brued!

Who mourns for him, whose footsteps can be viewed

With reverential awe imprinted near
The monument rear'd o'er the man of blood?

Or who wastes on it sorrow's halmy tear?

None! shame and misery rest alone upon
his bier.

Offspring of heaven! Benevolence, thy pow'r

Bade Wilberforce its mighty champion be,

And taught a Clarkson's ardent mind to soar 39

O'er every obstacle, when serving thee:—

Theirs was the task to set the sufferer free,
To break the bonds which bound th' un-
willing slave,

To shed abroad the light of liberty,
And leave to all the rights their Maker gave,

To bid the world rejoice o'er hated slavery's grave.

Diffuse thy charms, Benevolence! let thy light

Pierce the dark clouds which ages past have thrown

Before the beams of truth—and nature's right,

Inborn, let every hardened tyrant own;
On our fair shore be thy mild presence known; 50

And every portion of Columbia's land
Be as God's garden with thy blessings sown:

Yea, o'er Earth's regions let thy love ex-
pand

Till all united are in friendship's sacred band!

Then in that hour of joy will be fulfilled
The prophet's heart-consoling prophecy;

Then war's commotion shall on earth be still'd,

And men their swords to other use apply;
Then Afric's injured sons no more shall try

The bitterness of slavery's toil and pain,
Nor pride nor love of gain direct the eye;

Of stern oppression to their homes again;
But peace, a lasting peace, throughout the world shall reign.

OCEAN

UNFATHOMED deep, unfetter'd waste
Of never-silent waves,

Each by its rushing follower chas'd,
Through unillum'd caves,

And o'er the rocks whose turrets rude,
E'en since the birth of time,

Have heard amid thy solitude
The billow's ceaseless chime.

O'er what recesses, depths unknown, 10
Dost thou thy waves impel,

Where never yet a sunbeam shone,
Or gleam of moonlight fell?

For never yet did mortal eyes
Thy gloom-wrapt deeps behold,

And naught of thy dread mysteries
The tongue of man hath told.

What, though proud man presume to hold
His course upon thy tide,

O'er thy dark billows uncontrol'd
His fragile bark to guide— 20

Yet who, upon thy mountain waves,
Can feel himself secure

While sweeping o'er thy yawning caves,
Deep, and awful, and obscure?

But thou art mild and tranquil now—
Thy wrathful spirits sleep,

And gentle billows, calm and slow,
Across thy bosom sweep.

Yet where the dim horizon's bound
 Rests on thy sparkling bed, 30
 The tempest-cloud, in gloom profound,
 Prepares its wrath to shed.

Thus, mild and calm in youth's bright hour
 The tide of life appears,
 When fancy paints, with magic spell,
 The bliss of coming years ;
 But clouds will rise, and darkness bring
 O'er life's deceitful way,
 And cruel disappointment fling
 Its shade on hope's dim ray. 40

THE SICILIAN VESPERS

SILENCE o'er sea and earth
 With the veil of evening fell,
 Till the convent-tower sent deeply forth
 The chime of its vesper bell.
 One moment — and that solemn sound
 Fell heavy on the ear ;
 But a sterner echo passed around,
 And the boldest shook to hear.

The startled monks thronged up,
 In the torchlight cold and dim ; 10
 And the priest let fall his incense-cup,
 And the virgin hushed her hymn,
 For a boding clash, and a clanging tramp,
 And a summoning voice were heard,
 And fretted wall, and dungeon damp,
 To the fearful echo stirred.

The peasant heard the sound,
 As he sat beside his hearth ;
 And the song and the dance were hushed
 around, 20
 With the fire-side tale of mirth.
 The chieftain shook in his banner'd hall,
 As the sound of fear drew nigh,
 And the warder shrank from the castle wall,
 As the gleam of spears went by.

Woe ! woe ! to the stranger, then,
 At the feast and flow of wine,
 In the red array of mail'd men,
 Or bowed at the holy shrine ;
 For the wakened pride of an injured land
 Had burst its iron thrall, 30
 From the plum'd chief to the pilgrim band ;
 Woe ! woe ! to the sons of Gaul !

Proud beings fell that hour,
 With the young and passing fair,
 And the flame went up from dome and tower,
 The avenger's arm was there !
 The stranger priest at the altar stood,
 And clasped his beads in prayer,
 But the holy shrine grew dim with blood,
 The avenger found him there ! 40

Woe ! woe ! to the sons of Gaul,
 To the serf and mail'd lord ;
 They were gathered darkly, one and all,
 To the harvest of the sword :
 And the morning sun, with a quiet smile,
 Shone out o'er hill and glen,
 On ruined temple and smouldering pile,
 And the ghastly forms of men.

Ay, the sunshine sweetly smiled,
 As its early glance came forth, 50
 It had no sympathy with the wild
 And terrible things of earth.
 And the man of blood that day might read,
 In a language freely given,
 How ill his dark and midnight deed
 Became the calm of Heaven.

THE SPIRIT OF THE NORTH

SPIRIT of the frozen North,
 Where the wave is chained and still,
 And the savage hear looks forth
 Nightly from his caverned hill !
 Down from thy eternal throne,
 From thy land of cloud and storm,
 Where the meeting icebergs groan,
 Sweepeth on thy wrathful form.

Spirit of the frozen wing !
 Dweller of a voiceless clime, 10
 Where no coming on of spring
 Gilds the weary course of time !
 Monarch of a realm untrod
 By the restless feet of men,
 Where alone the hand of God
 'Mid his mighty works hath been !

Throned amid the ancient hills,
 Piled with undecaying snow,
 Flashing with the path of rills,
 Frozen in their first glad flow ; 20
 Thou hast seen the gloomy north,
 Gleaming with unearthly light,
 Spreading its pale banners forth,
 Checkered with the stars of night.

Thou hast gazed untrembling, where
 Giant forms of flame were driven,
 Like the spirits of the air,
 Striding up the vault of heaven !
 Thou hast seen that midnight glow,
 Hiding moon and star and sky, 30
 And the icy hills below
 Reddening to the fearful dye.

Dark and desolate and lone,
 Curtained with the tempest-cloud,
 Drawn around thy ancient throne
 Like oblivion's moveless shroud,
 Dim and distantly the sun
 Glances on thy palace walls,
 But a shadow cold and dun
 Broods along its pillared halls. 40

Lord of sunless depths and cold !
 Chainer of the northern sea !
 At whose feet the storm is rolled,
 Who hath power to humble thee ?
 Spirit of the stormy north !
 Bow thee to thy Maker's nod ;
 Bend to him who sent thee forth,
 Servant of the living God.

THE EARTHQUAKE

CALMLY the night came down
 O'er Scylla's shatter'd walls ;

How desolate that silent town!
 How tenantless the halls,
 Where yesterday her thousands trod,
 And princes graced their proud abode !

Lo, on the wet sea sand,
 Humbled in anguish now,
 The despot, midst his menial band,
 Bent down his kingly brow ;
 And prince and peasant knelt in prayer, 10
 For grief had made them equal there.

Again as at the morn,
 The earthquake roll'd its car:
 Lowly the castle-towers were borne,
 That mock'd the storms of war ;
 The mountain reeled, its shiver'd brow
 Went down among the waves below.

Up rose the kneelers then,
 As the wave's rush was heard : 20
 The horror of those fated men
 Was uttered by no word.
 But closer still the mother prest
 The infant to her faithful breast.

One long, wild shriek went up,
 Full mighty in despair ;
 As bow'd to drink death's bitter cup,
 The thousands gathered there ;
 And man's strong wail and woman's cry
 Bleat as the waters hurried by. 30

On swept the whelming sea ;
 The mountains felt its shock,
 As the long cry of agony
 Thrills thro' their towers of rock ;
 An echo round that fatal shore
 The death wail of the sufferers bore.

The morning sun shed forth
 Its light upon the scene,
 Where tower and palace strew'd the earth
 With wrecks of what had been. 40
 But of the thousands who were gone,
 No trace was left, no vestige shown.

JUDITH AT THE TENT OF HOLO- FERNES

NIGHT was down among the mountains,
 In her dim and quiet manner,
 Where Bethulia's silver fountains
 Gushed beneath the Assyrian banner.
 Moonlight, o'er her meek dominion,
 As a mighty flag unfurled,
 Like an angel's snowy pinion
 Resting on a darkened world !

Faintly rose the city's murmur,
 But the crowded camp was calm ; 10
 Girded in their battle armor,
 Each a falchion at his arm,
 Lordly chief and weary vassal
 In the arms of slumber fell ;
 It had been a day of wassail,
 And the wine had circled well.

Underneath his proud pavilion
 Lay Assvria's champion,

Where the ruby's rich vermilion
 Shone beside the beryl-stone. 20
 With imperial purple laden,
 Breathing in the perfumed air,
 Dreams he of the Jewish maiden,
 With her dark and jewelled hair.

Who is she, the pale-browed stranger,
 Bending o'er that son of slaughter?
 God be with thee in thy danger,
 Israel's lone and peerless daughter !
 She hath bared her queenly beauty
 To the dark Assyrian's glance ; 30
 Now a high and sterner duty
 Bids her to his couch advance.

Beautiful and pale she hendeth
 In her earnest prayer to Heaven ;
 Look again, that maiden standeth
 In the strength her God has given !
 Strangely is her dark eye kindled,
 Hot blood through her cheek is poured ;
 Lo, her every fear hath dwindled,
 And her hand is on the sword ! 40

Upward to the flashing curtain,
 See, that mighty blade is driven,
 And its fall ! — 't is swift and certain
 As the cloud-fire's track in heaven !
 Down, as with a power supernal,
 Twice the lifted weapon fell ;
 Twice, his slumber is eternal —
 Who shall wake the infidel ?

Sunlight on the mountains streameth
 Like an air-borne wave of gold ; 50
 And Bethulia's armor gleameth
 Round Judea's banner-fold.
 Down they go, the mail'd warriors,
 As the upper torrents sally
 Headlong from their mountain-barriers
 Down upon the sleeping valley.

Rouse thee from thy couch, Assyrian !
 Dream no more of woman's smile ;
 Fiercer than the leaguered Tyrian,
 Or the dark-browed sons of Nile, 60
 Foes are on thy slumber breaking,
 Chieftain, to thy battle rise !
 Vain the call — he will not waken —
 Headless on his couch he lies.

Who hath dimmed your boasted glory ?
 What hath woman's weakness done ?
 Whose dark brow is up before ye,
 Blackening in the fierce-haired sun ?
 Lo ! an eye that never slumbers
 Looketh in its vengeance down ; 70
 And the throaged and mail'd numbers
 Wither at Jehovah's frown !

METACOM

RED as the banner which enshrouds
 The warrior-dead, when strife is done,
 A broken mass of crimson clouds
 Hung over the departed sun.
 The shadow of the western hill
 Crept swiftly down, and darkly still,
 As if a sullen wave of night

Were rushing on the pale twilight;
 The forest-openings grew more dim,
 As glimpses of the arching blue 10
 And waking stars came softly through
 The rifts of many a giant limb.
 Above the wet and tangled swamp
 White vapors gathered thick and damp,
 And through their cloudy curtaining
 Flapped many a brown and dusky wing —
 Pinions that fan the moonless dun,
 But fold them at the rising sun!

Beneath the closing veil of night,
 And leafy bough and curling fog, 20
 With his few warriors ranged in sight —
 Scarred relics of his latest fight —
 Rested the fiery Wampanoag.
 He leaned upon his loaded gun,
 Warm with its recent work of death,
 And, save the struggling of his breath,
 That, slow and hard and long-repressed,
 Shook the damp folds around his breast,
 An eye that was unused to scan
 The sterner moods of that dark man 30
 Had deemed his tall and silent form
 With hidden passion fierce and warm,
 With that fixed eye, as still and dark
 As clouds which veil their lightning spark,
 That of some forest-champion,
 Whom sudden death had passed upon —
 A giant frozen into stone!
 Son of the throned Sachem! — Thou,
 The sternest of the forest kings, —
 Shall the scorned pale-one trample now, 40
 Unambushed on thy mountain's brow,
 Yea, drive his wife and hated plough
 Among thy nation's holy things,
 Crushing the warrior-skeleton
 In scorn beneath his armed heel,
 And not a hand be left to deal
 A kindred vengeance fiercely back,
 And cross in blood the Spoiler's track?

He turned him to his trustiest one,
 The old and war-tried Annawon — 50
 "Brother!" — The favored warrior stood
 In hushed and listening attitude —
 "This night the Vision-Spirit hath
 Unrolled the scroll of fate before me;
 And ere the sunrise cometh, Death
 Will wave his dusky pinion o'er me!
 Nay, start not — well I know thy faith —
 Thy weapon now may keep its sheath;
 But, when the bodeful morning breaks,
 And the green forest widely wakes, 60
 Unto the roar of English thunder,
 Then trusted brother, be it thine
 To burst upon the foeman's line,
 And rend his serried strength asunder.
 Perchance thyself and yet a few
 Of faithful ones may struggle through,
 And, rallying on the wooded plain,
 Strike deep for vengeance once again,
 And defer up in pale-face blood
 An offering to the Indian's God." 70

A musket shot — a sharp, quick yell —
 And then the stifled groan of pain,
 Told that another red man fell, —
 And blazed a sudden light again
 Across that kingly brow and eye,

Like lightning on a clouded sky, —
 And a low growl, like that which thrills
 The hunter of the Eastern hills,
 Burst through clenched teeth and rigid
 lip —
 And, when the great chief spoke again 80
 His deep voice shook beneath its rein,
 As wrath and grief held fellowship.

"Brother! methought when as but now
 I pondered on my nation's wrong,
 With sadness on his shadowy brow
 My father's spirit passed along!
 He pointed to the far south-west,
 Where sunset's gold was growing dim,
 And seemed to beckon me to him,
 And to the forests of the blest! — 90
 My father loved the white men, when
 They were but children, shelterless,
 For his great spirit at distress
 Melted to woman's tenderness —
 Nor was it given him to know
 That children whom he cherished then
 Would rise at length, like armed men,
 To work his people's overthrow.
 Yet thus it is; — the God before
 Whose awful shrine the pale ones bow
 Hath frowned upon, and given o'er 100
 The red man to the stranger now!
 A few more moons, and there will be
 No gathering to the council tree;
 The scorched earth — the blackened log —
 The naked bones of warriors slain,
 Be the sole relics which remain
 Of the once mighty Wampanoag!
 The forests of our hunting-land,
 With all their old and solemn green, 110
 Will bow before the Spoiler's axe —
 The plough displace the hunter's tracks,
 And the tall prayer-house steeple stand
 Where the Great Spirit's shrine hath
 been!

"Yet, brother, from this awful hour
 The dying curse of Metacomb
 Shall linger with abiding power
 Upon the spoilers of my home.
 The fearful veil of things to come,
 By Kitchtan's hand is lifted from 120
 The shadows of the embryo years;
 And I can see more clearly through
 Than ever visioned Powwaw did,
 For all the future comes unbid,
 Yet welcome to my tranced view,
 As battle-yell to warrior-ears!
 From stream and lake and hunting-hill
 Our tribes may vanish like a dream,
 And even my dark curse may seem
 Like idle winds when Heaven is still, 130
 No bodeful harbinger of ill;
 But, fiercer than the downright thunder,
 When yawns the mountain-rock asunder,
 And riven pine and knotted oak
 Are reeling to the fearful stroke,
 That curse shall work its master's will!
 The bed of yon blue mountain stream
 Shall pour a darker tide than rain —
 The sea shall catch its blood-red stain,
 And broadly on its banks shall gleam 140
 The steel of those who should be bro-
 thers;

Yea, those whom one fond parent nursed
 Shall meet in strife, like fiends accursed,
 And trample down the once loved form,
 While yet with breathing passion warm,
 As fiercely as they would another's!"

The morning star sat dimly on
 The lighted eastern horizon —
 The deadly glare of levelled gun
 Came streaking through the twilight
 haze, 150

And naked to its reddest blaze,
 A hundred warriors sprang in view;
 One dark red arm was tossed on high,
 One giant shout came hoarsely through
 The clangor and the charging cry,
 Just as across the scattering gloom,
 Red as the naked hand of Doom,
 The English volley hurtled by —
 The arm — the voice of Metacum! —
 One piercing shriek — one vengeful
 yell, 160
 Sent like an arrow to the sky,
 Told when the hunter-monarch fell!

MOUNT AGIOCHOOK

GRAY searcher of the upper air,
 There 's sunshine on thy ancient walls,
 A crown upon thy forehead bare,
 A flash upon thy waterfalls.
 A rainbow glory in the cloud
 Upon thine awful summit bowed,
 The radiant ghost of a dead storm!
 And music from the leafy shroud
 Which swathes in green thy giant form,
 Mellowed and softened from above 10
 Steals downward to the lowland ear,
 Sweet as the first, fond dream of love
 That melts upon the maiden's ear.

The time has been, white giant, when
 Thy shadows veiled the red man's
 home,
 And over crag and serpent den,
 And wild gorge where the steps of men
 In chase or battle might not come,
 The mountain eagle bore on high,
 The emblem of the free of soul, 20
 And, midway in the fearful sky,
 Sent back the Indian battle cry,
 And answered to the thunder's roll.

The wigwam fires have all burned out,
 The moccasin has left no track;
 Nor wolf nor panther roam about
 The Saco and the Merrimac.
 And thou, that liest up on high
 Thy mighty barriers to the sky,
 Art not the haunted mount of old, 30
 Where on each crag of blasted stone
 Some dreadful spirit found his throne,
 And hid within the thick cloud fold,
 Heard only in the thunder's crash,
 Seen only in the lightning's flash,
 When crumbled rock and riven branch
 Went down before the avalanche!

No more that spirit moveth there;
 The dwellers of the vale are dead;

No hunter's arrow cleaves the air;
 No dry leaf rustles to his tread. 40
 The pale-face climbs thy tallest rock,
 His hands thy crystal gates unlock;
 From steep to steep his maidens call,
 Light laughing, like the streams that
 fall

In music down thy rocky wall,
 And only when their careless tread
 Lays bare an Indian arrow-head,
 Spent and forgetful of the deer,
 Think of the race that perished here. 50

Oh, sacred to the Indian seer,
 Gray altar of the men of old!
 Not vainly to the listening ear
 The legends of thy past are told, —
 Tales of the downward sweeping flood,
 When bowed like reeds thy ancient wood;
 Of armed hands, and spectral forms;
 Of giants in their leafy shroud,
 And voices calling long and loud
 In the dread pauses of thy storms. 60
 For still within their caverned home
 Dwell the strange gods of heathendom!

THE DRUNKARD TO HIS BOTTLE

HOOT! — daur ye shaw ye're face again,
 Ye auld black thief o' purse an' brain?
 For foul disgrace, for dool an' pain
 An' shame I ban ye:
 Wae's me, that e'er my lips have ta'en
 Your kiss uncanny!

Nae mair, auld knave, without a shillin'
 To keep a starvin' wight frae stealin'
 Ye'll sen' me hameward, blin' and reelin',
 Frae nightly swagger, 10
 By wall an' post my pathway feelin',
 Wi' mony a stagger.

Nae mair o' fights that bruise an' mangle,
 Nae mair o' nets my feet to tangle,
 Nae mair o' senseless brawl an' wrangle,
 Wi' frien' an' wife too,
 Nae mair o' deavin' din an' jangle
 My feckless life through.

Ye thievin', cheatin' auld Cheap Jack,
 Peddlin' your poison brose, I crack
 Your hanes against my ingle-back
 Wi' meikle pleasure.
 Deil mend ye i' his workshop black,
 E'en at his leisure!

I'll brak ye're neck, ye foul auld sinner,
 I'll spill ye're bluid, ye vile beginner
 O' a' the lils an' aches that winna
 Quat saul an' body!
 Gie me hale breeks an' weel-spread din-
 ner —
 Deil tak' ye're toddy! 30

Nae mair wi' witches' bron gane gyte,
 Gie me ance mair the auld delight
 O' sittin' wi' my bairns in sight,
 The gude wife near,
 The weel-spent day, the peacefu' night,
 The mornin' cheer!

Cock a' ye're heids, my bairns fu' gleg,
 My winsome Robin, Jean, an' Meg,
 For food and claes ye shall na beg
 A doited daddie. 40
 Dance, anld wife, on your girl-day leg,
 Ye've fonn' your laddie!

THE FAIR QUAKERESS

SHE was a fair young girl, yet on her brow
 No pale pearl shone, a blemish on the pure
 And snowy lustre of its living light,
 No radiant gem shone beautifully through
 The shadowing of her tresses, as a star
 Through the dark sky of midnight; and no
 wreath

Of coral circled on her queenly neck,
 In mockery of the glowing cheek and lip,
 Whose hue the fairy guardian of the flowers
 Might never rival when her delicate touch
 Tinges the rose of springtime.

Unadorned,
 Save by her youthful charms, and with a
 garb 12

Simple as Nature's self, why turn to her
 The proud and gifted, and the versed in all
 The pageantry of fashion?

She hath not
 Moved down the dance to music, when the
 hall

Is lighted up like sunshine, and the thrill
 Of the light viol and the mellow flute,
 And the deep tones of mellowhood, softened
 down

To very music melt upon the ear. — 20
 She has not mingled with the hollow world
 Nor tampered with its mockeries, until all
 The delicate perceptions of the heart,
 The innate modesty, the watchful sense
 Of maiden dignity, are lost within
 The maze of fashion and the din of crowds.

Yet Beauty hath its homage. Kings have
 howed

From the tall majesty of ancient thrones
 With a prostrated knee, yea, cast aside
 The awfulness of time-created power 30
 For the regardful glances of a child.

Yea, the high ones and powerful of Earth,
 The helméd sons of victory, the grave
 And schooled philosophers, the giant men
 Of overmastering intellect, have turned
 Each from the separate idol of his high
 And vehement ambition for the low
 Idolatry of human loveliness;
 And bartered the sublimity of mind,
 The godlike and commanding intellect 40
 Which nations knelt to, for a woman's tear,
 A soft-toned answer, or a wanton's smile.

And in the chastened beauty of that eye,
 And in the beautiful play of that red lip,
 And in the quiet smile, and in the voice
 Sweet as the tuneful greeting of a bird
 To the first flowers of springtime, there is
 more

Than the perfection of the painter's skill
 Or statuary's moulding. *Mind* is there,

The pure and holy attributes of soul, 50
 The seal of virtue, the exceeding grace
 Of meekness blended with a maiden pride;
 Nor deem ye that beneath the gentle smile,
 And the calm temper of a chastened mind
 No warmth of passion kindles, and no tide
 Of quick and earnest feeling courses on
 From the warm heart's pulsations. There
 are springs

Of deep and pure affection, hidden now,
 Within that quiet bosom, which but wait
 The thrilling of some kindly touch, to flow
 Like waters from the Desert-rock of old. 61

BOLIVAR

A DIRGE is wailing from the Gulf of storm-
 vexed Mexico,
 To where through Pampas' solitudes the
 mighty rivers flow;
 The dark Sierras hear the sound, and from
 each mountain rift,

Where Andes and Cordilleras their awful
 summits lift,
 Where Cotopaxi's fiery eye glares redly
 upon heaven,
 And Chimborazo's shattered peak the upper
 sky has risen;
 From mount to mount, from wave to wave,
 a wild and long lament,
 A sob that shakes like her earthquakes the
 startled continent!

A light dies out, a life is sped — the hero's
 at whose word

The nations started as from sleep, and
 girded on the sword;

The victor of a hundred fields where blood
 was poured like rain,

And Freedom's loosened avalanche hurled
 down the hosts of Spain,

The eagle soul on Junin's slope who showed
 his shouting men

A grander sight than Balboa saw from
 wavewashed Darien

As from the snows with battle red died out
 the sinking sun,

And broad and vast beneath him lay a world
 for freedom won.

How died that victor? In the field with
 banners o'er him thrown,

With trumpets in his falling ear, by charg-
 ing squadrons blown,

With scattered foemen flying fast and fear-
 fully before him,

With shouts of triumph swelling round and
 brave men bending o'er him?

Not on his fields of victory, nor in his coun-
 cil hall,

The worn and sorrowing leader heard the
 inevitable call.

Alone he perished in the land he saved
 from slavery's ban,

Maligned and doubted and denied, a broken-
 hearted man!

Now let the New World's hanners droop
 above the fallen chief,

And let the mountaineer's dark eyes be wet
 with tears of grief!

For slander's sting, for envy's hiss, for
 friendship hatred grown,
 Can funeral pomp, and tolling bell, and
 priestly mass atone?
 Better to leave unmourned the dead than
 wrong men while they live;
 What if the strong man failed or erred,
 could not his own forgive?
 O people freed by him, repent above your
 hero's bier:
 The sole resource of late remorse is now his
 tomb to rear!

ISABELLA OF AUSTRIA

'MIDST the palace bowers of Hungary, im-
 perial Presburg's pride,
 With the noble born and beautiful as-
 sembled at her side,
 She stood beneath the summer heavens, the
 soft wind sighing on,
 Stirring the green and arching boughs like
 dancers in the sun.
 The beautiful pomegranate flower, the
 snowy orange bloom,
 The lotus and the trailing vine, the rose's
 meek perfume,
 The willow crossing with its green some
 statue's marble hair,
 All that might charm the fresh young sense,
 or light the soul, was there!

But she, a monarch's treasured one, leaned
 gloomily apart,
 With her dark eyes tearfully cast down;
 and a shadow on her heart.
 Young, beautiful, and dearly loved, what
 sorrow hath she known?
 Are not the hearts and swords of all held
 sacred as her own?
 Is not her lord the kingliest in battle-field
 or tower?
 The wisest in the council-hall, the gayest in
 the bower?
 Is not his love as full and deep as his own
 Danube's tide?
 And wherefore in her princely home weeps
 Isabel, his bride?

She raised her jewelled hand, and flung her
 veiling tresses back,
 Bathing its snowy tapering within their
 glossy black.
 A tear fell on the orange leaves, rich gem
 and mimic blossom,
 And fringed robe shook fearfully upon her
 sighing bosom.
 "Smile on, smile on," she murmured low,
 "for all is joy around,
 Shadow and sunshine, stainless sky, soft
 airs, and blossomed ground.
 'T is meet the light of heart should smile,
 when nature's smile is fair,
 And melody and fragrance meet, twin sis-
 ters of the air.

"But ask me not to share with you the
 beauty of the scene,
 The fountain-fall, mosaic walk, and breadths
 of tender green;

And point not to the mild blue sky, or
 glorious summer sun,
 I know how very fair is all the hand of God
 has done.
 The hills, the sky, the sunlit cloud, the
 waters leaping forth,
 The swaying trees, the scented flowers, the
 dark green robes of earth,—
 I love them well, but I have learned to turn
 aside from all,
 And nevermore my heart must own their
 sweet but fatal thrall.

"And I could love the noble one whose
 mighty name I bear,
 And closer to my breaking heart his
 princely image wear,
 And I could love our sweet young flower,
 unfolding day by day,
 And taste of that unearthly joy which
 mothers only may,—
 But what am I to cling to these?—A voice
 is in my ear,
 A shadow lingers at my side, the death-wail
 and the bier!
 The cold and starless night of Death where
 day may never beam,
 The silence and forgetfulness, the sleep that
 hath no dream!

"O God, to leave this fair bright world, and
 more than all to know
 The moment when the Spectral One shall
 strike his fearful blow;
 To know the day, the very hour, to feel the
 tide roll on,
 To shudder at the gloom before and weep
 the sunshine gone;
 To count the days, the few short days, of
 light and love and breath
 Between me and the noisome grave, the
 voiceless home of death!
 Alas!—if feeling, knowing this, I murmur
 at my doom,
 Let not thy frowning, O my God! lend dark-
 ness to the tomb.

"Oh, I have borne my spirit up, and smiled
 amidst the chill
 Remembrance of my certain doom which
 lingers with me still;
 I would not cloud my fair child's brow, nor
 let a tear-drop dim
 The eye that met my wedded lord's, lest it
 should sadden him;
 But there are moments when the strength
 of feeling must have way:
 That hidden tide of unnamed woe nor fear
 nor love can stay.
 Smile on, smile on, light-hearted ones! Your
 sun of joy is high:
 Smile on, and leave the doomed of Heaven
 alone to weep and die!"

A funeral chant was wailing through Vien-
 na's holy pile,
 A coffin with its gorgeous pall was borne
 along the aisle;
 The drooping flags of many lands waved
 slow above the dead,
 A mighty band of mourners came, a king
 was at its head,—

A youthful king, with mournful tread, and
 dim and tearful eye;
 He scarce had dreamed that one so pure as
 his fair bride could die.
 And sad and long above the throng the
 funeral anthem rung:
 "Mourn for the hope of Austria! Mourn
 for the loved and young!"

The wail went up from other lands, the val-
 leys of the Hun,
 Fair Parma with its orange bowers, and
 hills of vine and sun:
 The lilies of imperial France drooped as the
 sound went by,
 The long lament of cloistered Spain was
 mingled with the cry.
 The dwellers in Colorno's halls, the Slowak
 at his cave,
 The bowed at the Escurial, the Magyar
 stoutly brave,⁷⁰
 All wept the early stricken flower; and still
 the anthem rung:
 "Mourn for the pride of Austria! Mourn
 for the loved and young!"

THE FRATRICIDE

HE stood on the brow of the well-known hill.
 Its few gray oaks moan'd over him still;
 The last of that forest which cast the gloom
 Of its shadow at eve o'er his childhood's
 home;
 And the beautiful valley beneath him lay
 With its quivering leaves, and its streams
 at play,
 And the sunshine over it all the while
 Like the golden shower of the Eastern isle.
 He knew the rock with its fingering vine,
 And its gray top touch'd by the slant sun-
 shine,¹⁰
 And the delicate stream which crept be-
 neath
 Soft as the flow of an infant's breath;
 And the flowers which lean'd to the West
 wind's sigh,
 Kissing each ripple which glided by;
 And he knew every valley and wooded
 swell,
 For the visions of childhood are treasured
 well.

Why shook the old man as his eye glanced
 down
 That narrow ravine where the rude cliffs
 frown,
 With their shaggy brows and their teeth of
 stone,
 And their grim shade back from the sun-
 light thrown?²⁰
 What saw he there save the dreary glen,
 Where the shy fox crept from the eye of
 men,
 And the great owl sat on the leafy limb
 That the hateful sun might not look on him?
 Fix'd, glassy, and strange was that old man's
 eye.
 As if a spectre were stealing by,

And glared it still on that narrow dell
 Where thicker and browner the twilight fell;
 Yet at every sigh of the fitful wind,
 Or stirring of leaves in the wood behind,³⁰
 His wild glance wander'd the landscape
 o'er,
 Then fix'd on that desolate dell once more.

Oh, who shall tell of the thoughts which
 ran
 Through the dizzied brain of that gray old
 man?
 His childhood's home, and his father's toil,
 And his sister's kiss, and his mother's smile,
 And his brother's laughter and gamesome
 mirth,
 At the village school and the winter hearth;
 The beautiful thoughts of his early time,
 Ere his heart grew dark with its later
 crime.⁴⁰

And darker and wilder his visions came
 Of the deadly fend and the midnight flame,
 Of the Indian's knife with its slaughter red,
 Of the ghastly forms of the scalpsless dead,
 Of his own fierce deeds in that fearful hour
 When the terrible Brandt was forth in
 power,
 And he clasp'd his hands o'er his burning
 eye
 To shadow the vision which glided by.

It came with the rush of the battle-storm —
 With a brother's shaken and kneeling
 form,⁵⁰
 And his prayer for life when a brother's arm
 Was lifted above him for mortal harm,
 And the fiendish curse, and the groan of
 death,
 And the welling of blood, and the gurgling
 breath,
 And the scalp torn off while each nerve
 could feel
 The wrenching hand and the jagged steel!

And the old man groan'd — for he saw,
 again,
 The mangled curse of his kinsman slain,
 As it lay where his hand had hurl'd it then,
 At the shadow'd foot of that fearful glen!⁶⁰
 And it rose erect, with the death-pang grim,
 And pointed its bloodied finger at him!
 And his heart grew cold — and the curse of
 Cain
 Burn'd like a fire in the old man's brain.

Oh, had he not seen that spectre rise
 On the blue of the cold Canadian skies?
 From the lakes which sleep in the ancient
 wood,
 It had risen to whisper its tale of blood,
 And follow'd his bark to the sombre shore,
 And glared by night through the wigwam
 door;⁷⁰
 And here, on his own familiar hill,
 It rose on his haunted vision still!

Whose course was that which the morrow's
 sun,
 Through the opening boughs, look'd calmly
 on?

There were those who hent o'er that rigid
 face
 Who well in its darken'd lines might
 trace
 The features of him who, a traitor, fled
 From a brother whose blood himself had
 shed,
 And there, on the spot where he strangely
 died,
 They made the grave of the Fratricide! 80

ISABEL

I DO not love thee, Isabel, and yet thou art
 most fair!
 I know the tempting of thy lips, the witch-
 craft of thy hair,
 The winsome smile that might beguile the
 shy bird from his tree;
 But from their spell I know so well, I shake
 my manhood free.

I might have loved thee, Isabel; I know I
 should if aught
 Of all thy words and ways had told of one
 unselfish thought;
 If through the cloud of fashion, the pictured
 veil of art,
 Ooe casual flash had broken warm, earnest
 from the heart.

But words are idle, Isabel, and if I praise
 or blame,
 Or cheer or warn, it matters not; thy life
 will be the same;
 Still free to use, and still abuse, unmindful
 of the harm,
 The fatal gift of beauty, the power to choose
 and charm.

Then go thy way, fair Isabel, nor heed that
 from thy train
 A doubtful follower falls away, enough will
 still remain.
 But what the long-rebuking years may
 bring to them or thee
 No prophet and no prophet's son am I to
 guess or see.

I do not love thee, Isabel; I would as soon
 put on
 A crown of slender frost-work beneath the
 heated sun,
 Or chase the winds of summer, or trust the
 sleeping sea,
 Or lean upon a shadow as think of loving
 thee.

STANZAS

BIND up thy tresses, thou beautiful one,
 Of brown in the shadow and gold in the
 sun!
 Free should their delicate lustre be thrown
 O'er a forehead more pure than the Parian
 stone;
 Shaming the light of those Orient pearls
 Which bind o'er its whiteness thy soft
 wreathing curls.

Smile, for thy glance on the mirror is
 thrown,
 And the face of an angel is meeting thine
 own!
 Beautiful creature, I marvel not
 That thy cheek a lovelier tint hath caught;
 And the kindling light of thine eye hath
 told
 Of a dearer wealth than the miser's gold. 11

Away, away, there is danger here!
 A terrible phantom is bending near:
 Ghastly and sunken, his rayless eye
 Scowls on thy loveliness scornfully,
 With no human look, with no human
 breath,
 He stands beside thee, the haunter, Death!

Fly! but, alas! he will follow still,
 Like a moonlight shadow, beyond thy
 will:
 In thy noonday walk, in thy midnight
 sleep,
 Close at thy hand will that phantom keep;
 Still in thine ear shall his whispers be;
 Woe, that such phantom should follow
 thee!

In the lighted hall where the dancers go,
 Like beautiful spirits, to and fro;
 When thy fair arms glance in their stainless
 white,
 Like ivory bathed in still moonlight;
 And not one star in the holy sky
 Hath a clearer light than thine own blue
 eye! 30

Oh, then, even then, he will follow thee,
 As the ripple follows the bark at sea;
 In the soften'd light, in the turning dance,
 He will fix on thine his dead, cold glance;
 The chill of his breath on thy cheek shall
 linger,
 And thy warm blood shrink from his icy
 finger!

And yet there is hope. Embrace it now,
 While thy soul is open as thy brow;
 While thy heart is fresh, while its feelings
 still
 Gush clear as the unsoil'd mountain-rill; 40
 And thy smiles are free as the airs of
 spring,
 Greeting and blessing each breathing thing.

When the after cares of thy life shall
 come,
 When the bud shall wither before its bloom;
 When thy soul is sick of the emptiness
 And changeful fashion of human bliss;
 When the weary torpor of blighted feeling
 Over thy heart as ice is stealing;

Then, when thy spirit is turn'd above,
 By the mild rebuke of the Chastener's
 love;
 When the hope of that joy in thy heart is
 stir'd,
 Which eye hath not seen, nor ear hath heard,
 Then will that phantom of darkness be
 Gladness, and promise, and bliss to thee.

MOGG MEGONE

This poem was commenced in 1830, but did not assume its present shape until four years after. It deals with the border strife of the early settlers of eastern New England and their savage neighbors; but its personages and incidents are mainly fictitious. Looking at it, at the present time, it suggests the idea of a big Indian in his war-paint strutting about in Sir Walter Scott's plaid.

PART I

WHO stands on that cliff, like a figure of stone,

Unmoving and tall in the light of the sky,

Where the spray of the cataract sparkles on high,

Lonely and sternly, save Mogg Megone?
Close to the verge of the rock is he,

While beneath him the Saco its work is doing,

Hurrying down to its grave, the sea,

And slow through the rock its pathway hewing!

Far down, through the mist of the falling river,

Which rises up like an incense ever, 10
The splintered points of the crags are seen.

With water howling and vexed between,
While the scooping whirl of the pool beneath

Seems an open throat, with its granite teeth!

But Mogg Megone never trembled yet
Wherever his eye or his foot was set.
He is watchful: each form in the moonlight dim,

Of rock or of tree, is seen of him:
He listens; each sound from afar is caught,
The faintest shiver of leaf and limb: 20
But he sees not the waters, which foam and fret,

Whose moonlit spray has his moccasin wet,—

And the roar of their rushing, he hears it not.

The moonlight, through the open bough

Of the gnarl'd beech, whose naked root

Coils like a serpent at his foot,

Falls, checkered, on the Indian's brow.

His head is bare, save only where
Waves in the wind one lock of hair,

Reserved for him, whoe'er he be, 30

More mighty than Megone in strife,

When breast to breast and knee to knee,
Above the fallen warrior's life
Gleams, quick and keen, the scalping-knife.

Megone hath his knife and hatchet and gun,

And his gaudy and tasselled blanket on:

His knife hath a handle with gold inlaid,

And magic words on its polished blade,—

'T was the gift of Castine to Mogg Megone,
For a scalp or twain from the Yengees torn:

His gun was the gift of the Tarrantine, 41
And Modocawando's wives had strung
The brass and the beads, which tinkle and shine

On the polished breech, and broad bright line

Of beaded wampum around it hung.

What seeks Megone? His foes are near,—
Grey Jocelyn's eye is never sleeping,
And the garrison lights are burning clear,
Where Philip's men their watch are keeping.

Let him hie him away through the dank
river fog,

Never rustling the boughs nor displacing 50
the rocks,

For the eyes and the ears which are watching for Mogg

Are keener than those of the wolf or the fox.

He starts,—there's a rustle among the
leaves:

Another,—the click of his gun is heard!

A footstep,—is it the step of Cleaves,

With Indian blood on his English sword?

Steals Harmon down from the sands of
York,

With hand of iron and foot of cork?

Has Scamman, versed in Indian wile, 60

For vengeance left his vine-hung isle?

Hark! at that whistle, soft and low,

How lights the eye of Mogg Megone!

A smile gleams o'er his dusky brow,—

"Boon welcome, Johnny Boniton!"

Out steps, with cautious foot and slow,
And quick, keen glances to and fro,

The hunted outlaw, Boniton!

A low, lean, swarthy man is he,

With blanket-garb and buskined knee, 70

And naught of English fashion on;

For he hates the race from whence he
sprung,

And he couches his words in the Indian
tongue.

"Hush,—let the Sachem's voice be weak;
The water-rat shall hear him speak,—

The owl shall whisper in the white man's
ear,

That Mogg Megone, with his scalps, is
here!"

He pauses,—dark, over cheek and brow,

A flush, as of shame, is stealing now:

"Sachem!" he says, "let me have the
land, 80

Which stretches away upon either hand,

As far about as my feet can stray

In the half of a gentle summer's day,

From the leaping brook to the Saco

river,—

And the fair-haired girl thou hast sought of
me

Shall sit in the Sachem's wigwam, and be

The wife of Mogg Megone forever."

There's a sudden light in the Indian's
glance,

A moment's trace of powerful feeling,

Of love or triumph, or both perchance, 90
Over his proud, calm features steal-
ing.

“The words of my father are very good;
He shall have the land, and water, and
wood;

And he who harms the Sagamore John,
Shall feel the knife of Mogg Megone;
But the fawn of the Yengees shall sleep on
my breast,
And the bird of the clearing shall sing in my
nest.

“But, father!”—and the Indian’s hand
Falls gently on the white man’s arm,
And with a smile as shrewdly bland 100
As the deep voice is slow and calm,—

“Where is my father’s singing-bird,—
The sunny eye, and sunset hair?
I know I have my father’s word
And that his word is good and fair;
But will my father tell me where
Megone shall go and look for his bride?—
For he sees her not by her father’s
side.”

The dark, stern eye of Boniton
Flashes over the features of Mogg Me-
gone, 110
In one of those glances which search
within;

But the stolid calm of the Indian alone
Remains where the trace of emotion has
been.

“Does the Sachem doubt? Let him go with
me,
And the eyes of the Sachem his bride shall
see.”

Cautious and slow, with pauses oft,
And watchful eyes and whispers soft,
The twin are stealing through the wood,
Leaving the downward-rushing flood,
Whose deep and solemn roar behind 120
Grows fainter on the evening wind.

Hark!—is that the angry howl
Of the wolf, the hills among?—
Or the hooting of the owl,
On his leafy cradle swung?—
Quickly glancing, to and fro,
Listening to each sound they go
Round the columns of the pine,
Indistinct, in shadow, seeming
Like some old and pillared shrine; 130
With the soft and white moonshine,
Round the foliage-tracery shed
Of each column’s branching head,
For its lamps of worship gleaming!
And the sounds awakened there,
In the pine-leaves fine and small,
Soft and sweetly musical,
By the fingers of the air,
For the anthem’s dying fall
Lingering round some temple’s wall! 140
Niche and cornice round and round
Wailing like the ghost of sound!
Is not Nature’s worship thus,
Ceaseless ever, going on?
Hath it not a voice for us
In the thunder, or the tone

Of the leaf-harp faint and small,
Speaking to the unsealed ear
Words of blended love and fear,
Of the mighty Soul of all? 150

Naught had the twain of thoughts like these
As they wound along through the crowded
trees.

Where never had rung the axeman’s stroke
On the gnarled trunk of the rough-barked
oak;—

Climbing the dead tree’s mossy log,
Breaking the mesh of the bramble fine,
Turning aside the wild grapevine,
And lightly crossing the quaking bog
Whose surface shakes at the leap of the
frog,

And out of whose pools the ghostly fog 160
Creeps into the chill moonshine!

Yet, even that Indian’s ear had heard
The preaching of the Holy Word:
Sanhekantacket’s isle of sand
Was once his father’s hunting land,
Where zealous Hiacoomes stood,—
The wild apostle of the wood,
Shook from his soul the fear of harm,
And trampled on the Powwaw’s charm;
Until the wizard’s curses hung 170
Suspended on his palsyng tongue,
And the fierce warrior, grim and tall,
Trembled before the forest Paul!

A cottage hidden in the wood,—
Red through its seams a light is glowing,
On rock and bough and tree-trunk rude,
A narrow lustre throwing.

“Who’s there?” a clear, firm voice de-
mands;

“Hold, Ruth,—’t is I, the Sagamore!”
Quick, at the summons, hasty hands 180
Unclose the bolted door;
And on the outlaw’s daughter shine
The flashes of the kindled pine.

Tall and erect the maiden stands,
Like some young priestess of the wood,
The freeborn child of Solitude,
And bearing still the wild and rude,
Yet noble trace of Nature’s bands.

Her dark brown cheek has caught its stain
More from the sunshine than the rain; 190
Yet, where her long fair hair is parting,
A pure white brow into light is starting;

And, where the folds of her blanket sever,
Are neck and a bosom as white as ever
The foam-wreaths rise on the leaping river.
But in the convulsive quiver and grip
Of the muscles around her bloodless lip,

There is something painful and sad to see;
And her eye has a glance more sternly wild
Than even that of a forest child 200
In its fearless and untamed freedom
should be.

Yet, seldom in hall or court are seen
So queenly a form and so noble a mien,
As freely and smiling she welcomes them
there,—

Her outlawed sire and Mogg Megone:
“Pray, father, how does thy hunting fare?
And, Sachem, say,—does Scamman wear,

In spite of thy promise, a scalp of his own?"
 Hurried and light is the maiden's tone;
 But a fearful meaning lurks within
 Her glance, as it questions the eye of Me-
 gone,—

An awful meaning of guilt and sin!—
 The Indian hath opened his blanket, and
 there

Hangs a human scalp by its long damp
 hair!

With hand upraised, with quick-drawn
 breath,

She meets that ghastly sign of death.
 In one long, glassy, spectral stare
 The enlarging eye is fastened there,
 As if that mesh of pale brown hair

Had power to change at sight alone, 220
 Even as the fearful locks which wound
 Medusa's fatal forehead round,

The gazer into stone.
 With such a look Herodias read
 The features of the bleeding head,
 So looked the mad Moor on his dead,
 Or the young Cenci as she stood,
 O'er-dabbled with a father's blood!

Look!—feeling melts that frozen glance,
 It moves that marble countenance, 230

As if at once within her strove
 Pity with shame, and hate with love.
 The Past recalls its joy and pain,
 Old memories rise before her brain,—
 The lips which love's embraces met,
 The hand her tears of parting wet,
 The voice whose pleading tones beguiled
 The pleased ear of the forest-child,—
 And tears she may no more repress
 Reveal her lingering tenderness. 240

Oh, woman wronged can cherish hate
 More deep and dark than manhood may;
 But when the mockery of Fate

Hath left Revenge its chosen way,
 And the fell curse, which years have ursed,
 Full on the spoiler's head hath burst,—
 When all her wrong, and shame, and pain,
 Burns fiercely on his heart and brain,—
 Still lingers something of the spell

Which bound her to the traitor's bosom,—
 Still, midst the vengeful fires of hell, 251
 Some flowers of old affection blossom.

John Boniton's eyebrows together are
 drawn

With a fierce expression of wrath and
 scorn,—

He hoarsely whispers, "Ruth, beware!
 Is this the time to be playing the fool,—
 Crying over a paltry lock of hair,

Like a love-sick girl at school?—
 Curse on it!—an Indian can see and
 hear: 259

Away,—and prepare our evening cheer!"

How keenly the Indian is watching now
 Her fearful eye and her varying brow,—
 With a serpent eye, which kindles and
 burns,

Like a fiery star in the upper air:
 On sire and daughter his fierce glance
 turns:—

"Has my old white father a scalp to
 spare?"

For his young one loves the pale brown
 hair

Of the scalp of an English dog far more
 Than Mogg Megone, or his wigwam floor;
 Go,—Mogg is wise: he will keep his
 land,— 270

And Sagamore John, when he feels with
 his hand,
 Shall miss his scalp where it grew before."

The moment's gust of grief is gone,—

The lip is clenched,—the tears are
 still,—

God pity thee, Ruth Boniton!

With what a strength of will
 Are nature's feelings in thy breast,
 As with an iron hand, repressed!
 And how, upon that nameless woe,
 Quick as the pulse can come and go, 280
 While shakes the unsteadfast knee, and
 yet

The bosom heaves,—the eye is wet,—
 Has thy dark spirit power to stay
 The heart's wild current on its way?

And whence that baleful strength of
 guile,

Which over that still working brow
 And tearful eye and cheek can throw
 The mockery of a smile?

Warned by her father's blackening frown,
 With one strong effort crushing down 290
 Grief, hate, remorse, she meets again
 The savage murderer's sullen gaze,
 And scarcely look or tone betrays
 How the heart strives beneath its chain.

"Is the Sachem angry,—angry with Ruth,
 Because she cries with an ache in her
 tooth,—

Which would make a Sagamore jump and
 cry,

And look about with a woman's eye?
 No,—Ruth will sit in the Sachem's door
 And braid the mats for his wigwam
 floor, 300

And broil his fish and tender fawn,
 And weave his wampum, and grind his
 corn,—

For she loves the brave and the wise, and
 none

Are braver and wiser than Mogg Megone!"

The Indian's brow is clear once more:

With grave, calm face, and half-shut eye,
 He sits upon the wigwam floor,
 And watches Ruth go by,
 Intent upon her household care;

And ever and anon, the while, 310
 Or on the maiden, or her fare,
 Which smokes in grateful promise there,
 Bestows his quiet smile.

Ah, Mogg Megone!—what dreams are
 thine,

But those which love's own fancies
 dress,—

The sum of Indian happiness!—
 A wigwam, where the warm sunshine
 Looks in among the groves of pine,—

A stream, where, round thy light canoe,
The trout and salmon dart in view, 320
And the fair girl, before thee now,
Spreading thy mat with hand of snow,
Or playing, in the dews of morn,
Her hoe amidst thy patch of corn,
Or offering up, at eve, to thee,
Thy birchen dish of hominy!

From the rude board of Boniton,
Venison and succotash have gone, —
For long these dwellers of the wood
Have felt the gnawing want of food. 330
But untasted of Ruth is the frugal cheer, —
With head averted, yet ready ear,
She stands by the side of her anstere sire,
Feeding, at times, the unequal fire
With the yellow knots of the pitch-pine
tree,

Whose flaring light, as they kindle, falls
On the cottage-roof, and its black log walls.
And over its inmates three.

From Sagamore Boniton's hunting flask
The fire-water burns at the lip of Me-
gone: 340

"Will the Sachem hear what his father
shall ask?

Will he make his mark, that it may be
known,

On the speaking-leaf, that he gives the land,
From the Sachem's own, to his father's
hand?"

The fire-water shines in the Indian's eyes,
As he rises, the white man's bidding to
do:

"Wuttamuttata — weekan! Mogg is wise, —
For the water he drinks is strong and
new, —

Mogg's heart is great! — will he shut his
hand,

When his father asks for a little land?" —
With unsteady fingers, the Indian has
drawn 351

On the parchment the shape of a hunter's
bow,

"Boon water, — boon water, — Sagamore
John!

Wuttamuttata, — weekan! our hearts will
grow!"

He drinks yet deeper, — he mutters low, —
He reels on his bear-skin to and fro, —
His head falls down on his naked breast, —
He struggles, and sinks to a drunken rest.

"Humph — drunk as a beast!" — and Boni-
ton's brow

Is darker than ever with evil thought —
"The fool has signed his warrant; but
how 361

And when shall the deed be wrought?
Speak, Ruth! why, what the devil is there,
To fix thy gaze in that empty air? —

Speak, Ruth! by my soul, if I thought that
tear

Which shames thyself and our purpose
here,

Were shed for that cursed and pale-faced
dog,

Whose green scalp hangs from the belt of
Mogg,

And whose beastly soul is in Satan's
keeping;

This — this!" — he dashes his hand upon 370
The rattling stock of his loaded gun, —

"Should send thee with him to do thy
weeping!"

"Father!" — the eye of Boniton
Sinks at that low, sepulchral tone,
Hollow and deep, as it were spoken

By the unmoving tongue of death, —
Or from some statue's lips had broken, —

"A sound without a breath!
"Father! — my life I value less

Than yonder fool his gaudy dress; 380
And how it ends it matters not,
By heart-break or by rifle-shot;

But spare awhile the scoff and threat, —
Our business is not finished yet."

"True, true, my girl. — I only meant
To draw up again the bow un bent.

Harm thee, my Ruth! I only sought
To frighten off thy gloomy thought;

Come, — let's be friends!" He seeks to
clasp

His daughter's cold, damp hand in his. 390
Ruth startles from her father's grasp,
As if each nerve and muscle felt,

Instinctively, the touch of guilt
Through all their subtle sympathies.

He points her to the sleeping Mogg:
"What shall be done with yonder dog?

Scamman is dead, and revenge is thine, —
The deed is signed and the land is mine;

And this drunken fool is of use no more,
Save as thy hopeful bridegroom, and sooth,

'T were Christian mercy to finish him,
Ruth. 401

Now, while he lies like a beast on our
floor, —

If not for thine, at least for his sake,
Rather than let the poor dog awake

To drain my flask, and claim as his bride
Such a forest devil to run by his side, —

Such a Wetuoman as thou wouldst make!"

He laughs at his jest. Hush — what is
there? —

The sleeping Indian is striving to rise,
With his knife in his hand, and glaring
eyes! — 410

"Wagh! — Mogg will have the pale-face's
hair,

For his knife is sharp, and his fingers can
help

The hair to pull and the skin to peel, —
Let him cry like a woman and twist like an
eel,

The great Captain Scamman must lose
his scalp!

And Ruth, when she sees it, shall dance
with Mogg."

His eyes are fixed, — but his lips draw in, —
With a low, hoarse chuckle, and fiendish
grin, —

And he sinks again, like a senseless log.

Ruth does not speak, — she does not stir; 420
But she gazes down on the murderer,

Whose broken and dreamful slumbers tell
Too much for her ear of that deed of hell.
She sees the knife, with its slaughter red,
And the dark fingers clenching the hear-
skin bed!
What thoughts of horror and madness whirl
Through the burning brain of that fallen
girl!

John Boniton lifts his gun to his eye,
Its muzzle is close to the Indian's ear,—
But he drops it again. "Some one may be
nigh,
And I would not that even the wolves
should hear."

He draws his knife from his deer-skin
belt,—
Its edge with his fingers is slowly felt ;—
Kneeling down on one knee, by the In-
dian's side,
From his throat he opens the blank-
et wide ;
And twice or thrice he feebly essays
A trembling hand with the knife to raise.

"I cannot,"—he mutters,—⁴³⁰"did he not
save
My life from a cold and wintry grave,
When the storm came down from Agio-
chook,
And the north-wind howled, and the tree-
tops shook,—
And I strove, in the drifts of the rushing
snow,
Till my knees grew weak and I could not
go,
And I felt the cold to my vitals creep,
And my heart's blood stiffen, and pulses
sleep!
I cannot strike him — Ruth Boniton!
In the Devil's name, tell me — what 's to be
done?"

Oh, when the soul, once pure and high,
Is stricken down from Virtue's sky,
As, with the downcast star of morn,
Some gems of light are with it drawn,
And, through its night of darkness, play
Some tokens of its primal day,
Some lofty feelings linger still,—

The strength to dare, the nerve to meet
Whatever threatens with defeat
Its all-indomitable will!—
But lacks the mean of mind and heart,
Though eager for the gains of crime,
Oft, at his chosen place and time,
The strength to bear his evil part;
And, shielded by his very Vice,
Escapes from Crime by Cowardice.

Ruth starts erect, — with bloodshot eye,
And lips drawn tight across her teeth
Showing their locked embrace beneath,
In the red firelight : "Mogg must die!
Give me the knife!" The outlaw turns,
Shuddering in heart and limb away,
But, fitfully there, the hearth-fire burns,
And he sees on the wall strange shadows
play.
A lifted arm, a tremulous blade,
Are dimly pictured in light and shade,

Plunging down in the darkness. Hark
that cry
Again — and again — he sees it fall,
That shadowy arm down the lighted
wall!
He hears quick footsteps — a shape flits
by —
The door on its rusted hinges creaks : —
"Ruth — daughter Ruth!" the outlaw
shrieks.
But no sound comes back, — he is standing
alone
By the maugled corse of Mogg Megone!⁴⁸⁰

PART II

'T is morning over Norridgewock, —
On tree and wigwam, wave and rock,
Bathed in the autumnal sunshine, stirred
At intervals by breeze and bird,
And wearing all the hues which glow
In heaven's own pure and perfect how,
That glorious picture of the air,
Which summer's light-robed angel forms
On the dark ground of fading storms,
With pencil dipped in sunbeams there, —
And, stretching out, on either hand,
O'er all that wide and unshorn land,
Till, weary of its gorgeonsness,
The aching and the dazzled eye
Rests, gladdened, on the calm blue sky, —
Slumbers the mighty wilderness!
The oak, upon the windy hill,
Its dark green burthen upward heaves —
The hemlock broods above its rill,
Its cone-like foliage darker still,
Against the birch's graceful stem,
And the rough walnut-bough receives
The sun upon its crowded leaves,
Each colored like a topaz gem;
And the tall maple wears with them
The coronal, which autumn gives,
The brief, bright sign of ruin near,
The hectic of a dying year!

The hermit priest, who lingers now
On the Bald Mountain's shrubless brow,
The gray and thunder-smitten pile
Which marks afar the Desert Isle,
While gazing on the scene below,
May half forget the dreams of home,
That nightly with his slumbers come, —
The tranquil skies of sunny France,
The peasant's harvest song and dance,
The vines around the hillsides wreathing,
The soft airs midst their clusters breath-
ing,
The wings which dipped, the stars which
shone
Within thy bosom, blue Garonne!
And round the Abbey's shadowed wall,
At morning spring and even-fall,
Sweet voices in the still air singing, —
The chant of many a holy hymn, —
The solemn bell of vespers ringing, —
And hallowed torchlight falling dim
On pictured saint and seraphim!
For here beneath him lies unrolled,
Bathed deep in morning's flood of gold,
A vision gorgeous as the dream
Of the beatified may seem,

When, as his Church's legends say,
 Born upward in ecstasie bliss,
 The rapt enthusiast soars a way
 Unto a brighter world than this :
 A mortal's glimpse beyond the pale, —
 A moment's lifting of the veil !

Far eastward o'er the lovely bay, 540
 Penobscot's clustered wigwams lay ;
 And gently from that Indian town
 The verdant hillside slopes adown,
 To where the sparkling waters play
 Upon the yellow sands below ;
 And shooting round the winding shores
 Of narrow capes, and isles which lie
 Slumbering to ocean's lullaby, —
 With birchen boat and glancing oars, 550
 The red men to their fishing go ;
 While from their planting ground is borne
 The treasure of the golden corn,
 By laughing girls, whose dark eyes glow
 Wild through the locks which o'er them flow.
 The wrinkled squaw, whose toil is done,
 Sits on her bear-skin in the sun,
 Watching the huskers, with a smile
 For each full ear which swells the pile ;
 And the old chief, who nevermore
 May bend the bow or pull the oar, 560
 Smokes gravely in his wigwam door,
 Or slowly shapes, with axe of stone,
 The arrow-head from flint and bone.

Beneath the westward turning eye
 A thousand wooded islands lie,
 Gems of the waters ! with each hue
 Of brightness set in ocean's blue.
 Each bears aloft its tuft of trees
 Touched by the pencil of the frost,
 And, with the motion of each breeze, 570
 A moment seen, a moment lost,
 Changing and blent, confused and tossed,
 The brighter with the darker crossed,
 Their thousand tints of beauty glow
 Down in the restless waves below,
 And tremble in the sunny skies,
 As if, from waving bough to bough,
 Flitted the birds of paradise.
 There sleep Placentia's group, and there
 Père Breteaux marks the hour of prayer ;
 And there, beneath the sea-worn cliff, 581
 On which the Father's hut is seen,
 The Indian stays his rocking skiff,
 And peers the hemlock-boughs between,
 Half trembling, as he seeks to look
 Upon the Jesuit's Cross and Book.
 There, gloomily against the sky
 The Dark Isles rear their summits high ;
 And Desert Rock, abrupt and bare,
 Lifts its gray turrets in the air, 590
 Seen from afar, like some stronghold
 Built by the ocean kings of old ;
 And, faint as smoke-wreath white and thin,
 Swells in the north vast Katahdin :
 And, wandering from its marshy feet,
 The broad Penobscot comes to meet
 And mingle with his own bright bay.
 Slow sweep his dark and gathering floods,
 Arched over by the ancient woods,
 Which Time, in those dim solitudes, 600
 Wielding the dull axe of Decay,
 Alone hath ever shorn away.

Not thus, within the woods which hide
 The beauty of thy azure tide,
 And with their falling timbers block
 Thy broken currents, Kennebec !
 Gazes the white man on the wreck
 Of the down-trodden Norridgewock ;
 In one lone village bemmed at length, 610
 In battle shorn of half their strength,
 Turned, like the panther in his lair,
 With his fast-flowing life-blood wet,
 For one last struggle of despair,
 Wounded and faint, but tameless yet !
 Unreaped, upon the planting lauds,
 The scant, neglected harvest stands :
 No shout is there, no dance, no song :
 The aspect of the very child
 Scowls with a meaning sad and wild 620
 Of bitterness and wrong.
 The almost infant Norridgewock
 Essays to lift the tomahawk ;
 And plucks his father's knife away,
 To mimic, in his frightful play,
 The scalping of an English foe :
 Wreathes on his lip a horrid smile,
 Burns, like a snake's, his small eye, while
 Some bough or sapling meets his blow.
 The fisher, as he drops his line,
 Starts, when he sees the bazels quiver 630
 Along the margin of the river,
 Looks up and down the rippling tide,
 And grasps the firelock at his side.
 For Bomazeen from Taconock
 Has sent his runners to Norridgewock,
 With tidings that Moulton and Harmon of
 York
 Far up the river have come :
 They have left their boats, they have entered
 the wood,
 And filled the depths of the solitude
 With the sound of the ranger's drum. 640

On the brow of a hill, which slopes to meet
 The flowing river, and bathe its feet ;
 The bare-washed rock, and the drooping
 grass,
 And the creeping vine, as the waters pass,
 A rude and unshapely chapel stands,
 Built up in that wild by unskilled hands,
 Yet the traveller knows it a place of prayer,
 For the holy sign of the cross is there :
 And should be chance at that place to be,
 Of a Sabbath morn, or some hallowed
 day, 650
 When prayers are made and masses are
 said,
 Some for the living and some for the dead,
 Well might that traveller start to see
 The tall dark forms, that take their way
 From the birch canoe, on the river shore,
 And the forest paths, to that chapel door ;
 And marvel to mark the naked knees
 And the dusky foreheads bending there,
 While, in coarse white vesture, over these 660
 In blessing or in prayer,
 Stretching abroad his thin pale hands,
 Like a shrouded ghost, the Jesuit stands.

Two forms are now in that chapel dim,
 The Jesuit, silent and sad and pale,
 Anxiously heeding some fearful tale,
 Which a stranger is telling him.

That stranger's garb is soiled and torn,
And wet with dew and loosely worn;
Her fair neglected hair falls down
O'er cheeks with wind and sunshine
brown; 670
Yet still, in that disordered face,
The Jesuit's cautious eye can trace
Those elements of former grace
Which, half effaced, seem scarcely less,
Even now, than perfect loveliness.

With drooping head, and voice so low
That scarce it meets the Jesuit's ears,
While through her clasped fingers flow,
From the heart's fountain, hot and slow,
Her penitential tears, — 680
She tells the story of the woe
And evil of her years.

"O father, bear with me; my heart
Is sick and death-like, and my brain
Seems girdled with a fiery chain,
Whose scorching links will never part,
And never cool again.
Bear with me while I speak, but turn
Away that gentle eye, the while;
The fires of guilt more fiercely burn 690
Beneath its holy smile;
For half I fancy I can see
My mother's sainted look in thee.

"My dear lost mother! sad and pale,
Mournfully sinking day by day,
And with a hold on life as frail
As frosted leaves, that, thin and gray,
Hang feebly on their parent spray,
And tremble in the gale;
Yet watching o'er my childishness
With patient fondness, not the less 700
For all the agony which kept
Her blue eye wakeful, while I slept;
And checking every tear and groan
That haply might have waked my own,
And bearing still, without offence,
My idle words, and petulance;
Reproving with a tear, and, while
The tooth of pain was keenly preying
Upon her very heart, repaying 710
My brief repentance with a smile.

"Oh, in her meek, forgiving eye
There was a brightness not of mirth,
A light whose clear intensity
Was borrowed not of earth.
Along her cheek a deepening red
Told where the feverish hectic fed;
And yet, each fatal token gave
To the mild beauty of her face 720
A newer and a dearer grace,
Unwarning of the grave.
'T was like the hue which Autumn gives
To yonder changed and dying leaves,
Breathed over by his frosty breath;
Scarce can the gazer feel that this
Is but the spoiler's treacherous kiss,
The mocking-smile of Death!

"Sweet were the tales she used to tell
When summer's eve was dear to us,
And, fading from the darkening dell, 730
The glory of the sunset fell
On wooded Agamenticus, —

When, sitting by our cottage wall,
The murmur of the Saco's fall,
And the south-wind's expiring sighs,
Came, softly blending, on my ear
With the low tones I loved to hear:
Tales of the pure, the good, the wise,
The holy men and maids of old,
In the all-sacred pages told; 740
Of Rachel, stooped at Haran's fountains,
Amid her father's thirsty flock,
Beautiful to her kinsman seeming
As the bright angels of his dreaming,
On Padan-aran's holy rock;
Of gentle Ruth, and her who kept
Her awful vigil on the mountains,
By Israel's virgin daughters wept;
Of Miriam, with her maidens, singing
The song for grateful Israel meet, 750
While every crimson wave was bringing
The spoils of Egypt at her feet;
Of her, Samaria's humble daughter,
Who paused to hear, beside her well,
Lessons of love and truth, which fell
Softly as Shiloh's flowing water;
And saw, beneath his pilgrim guise,
The Promised One, so long foretold
By holy seer and bard of old,
Revealed before her wondering eyes! 760

"Slowly she faded. Day by day
Her step grew weaker in our hall,
And fainter, at each even-fall,
Her sad voice died away.
Yet, on her thin, pale lip, the while,
Sat Resignation's holy smile:
And even my father checked his tread,
And hushed his voice, beside her bed:
Beneath the calm and sad rebuke
Of her meek eye's imploring look, 770
The scowl of hate his brow forsook,
And in his stern and gloomy eye,
At times, a few unwonted tears
Wet the dark lashes, which for years
Hatred and pride had kept so dry.

"Calm as a child to slumber soothed,
As if an angel's hand had smoothed
The still, white features into rest,
Silent and cold, without a breath 780
To stir the drapery on her breast,
Pain, with its keen and poisoned fang,
The horror of the mortal pang,
The suffering look her brow had worn,
The fear, the strife, the anguish gone, —
She slept at last in death!

"Oh, tell me, father, can the dead
Walk on the earth, and look on us,
And lay upon the living's head
Their blessing or their curse?
For, oh, last night she stood by me, 790
As I lay beneath the woodland tree!"

The Jesuit crosses himself in awe, —
"Jesu! what was it my daughter saw?"

"She came to me last night,
The dried leaves did not feel her tread;
She stood by me in the wan moonlight,
In the white robes of the dead!
Pale, and very mournfully

- She bent her light form over me.
I heard no sound, I felt no breath 800
Breathe o'er me from that face of death:
Its blue eyes rested on my own,
Rayless and cold as eyes of stone;
Yet, in their fixed, unchanging gaze,
Something, which spoke of early days,—
A sadness in their quiet glare,
As if love's smile were frozen there,—
Came o'er me with an icy thrill;
O God! I feel its presence still!"
- The Jesuit makes the holy sign,— 810
"How passed the vision, daughter mine?"
- "All dimly in the wan moonshine,
As a wreath of mist will twist and twine,
And scatter, and melt into the light;
So scattering, melting on my sight,
The pale, cold vision passed;
But those sad eyes were fixed on mine
Mournfully to the last."
- "God help thee, daughter, tell me why
That spirit passed before thine eye!" 820
- "Father, I know not, save it be
That deeds of mine have summoned her
From the unbreathing sepulchre,
To leave her last rebuke with me.
Ah, woe for me! my mother died
Just at the moment when I stood
Close on the verge of womanhood,
A child in every thing beside;
And when my wild heart needed most
Her gentle counsels, they were lost. 830
- "My father lived a stormy life,
Of frequent change and daily strife;
And—God forgive him! left his child
To feel, like him, a freedom wild;
To love the red man's dwelling-place,
The birch boat on his shaded floods,
The wild excitement of the chase
Sweeping the ancient woods,
The camp-fire, blazing on the shore
Of the still lakes, the clear stream where
The idle fisher sets his weir, 841
Or angles in the shade, far more
Than that restraining awe I felt
Beneath my gentle mother's care,
When nightly at her knee I knelt,
With childhood's simple prayer.
- "There came a change. The wild, glad
mood
Of unchecked freedom passed.
Amid the ancient solitude 850
Of unshorn grass and waving wood
And waters glancing bright and fast,
A softened voice was in my ear,
Sweet as those lulling sounds and fine
The hunter lifts his head to hear,
Now far and faint, now full and near—
The murmur of the wind-swept pine.
A manly form was ever nigh,
A bold, free hunter, with an eye
Whose dark, keen glance had power to
wake
Both fear and love, to awe and charm; 860
'T was as the wizard rattlesnake,
- Whose evil glances lure to harm—
Whose cold and small and glittering eye,
And brilliant coil, and changing dye,
Draw, step by step, the gazer near,
With drooping wing and cry of fear,
Yet powerless all to turn away,
A conscious, but a willing prey!
- "Fear, doubt, thought, life itself, ere long
Merged in one feeling deep and strong. 870
Faded the world which I had known,
A poor vain shadow, cold and waste;
In the warm present bliss alone
Seemed I of actual life to taste.
Fond longings dimly understood,
The glow of passion's quickening blood,
And cherished fantasies which press
The young lip with a dream's caress;
The heart's forecast and prophecy
Took form and life before my eye, 880
Seen in the glance which met my own,
Heard in the soft and pleading tone,
Felt in the arms around me cast,
And warm heart-pulses beating fast.
Ah! scarcely yet to God above
With deeper trust, with stronger love,
Has prayerful saint his meek heart lent,
Or cloistered nun at twilight bent,
Than I, before a human shrine,
As mortal and as frail as mine, 890
With heart, and soul, and mind, and form,
Knelt madly to a fellow-worm.
- "Full soon, upon that dream of sin,
An awful light came bursting in.
The shrine was cold at which I knelt,
The idol of that shrine was gone;
A humbled thing of shame and guilt,
Outcast, and spurned and lone,
Wrapt in the shadows of my crime,
With withering heart and burning brain,
And tears that fell like fiery rain, 901
I passed a fearful time.
- "There came a voice—it checked the
tear,
In heart and soul it wrought a change;
My father's voice was in my ears;
It whispered of revenge!
A new and fiercer feeling swept
All lingering tenderness away;
And tiger passions, which had slept
In childhood's better day, 910
Unknown, unfelt, arose at length
In all their own demoniac strength.
- "A youthful warrior of the wild,
By words deceived, by smiles beguiled,
Of crime the cheated instrument,
Upon our fatal errands went.
Through camp and town and wilderness
He tracked his victim; and at last,
Just when the tide of hate had passed,
And milder thoughts came warm and fast,
Exulting, at my feet he cast 921
The bloody token of success.
- "O God! with what an awful power
I saw the buried past uprising,
And gather, in a single hour,
Its ghost-like memories!

And then I felt, alas! too late,
That underneath the mask of hate,
That shame and guilt and wrong had
thrown

O'er feelings which they might not own, 930
The heart's wild love had known no
change;

And still that deep and hidden love,
With its first fondness, wept above
The victim of its own revenge!
There lay the fearful scalp, and there
The blood was on its pale brown hair!
I thought not of the victim's scorn,
I thought not of his baleful guile,
My deadly wrong, my outcast name,
The characters of sin and shame 940
On heart and forehead drawn;

I only saw that victim's smile,
The still green places where we met, —
The moonlit branches, dewy wet;
I only felt, I only heard,
The greeting and the parting word, —
The smile, the embrace, the tone, which
made

An Eden of the forest shade.

"And oh, with what a loathing eye,
With what a deadly hate, and deep, 950
I saw that Indian murderer lie

Before me, in his drunken sleep!
What though for me the deed was done,
And words of mine had sped him on!
Yet when he murmured, as he slept,
The horrors of that deed of blood,
The tide of utter madness swept
O'er brain and bosom, like a flood,
And, father, with this hand of mine" —

"Ha! what didst thou?" the Jesuit
cries, 960

Shuddering, as smitten with sudden pain,
And shading, with one thin hand, his
eyes,

With the other he makes the holy sign.
"— I smote him as I would a worm;
With heart as steeled, with nerves as
firm:
He never woke again!"

"Woman of sin and blood and shame,
Speak, I would know that victim's name."

"Father," she gasped, "a chieftain, known
As Saco's Sachem, — Mogg Megone!" 970

Pale priest! What proud and lofty dreams,
What keen desires, what cherished
schemes,

What hopes, that time may not recall,
Are darkened by that chieftain's fall!
Was he not pledged, by cross and vow,
To lift the hatchet of his sire,
And, round his own, the Church's foe,
To light the avenging fire?

Who now the Tarrantine shall wake,
For thine and for the Church's sake? 980
Who summon to the scene

Of conquest and unsparing strife,
And vengeance dearer than his life,
The fiery-souled Castine?
Three backward steps the Jesuit takes,
His long, thin frame as ague shakes;

And loathing hate is in his eye,
As from his lips these words of fear
Fall hoarsely on the maiden's ear —
"The soul that sinneth shall surely
die!" 990

She stands, as stands the stricken deer,
Checked midway in the fearful chase,
When bursts, upon his eye and ear,
The gaunt, gray robber, baying near,
Between him and his hiding-place;
While still behind, with yell and blow,
Sweeps, like a storm, the coming foe.
"Save me, O holy man!" her cry
Fills all the void, as if a tongue
Unseen, from rib and rafter hung, 1000
Thrilling with mortal agony;

Her hands are clasping the Jesuit's knee,
And her eye looks fearfully into his
own; —

"Off, woman of sin! nay, touch not me
With the fingers of blood; begone!"
With a gesture of horror, he spurns the
form

That writhes at his feet like a trodden
worm.

Ever thus the spirit must,
Guiltily in the sight of Heaven,
With a keener woe be riven, 1010
For its weak and sinful trust
In the strength of human dust;
And its anguish thrill afresh,
For each vain reliance given
To the failing arm of flesh.

PART III

AH, weary Priest! with pale hands pressed
On thy throbbing brow of pain,
Baffled in thy life-long quest,
Overworn with toiling vain, 1020
How ill thy troubled musings fit
The holy quiet of a breast

With the Dove of Peace at rest,
Sweetly brooding over it.

Thoughts are thine which have no part
With the meek and pure of heart,
Undisturbed by outward things,
Resting in the heavenly shade,
By the overspreading wings
Of the Blessed Spirit made.

Thoughts of strife and hate and wrong 1030
Sweep thy heated brain along,
Fading hopes for whose success
It were sin to breathe a prayer; —

Schemes which Heaven may never bless, —
Fears which darken to despair.

Hoary priest! thy dream is done
Of a hundred red tribes won

To the pale of Holy Church;
And the heretic o'erthrown,
And his name no longer known, 1040
And thy weary brethren turning,
Joyful from their years of mourning
'Twixt the altar and the porch.

Hark! what sudden sound is heard
In the wood and in the sky,
Shriller than the scream of bird,
Than the trumpet's clang more high!

Every wolf-cave of the hills,
Forest arch and mountain gorge,
Rock and dell, and river verge, 1050
With an answering echo thrills.
Well does the Jesuit know that cry,
Which summons the Norridgewock to die,

And tells that the foe of his flock is nigh.
He listens, and hears the rangers come,
With loud hurrah, and jar of drum,
And hurrying feet (for the chase is hot),
And the short, sharp sound of rifle shot,
And taunt and menace, — answered well
By the Indians' mocking cry and yell, — 1060
The bark of dogs, — the squaw's mad scream,

The dash of paddles along the stream,
The whistle of shot as it cuts the leaves
Of the maples around the church's eaves,
And the gride of hatchets fiercely thrown
On wigwam-jog and tree and stone.
Black with the grime of paint and dust,
Spotted and streaked with human gore,
A grim and naked head is thrust
Within the chapel-door. 1070

"Ha — Bomazeen! In God's name say,
What mean these sounds of bloody fray?"
Silent, the Indian points his hand

To where across the echoing glen
Sweep Harmon's dreaded ranger-band,
And Moulton with his men.

"Where are thy warriors, Bomazeen?
Where are De Rouville and Castioe,
And where the braves of Sawga's queen?"

"Let my father find the winter snow 1080
Which the sun drank up long moons ago!
Under the falls of Tacconock,

The wolves are eating the Norridgewock;
Castioe with his wives lies closely hid
Like a fox in the woods of Pemaquid!
On Sawga's banks the man of war
Sits in his wigwam like a squaw;
Squando has fled, and Mogg Megone,
Struck by the knife of Sagamore John,
Lies stiff and stark and cold as a stone." 1090

Fearfully over the Jesuit's face,
Of a thousand thoughts trace after trace,
Like swift cloud-shadows, each other chase.
One instant, his fingers grasp his knife,
For a last vain struggle for cherished
life, —

The next, he hurls the blade away.
And kneels at his altar's foot to pray;
Over his heads his fingers stray,
And he kisses the cross, and calls aloud

On the Virgin and her Son; 1100
For terrible thoughts his memory crowd
Of evil seen and done,

Of scalps brought home by his savage flock
From Casco and Sawga and Sagadahock
In the Church's service won.

No shrift the gloomy savage brooks,
As scowling on the priest he looks:
"Cowessass — cowessass — tawhlich wessa
seen?"

Let my father look upon Bomazeen. —
My father's heart is the heart of a squaw,
But mine is so hard that it does not
thaw; 1111

Let my father ask his God to make
A dance and a feast for a great sagamore,
When he paddles across the western lake,
With his dogs and his squaws to the
spirit's shore.

Cowessass — cowessass — tawhlich wessa
seen?
Let my father die like Bomazeen!"

Through the chapel's narrow doors,
And through each window in the walls,
Round the priest and warrior pours 1120
The deadly shower of English balls.

Low on his cross the Jesuit falls;
While at his side the Norridgewock,
With failing breath, essays to mock
And menace yet the hated foe,
Shakes his scalp-trophies to and fro
Exultingly before their eyes,
Till, cleft and torn by shot and blow,
Defiant still, he dies.

"So fare all eaters of the frog! 1130
Death to the Babylonish dog!

Down with the beast of Rome!"
With shouts like these, around the dead,
Unconscious on his bloody bed,
The rangers crowding come.

Brave men! the dead priest cannot hear
The unfeeling taunt, — the brutal jeer;
Spurn — for he sees ye not — in wrath,
The symbol of your Saviour's death;

Tear from his death-grasp, in your zeal,
And trample, as a thing accursed, 1141
The cross he cherished in the dust:

The dead man cannot feel!

Brutal alike in deed and word,
With callous heart and hand of strife,
How like a fiend may man be made,
Plying the foul and monstrous trade

Whose harvest-field is human life,
Whose sickle is the reeking sword!
Quenching, with reckless hand in blood, 1150
Sparks kindled by the breath of God;

Urging the deathless soul, unshriven,
Of open guilt or secret sin,
Before the bar of that pure Heaven

The holy only enter in!
Oh, by the widow's sore distress,
The orphan's wailing wretchedness,
By Virtue struggling in the accursed

Embraces of polluting Lust,
By the fell discord of the Pit, 1160
And the pained souls that people it,
And by the blessed peace which fills

The Paradise of God forever,
Resting on all its holy hills,
And flowing with its crystal river, —

Let Christian hands no longer bear
In triumph on his crimson ear
The foul and idol god of war;

No more the purple wreaths prepare
To bind amid his snaky hair; 1170
Nor Christian bards his glories tell,
Nor Christian tongues his praises swell.

Through the gun-smoke wreathing white,
Glimpses on the soldier's sight
A thing of human shape I ween,
For a moment only seen,

With its loose hair backward streaming,
 And its eyeballs madly gleaming,
 Shrieking, like a soul in pain,
 From the world of light and breath, 1180
 Hurrying to its place again,
 Spectre-like it vanisheth!

Wretched girl! one eye alone
 Notes the way which thou hast gone.
 That great Eye, which slumbers never,
 Watching o'er a lost world ever,
 Tracks thee over vale and mountain,
 By the gushing forest-fountain,
 Plucking from the vine its fruit,
 Searching for the ground-nut's root, 1190
 Peering in the she-wolf's den,
 Wading through the marshy fen,
 Where the sluggish water-snake
 Basks beside the sunny brake,
 Coiling in his slimy bed,
 Smooth and cold against thy tread;
 Purposeless, thy mazy way
 Threading through the lingering day,
 And at night securely sleeping, 1199
 Where the dogwood's dews are weeping!
 Still, though earth and man discard thee,
 Doth thy Heavenly Father guard thee:
 He who spared the guilty Cain,
 Even when a brother's blood,
 Crying in the ear of God,
 Gave the earth its primal stain;
 He whose mercy ever liveth,
 Who repenting gullt forgiveth,
 And the broken heart receiveth;
 Wanderer of the wilderness, 1210
 Haunted, guilty, crazed and wild,
 He regardeth thy distress,
 And careth for his sinful child!

'T is springtime on the eastern hills!
 Like torrents gush the summer rills;
 Through winter's moss and dry dead 1200
 leaves
 The bladed grass revives and lives,
 Pushes the mouldering waste away,
 For glimpses to the April day.
 In kindly shower and sunshine bud
 The branches of the dull gray wood;
 Out from its sunned and sheltered nooks
 The blue eye of the violet looks;
 The southwest wind is warmly blowing,
 And odors from the springing grass,
 The pine-tree and the saffras,
 Are with it on its errands going.

A band is marching through the wood
 Where rolls the Kennebec his food;
 The warriors of the wilderness, 1230
 Painted, and in their battle dress;
 And with them one whose bearded cheek,
 And white and wrinkled brow, bespeak
 A wanderer from the shores of France.
 A few long locks of scattering snow
 Beneath a battered morion flow,
 And from the rivets of the vest
 Which girds in steel his ample breast,
 The slanted sunbeams glance.
 In the harsh outlines of his face 1240
 Passion and sin have left their trace;

Yet, save worn brow and thin gray hair,
 No signs of weary age are there.
 His step is firm, his eye is keen,
 Nor years in broil and battle spent,
 Nor toil, nor wounds, nor pain have bent
 The lordly frame of old Castine.

No purpose now of strife and blood
 Urges the hoary veteran on:
 The fire of conquest and the mood 1250
 Of chivalry have gone.
 A mournful task is his, — to lay
 Within the earth the bones of those
 Who perished in that fearful day,
 When Norridgewock became the prey
 Of all unsparing foes.
 Sadly and still, dark thoughts between,
 Of coming vengeance mused Castine,
 Of the fallen chieftain Bomazeen,
 Who bade for him the Norridgewocks 1260
 Dig up their buried tomahawks
 For firm defence or swift attack;
 And him whose friendship formed the tie
 Which held the stern self-exile back
 From lapsing into savagery;
 Whose garb and tone and kindly glance
 Recalled a younger, happier day,
 And prompted memory's fond essay,
 To bridge the mighty waste which lay
 Between his wild home and that gray, 1270
 Tall chateau of his native France:
 Whose chapel bell, with far-heard din,
 Ushered his birth-hour gayly in,
 And counted with its solemn toll
 The masses for his father's soul.

Hark! from the foremost of the band
 Suddenly bursts the Indian yell;
 For now on the very spot they stand
 Where the Norridgewocks fighting fell.
 No wigwam smoke is curling there; 1280
 The very earth is scorched and bare:
 And they pause and listen to catch a sound
 Of breathing life, — but there comes not
 one,
 Save the fox's bark and the rabbit's bound;
 But here and there, on the blackened ground,
 White bones are glistening in the sun.
 And where the house of prayer arose,
 And the holy hymn, at daylight's close,
 And the aged priest stood up to bless
 The children of the wilderness, 1290
 There is naught save ashes sodden and
 dank;
 And the birchen boats of the Norridge-
 wock,
 Tethered to tree and stump and rock
 Rotting along the river bank!

Blessed Mary! who is she
 Leaning against that maple-tree?
 The sun upon her face burns hot,
 But the fixed eyelid moveth not;
 The squirrel's chirp is shrill and clear
 From the dry bough above her ear; 1300
 Dashing from rock and root its spray,
 Close at her feet the river rushes;
 The blackbird's wing against her brushes,
 And sweetly through the hazel-bushes
 The robin's mellow music gushes;
 God save her! will she sleep alway?

Castine bath bent him over the sleeper :
 "Wake, daughter, — wake!" but she stirs
 no limb:
 The eye that looks on him is fixed and
 dim;
 And the sleep she is sleeping shall be no
 deeper, 13 10
 Until the angel's oath is said,
 And the final blast of the trump goes forth
 To the graves of the sea and the graves of
 earth.
 Ruth Boniton is dead!

THE PAST AND COMING YEAR

WAVE of an awful torrent, thronging
 down,
 With all the wealth of centuries, and the
 cold
 Embraces of eternity, o'erstrown
 With the great wrecks of empire, and the old
 Magnificence of nations, who are gone;
 Thy last, faint murmur -- thy departing sigh,
 Along the shore of being, like a tone
 Thrilling on broken harp-strings, or the
 swell
 Of the chained winds' last whisper, hath
 gone by,
 And thou hast floated from the world of
 breath 10
 To the still guidance of o'er-mastering
 Death,
 Thy pilot to eternity. Farewell!

Go, swell the throngful past. Go, blend
 with all
 The garnered things of Death; and bear
 with thee
 The treasures of thy pilgrimage, the tall
 And beautiful dreams of Hope, the ministry
 Of Love and high Ambition. Man remains
 To dream again as idly; and the stains
 Of passion will be visible once more.
 The winged spirit will not be confined 20
 By the experience of thy journey. Mind
 Will struggle in its prison-house, and still,
 With Earth's strong fetters binding it to ill,
 Unfurl the pinions fitted but to soar
 In that pure atmosphere, where spirits
 range —
 The home of high existences — where
 change
 And blighting may not enter. Love again
 Will bloom, a fickle flower, upon the grave
 Of old affections; and Ambition wave 20
 His eagle-plume most proudly, for the rein
 Of Conscience will be loosened from the soul
 To give his purpose freedom. The control
 Of reason will be changeful, and the ties
 Which gather hearts together, and make up
 The romance of existence, will be rent:
 Yea, poison will be poured in Friendship's
 cup;
 And for Earth's low familiar element,
 Even Love itself forsake its kindred skies.
 But not alone dark visions! happier things
 Will float above existence, like the wings 40
 Of the starred bird of paradise; and Love
 Will not be all a dream, or rather prove

A dream — a sweet forgetfulness — that
 hath
 No wakeful changes, ending but in Death.
 Yea, pure hearts shall be pledged beneath
 the eyes
 Of the beholding heaven, and in the light
 Of the love-hallowed moon. The quiet Night
 Shall hear that language underneath the
 skies
 Which whispereth above them, as the prayer
 And the deep vow are spoken. Passing fair
 And gifted creatures, with the light of truth
 And unbarred affection, as a crown, 52
 Resting upon the beautiful brow of youth,
 Shall smile on stately manhood, kneeling
 down
 Before them, as to Idols. Friendship's hand
 Shall clasp its brothers; and Affection's tear
 Be sanctified with sympathy. The bier
 Of stricken love shall lose the fears, which
 Death
 Giveth his awful work, and earnest Faith
 Shall look beyond the shadow of the clay, 60
 The pulseless sepulchre, the cold decay;
 And to the quiet of the spirit-land
 Follow the mourned and lovely. Gifted ones
 Lighting the Heaven of Intellect, like suns,
 Shall wrestle well, with circumstance, and
 bear
 The agony of scorn, the preying care,
 Wedded to burning bosoms; and go down
 In sorrow to the noteless sepulchre,
 With one lone hope embracing like a crown
 The cold and death-like forehead of Despair,
 That after times shall treasure up their fame
 Even as a proud inheritance and high; 72
 And beautiful beings love to breathe their
 name
 With the recorded things that never die.

And thou, gray voyager to the breezeless
 sea
 Of infinite Oblivion — speed thou on;
 Another gift of time succeedeth thee
 Fresh from the hand of God; for thou hast
 done
 The errand of thy destiny; and none
 May dream of thy returning. Go, and bear 80
 Mortality's frail records to thy cold,
 Eternal prison-house; the midnight prayer
 Of suffering bosoms, and the fevered care
 Of worldly hearts; the miser's dream of
 gold;
 Ambition's grasp at greatness; the quenched
 light
 Of broken spirits; the forgiven wrong
 And the abiding curse — ay, hear along
 These wrecks of thy own making. Lo, thy
 knell
 Gathers upon the windy breath of night,
 Its last and faintest echo. Fare thee well! 90

THE MISSIONARY

"SAY, whose is this fair picture, which
 the light
 From the unshutter'd window rests upon
 Even as a lingering halo? Beautiful!
 The keen, fine eye of manhood, and a lip
 Lovely as that of Hylas, and impressed

With the bright signet of some brilliant
thought;
That broad expanse of forehead, clear and
high,
Marked visibly with the characters of mind,
And the free locks around it, raven black,
Luxuriant and unsilver'd! — who was
he?" 10

A friend, a more than brother. In the
spring
And glory of his being he went forth
From the embraces of devoted friends,
From ease and quiet happiness, from
more —

From the warm heart that loved him with a
love
Holler than earthly passion, and to whom
The beauty of his spirit shone above
The charms of perishing nature. He went
forth

Strengthened to suffer, gifted to subdue
The might of human passion, to pass on 20
Quietly to the sacrifice of all
The lofty hopes of boyhood, and to turn
The high ambition written on that brow,
From its first dream of power and human
fame,

Unto a task of seeming lowliness,
Yet God-like in its purpose. He went forth
To bind the broken spirit, to pluck back
The heathen from the wheel of Juggen-
nant;

To place the spiritual image of a God
Holy and just and true, before the eye 30
Of the dark-minded Brahmin, and unseal
The holy pages of the Book of Life,
Fraught with sublimer mysteries than all
The sacred tomes of Vedas, to unbind
The widow from her sacrifice, and save
The perishing infant from the worshipped
river!

"And, lady, where is he?" He slumbers
well
Beneath the shadow of an Indian palm.
There is no stone above his grave. The
wind,
Hot from the desert, as it stirs the leaves 40
Heavy and long above him, sighs alone
Over his place of slumber.

"God forbid
That he should die alone!" Nay, not
alone.
His God was with him in that last dread
hour;
His great arm underneath him, and His
smile
Melting into a spirit full of peace.
And one kind friend, a human friend, was
near —
One whom his teachings and his earnest
prayers
Had snatch'd as from the burning. He
alone
Felt the last pressure of his falling hand, 50
Caught the last glimpse of his closing eye,
And laid the green turf over him with
tears,
And left him with his God.

"And was it well,
Dear lady, that this noble mind should cast
Its rich gifts on the waters? That a heart
Full of all gentleness and truth and love
Should wither on the suicidal shrine
Of a mistaken duty? If I read
Aright the fine intelligence which fills
That amplitude of brow, and gazes out 60
Like an indwelling spirit from that eye,
He might have borne him loftily among
The proudest of his land, and with a step
Unfaltering ever, steadfast and secure,
Gone up the paths of greatness, — bearing
still

A sister spirit with him, as some star,
Preëminent in Heaven, leads steadily up
A kindred watcher, with its fainter beams
Baptized in its great glory. Was it well
That all this promise of the heart and
mind 70
Should perish from the earth, and leave no
trace.
Unfolding like the Cereus of the clime
Which hath its sepulchre, but in the night
Of pagan desolation — was it well?"

Thy will be done, O Father! — it *was* well.
What are the honors of a perishing world
Grasp'd by a palsied finger? the applause
Of the unthoughtful multitude which
greets
The dull ear of decay? the wealth that
loads

The bier with costly drapery, and shines 80
In tinsel on the coffin, and builds up
The cold substantial monument? Can these
Bear up the sinking spirit in that hour
When heart and flesh are failing, and the
grave

Is opening under us? Oh, dearer then
The memory of a kind deed done to him
Who was our enemy, one grateful tear
In the meek eye of virtuous suffering,
One smile call'd up by unseen charity
On the wan lips of hunger, or one prayer 90
Breathed from the bosom of the penitent —
The stain'd with crime and outcast, unto
whom
Our mild rebuke and tenderness of love
A merciful God hath bless'd.

"But, lady, say,
Did he not sometimes almost sink beneath
The burden of his toil, and turn aside
To weep above his sacrifice, and cast
A sorrowing glance upon his childhood's
home,
Still green in memory? Clung not to his
heart

Something of earthly hope uncrucified, 100
Of earthly thought unchastened? Did he
bring
Life's warm affections to the sacrifice —
Its loves, hopes, sorrows — and become as
one
Knowing no kindred but a perishing world,
No love but of the sin-endangered soul,
No hope but of the winning back to life
Of the dead nations, and no passing thought
Save of the errand wherewith he was sent
As to a martyrdom?"

Nay, though the heart
Be consecrated to the holiest work 110
Vouchsafed to mortal effort, there will be
Ties of the earth around it, and, through all
Its perilous devotion, it must keep
Its own humanity. And it is well.
Else why wept He, who with our nature
veiled

The spirit of a God, o'er lost Jerusalem,
And the cold grave of Lazarus? And why
In the dim garden rose his earnest prayer,
That from his lips the cup of suffering
Might pass, if it were possible?

My friend
Was of a gentle nature, and his heart 121
Gushed like a river-fountain of the hills,
Ceaseless and lavish, at a kindly smile,
A word of welcome, or a tone of love.
Freely his letters to his friends disclosed
His yearnings for the quiet haunts of home,
For love and its companionship, and all
The blessings left behind him: yet above
Its sorrows and its clouds his spirit rose,
Tearful and yet triumphant, taking hold 130
Of the eternal promises of God,
And steadfast in its faith.

Here are some lines
Penned in his lonely mission-house and
sent

To a dear friend at home who even now
Lingers above them with a mournful joy,
Holding them well-nigh sacred as a leaf
Plucked from the record of a breaking
heart.

EVENING IN BURMAH

A night of wonder! piled afar
With ebon feet and crests of snow,
Like Himalaya's peaks, which bar 140
The sunset and the sunset's star
From half the shadowed vale below,
Volumed and vast the dense clouds lie,
And over them, and down the sky,
Faled in the moon, the lightnings go.

And what a strength of light and shade
Is chequering all the earth below!
And, through the jungle's verdant braid,
Of tangled vine and wild reed made,
What blossoms in the moonlight glow! 150
The Indian rose's loveliness,
The ceiba with its crimson dress,
The twining myrtle dropped with snow.

And flitting in the fragrant air,
Or nestling in the shadowy trees,
A thousand bright-hued birds are there —
Strange plumage, quivering wild and rare,
With every faintly breathing breeze;
And, wet with dew from roses shed,
The bulbul droops her weary head, 160
Forgetful of her melodies.

Uprising from the orange-leaves,
The tall pagoda's turrets glow;
O'er graceful shaft and fretted eaves,
Its verdant web the myrtle weaves,

And hangs in flowering wreaths below;
And where the clustered palms eclipse
The moonbeams, from its marble lips
The fountain's silver waters flow.

Strange beauty fills the earth and air, 170
The fragrant grove and flowering tree,
And yet my thoughts are wandering where
My native rocks lie bleak and bare,
A weary way beyond the sea.
The yearning spirit is not here;
It lingers on a spot more dear
Than India's brightest bowers to me.

Methinks I tread the well-known street —
The tree my childhood loved is there,
Its bare-worn roots are at my feet, 180
And through its open boughs I meet
White glimpses of the place of prayer;
And unforgetten eyes again
Are glancing through the cottage pane,
Than Asia's lustrous eyes more fair.

Oh, holy haunts! oh childhood's home!
Where, now, my wandering heart, is
thine?
Here, where the dusky heathen come
To bow before the deaf and dumb,
Dead idols of their own design; 190
Where in their worshipped rivers' tide
The infant sinks, and on its side
The widow's funeral altars shine!

Here, where, 'mid light and song and flow-
ers,
The priceless soul in ruin lies;
Lost, dead to all those better powers
Which link this fallen world of ours
To God's clear-shining Paradise;
And wrong and shame and hideous crime
Are like the foliage of their clime, 200
The unshorn growth of centuries!

Turn, then, my heart; thy home is
here;
No other now remains for thee:
The smile of love, and friendship's tear,
The tones that melted on thine ear,
The mutual thrill of sympathy,
The welcome of the household band,
The pressure of the lip and hand,
Thou mayst not hear, nor feel, nor see.

God of my spirit! Thou, alone, 210
Who watchest o'er my pillowed head,
Whose ear is open to the moan
And sorrowing of thy child, hast known
The grief which at my heart has fed;
The struggle of my soul to rise
Above its earth-born sympathies;
The tears of many a sleepless bed!

Oh! be Thine arm, as it hath been,
In every test of heart and faith, —
The tempter's doubt, the wiles of men, 220
The heathen's scoff, the bosom sin, —
A helper and a stay beneath;
A strength in weakness, through the
strife
And anguish of my wasting life —
My solace and my hope, in death!

MASSACHUSETTS

AND have they spurned thy word,
Thou of the old Thirteen!
Whose soil, where Freedom's blood first
poured,
Hath yet a darker green?
To outward patience suffering long
Is insult added to the wrong?

And have they closed thy mouth,
And fixed the padlock fast?
Dumb as the black slave of the South!
Is this thy fate at last? 10
Oh shame! thy honored seal and sign
Trod under hoofs so asinine!

Call from the Capitol
Thy chosen ones again,
Unmeet for them the base control
Of Slavery's curbing rein!
Unmeet for men like them to feel
The spurring of a rider's heel.

When votes are things of trade
And force is argument, 20
Call back to Quincy's shade
Thy old man eloquent,
Why leave him longer striving thus
With the wild beasts of Ephesus!

Back from the Capitol —
It is no place for thee!
Beneath the arch of Heaven's blue wall,
Thy voice may still be free!
What power shall chain thy utterance there,
In God's free sun and freer air? 30

A voice is calling thee,
From all the martyr graves
Of those stern men, in death made free,
Who could not live as slaves.
The slumberings of thy honored dead
Are for thy sake disquieted.

So let thy Faneuil Hall
By freemen's feet be trod,
And give the echoes of its wall
Once more to Freedom's God! 40
And in the midst unseen shall stand
The mighty fathers of thy land.

Thy gathered sons shall feel
The soul of Adams near,
And Otis with his fiery zeal,
And Warren's onward cheer;
And heart to heart shall thrill as when
They moved and spake as living men.

Not on Potomac's side,
With treason in thy rear, 50
Can Freedom's holy cause be tried;
Not there, my State, but here.
Here must thy needed work be done,
The battle at thy hearth-stone won.

Proclaim a new crusade
Against the foes within;
From bar and pulpit, press and trade,
Cast out the shame and sin.
Then speak thy now-unheeded word,
Its lightest whisper shall be heard. 60

II. POEMS PRINTED IN THE "LIFE
OF WHITTIER"

THE HOME-COMING OF THE BRIDE

SARAH GREENLEAF, of eighteen years,
Stepped lightly her bridegroom's boat
within,
Waving mid-river, through smiles and tears,
A farewell back to her kith and kin.
With her sweet blue eyes and her new gold
gown,
She sat by her stalwart lover's side —
Oh, never was brought to Haverhill town
By land or water so fair a bride.
Glad as the glad autumnal weather,
The Indian summer so soft and warm,
They walked through the golden woods to-
gether,
His arm the girdle about her form.

They passed the dam and the gray grist-
mill,
Whose walls with the jar of grinding
shook,
And crossed, for the moment awed and still,
The haunted bridge of the Country Brook.
The great oaks seemed on Job's Hill crown
To wave in welcome their branches
strong,
And an upland streamlet came rippling
down
Over root and rock, like a bridal song.
And lo! in the midst of a clearing stood
The rough-built farmhouse, low and lone,
While all about it the unbewn wood
Seemed drawing closer to claim its own.

But the red apples dropped from orchard
trees,
The red cock crowed on the low fence rail,
From the garden hives came the sound of
bees,
On the barn floor pealed the smiting flail.

THE SONG OF THE VERMONTERS, 1779

Ho — all to the borders! Vermonters, come
down,
With your breeches of deerskin and jackets
of brown;
With your red woolen caps, and your moc-
casins, come,
To the gathering summons of trumpet and
drum.

Come down with your rifles! Let gray wolf
and fox
Howl on in the shade of their primitive
rocks;
Let the bear feed securely from pig-pen and
stall;
Here 's two-legged game for your powder
and ball.

On our south came the Dutchmen, envel-
oped in grease;
And arming for battle while canting of
peace; 10

On our east, crafty Meshech has gathered
his band
To hang up our leaders and eat up our land.

Ho — all to the rescue! For Satan shall work
No gain for his legions of Hampshire and
York!

They claim our possessions — the pitiful
knaves —
The tribute we pay shall be prisons and
graves!

Let Clinton and Ten Broek, with bribes in
their hands,
Still seek to divide and parcel our lands;
We've coats for our traitors, whoever they
are;
The warp is of feathers — the filling of tar:

Does the "old Bay State" threaten? Does
Congress complain? ²¹
Swarms Hampshire in arms on our borders
again?
Bark the war-dogs of Britain aloud on the
lake —
Let 'em come; what they can they are wel-
come to take.

What seek they among us? The pride of
our wealth
Is comfort, contentment, and labor, and
health,
And lands which, as Freemen, we only
have trod,
Independent of all, save the mercies of
God.

Yet we owe no allegiance, we bow to no
throne,
Our ruler is law, and the law is our own; ³⁰
Our leaders themselves are our own fel-
low-men,
Who can handle the sword, or the scythe,
or the pen.

Our wives are all true, and our daughters
are fair,
With their blue eyes of smiles and their
light flowing hair,
All brisk at their wheels till the dark even-
fall,
Then blithe at the sleigh-ride, the husking,
and ball!

We've sheep on the hillsides, we've cows on
the plain,
And gay-tasselled corn-fields and rank-
growing grain;
There are deer on the mountains, and
wood-pigeons fly
From the crack of our muskets, like clouds
on the sky. ⁴⁰

And there's fish in our streamlets and rivers
which take
Their course from the hills to our broad-
bosomed lake;
Through rock-arched Winooski the salmon
leaps free,
And the portly shad follows all fresh from
the sea.

Like a sunbeam the pickerel glides through
the pool,
And the spotted trout sleeps where the
water is cool,
Or darts from his shelter of rock and of
root
At the heaver's quick plunge, or the angler's
pursuit.

And ours are the mountains, which awfully
rise,
Till they rest their green heads on the blue
of the skies; ⁵⁰
And ours are the forests unwasted, un-
shorn,
Save where the wild path of the tempest is
torn.

And though savage and wild be this cli-
mate of ours,
And brief be our season of fruits and of
flowers,
Far dearer the blast round our mountains
which raves,
Than the sweet summer zephyr which
breathes over slaves!

Hurrah for Vermont! For the land which
we till
Must have sons to defend her from valley
and hill;
Leave the harvest to rot on the fields where
it grows,
And the reaping of wheat for the reaping
of foes. ⁶⁰

From far Michiscom's wild valley, to where
Poosoonsuek steals down from his wood-
circled lair,
From Shoticook River to Lutterlock
town —
Ho — all to the rescue! Vermonters, come
down!

Come York or come Hampshire, come
traitors or knaves,
If ye rule o'er our land, ye shall rule o'er
our graves;
Our vow is recorded — our banner un-
furled,
In the name of Vermont we defy all the
world!

TO A POETICAL TRIO IN THE CITY OF GOTHAM

Three wise men of Gotham
Went to sea in a bowl.

BARDS of the island city! — where of old
The Dutchman smoked beneath his
favorite tree,
And the wild eyes of Indian hunters rolled
On Hudson plunging in the Tappaan
Zee,
Scene of Stuyvesant's might and chivalry,
And Knickerbocker's fame, — I have made
bold
To come before ye, at the present time,
And reason with ye in the way of rhyme.

Time was when poets kept the quiet tenor
Of their green pathway through th' Arca-
dian vale,¹⁰
Chiming their music in the low sweet man-
ner
Of song-birds warbling to the "Soft-South"
gale;
 wooing the Muse where gentle zephyrs fan
her,
Where all is peace and earth may not as-
sail;
Telling of lutes and flowers, of love and
fear,
Of shepherds, sheep and lambs, and "such
small deer."

But ye! lost recreants — straying from the
green
And pleasant vista of your early time,
With broken lutes and crownless skulls —
are seen
Spattering your neighbors with abhorrent
slime²⁰
Of the low world's pollution!¹ Ye have
been
So long apostates from the Heaven of
rhyme,
That of the Muses, every mother's daughter
Blushes to own such graceless bards e'er
sought her.

"Hurrah for Jackson!" is the music now
Which your cracked lutes have learned
alone to utter,
As, crouching in Corruption's shadow low,
Ye daily sweep them for your bread and
butter,²
Cheered by the applauses of the friends who
show
Their heads above the offal of the gutter,
And, like the trees which Orpheus moved
at will,³
Reel, as in token of your matchless skill!

Thou son of Scotia!³ — nursed beside the
grave
Of the proud peasant-minstrel, and to
whom
The wild muse of thy mountain dwelling
gave
A portion of its spirit, — if the tomb
Could burst its silence, o'er the Atlantic's
wave,
To thee his voice of stern rebuke would
come,
Who dared to waken with a master's hand
The lyre of freedom in a fettered land.⁴⁰

And thou! — once treading firmly the proud
deck

¹ Editors of the *Mercantile Advertiser* and the *Evening Post* in New York, — the present organs of Jacksonism.

² Perhaps, after all, they get something better; inasmuch as the Heroites have for some time had exclusive possession of the Hall of St. Tammany, and we have the authority of Halleck that —

"There 's a barrel of porter in Tammany hall
And the Bucktails are awigging it all the night long."

³ James Lawson, Esq., of the *Mercantile*. A fine, warm-hearted Scotchman, who, having un-

O'er which thy country's honored flag was
sleeping,
Calmly in peace, or to the hostile beck
Of coming foes in starry splendor sweep-
ing, —
Thy graphic tales of battle or of wreck,
Or lone night-watch in middle ocean keep-
ing,
Have made thy "Leisure Hours" more
prized by far
Than those now spent in Party's wordy
war.⁴

And last, not least, thou! — now nurtured in
the land
Where thy bold-hearted fathers long
ago
Rocked Freedom's cradle, till its infant
hand⁵
Strangled the serpent fierceness of its
foe, —
Thou, whose clear brow in early time was
fanoed
By the soft airs which from Castalia
flow!⁶ —
Where art thou now? feeding with hickory
ladle
The curs of Faction with thy daily twaddle!

Men have looked up to thee, as one to be
A portion of our glory; and the light
And fairy hands of woman beckoned thee
On to thy laurel guerdon; and those
bright⁶⁰
And gifted spirits, whom the broad blue
sea
Hath shut from thy communion, bid thee,
"Write,"
Like John of Patmos. Is all this forgotten,
For Yankee brawls and Carolina cotion?

Are autumn's rainbow hues no longer seen?
Flows the "Green River" through its
vale no more?
Steals not thy "Rivulet" by its banks of
green?
Wheels upward from its dark and sedgy
shore
Thy "Water Fowl" no longer? — that the
mean
And vulgar strife, the ranting and the
roar⁷⁰
Extempore, like Bottom's should be thine, —
Thou feeblest truck-horse in the Hero's
line!

Lost trio! — turn ye to the minstrel pride
Of classic Britain. Even effeminate Moore
Has cast the wine-cup and the lute aside
For Erin and O'Connell; and before

fortunately blundered into Jackeism, is wonder-
ing "how i' the Deil's name" he got there.
He is the author of a volume entitled *Tales and
Sketches* and of the tragedy of *Giordano*.

⁴ William Leggett, Esq., of the *Post*, a gentle-
man of good talents, favorably known as the editor
of the *New York Critic*, etc.

⁵ William C. Bryant, Esq., well known to the
public at large as a poet of acknowledged excel-
lence; and as a very dull editor to the people of
New York.

His country's altar, Bulwer breasts the tide
Of old oppression. Sadly brooding o'er,
The fate of heroes struggling to be free,
Even Campbell speaks for Poland. *Where*
are ye? 80

Hirelings of traitors!— know ye not that
men

Are rousing up around ye to retrieve
Our country's honor, which too long has
been

Debased by those for whom ye daily
weave

Your web of fustian; that from tongue and
pen

Of those who o'er our tarnished honor
grieve,

Of the pure-hearted and the gifted, come
Hourly the tokens of your master's doom?

Turn from their ruin! Dash your chains
aside!

Stand up like men for Liberty and Law, go
And free opinion. Check Corruption's pride,

Soothe the loud storm of fratricidal war,—
And the bright honors of your eventide

Shall share the glory which your morning
saw;

The patriot's heart shall gladden at your
name,

Ye shall be blessed with, and not "damned
to fame"!

ALBUM VERSES

PARDON a stranger hand that gives
Its impress to these gilded leaves.

As one who graves in idle mood
An idler's name on rock or wood,

So in a careless hour I claim
A page to leave my humble name.

Accept it; and when o'er my head
A Pennsylvanian sky is spread,

And but in dreams my eye looks back
On broad and lovely Merrimac, 10

And on my ear no longer breaks
The murmuring music which it makes,

When but in dreams I look again
On Salisbury beach— Grasshopper plain—

Or Powow stream— or Amesbury mills,
Or old Crane neck, or Pipestave hills,

Think of me then as one who keeps,
Where Delaware's broad current sweeps,

And down its rugged limestone-bed
The Schuylkill's arrowy flight is sped, 20

Deep in his heart the scenes which grace
And glorify his "native place;"

Loves every spot to childhood dear,
And leaves his heart "untravell'd" here;

Longs, midst the Dutchman's kraut and
greens,

For pumpkin-pie and pork and beans,
And sighs to think when, sweetly near,

The soft piano greets his ear,
That the fair hands which, small and white,

Glance on its ivory polished light, 30

Have ne'er an Indian pudding made,
Nor fashioned rye and Indian bread.

And oh! where'er his footsteps turn,
Whatever stars above him burn,

Though dwelling where a Yankee's name
Is coupled with reproach or shame,
Still true to his New England birth,
Still faithful to his home and hearth,
Even 'midst the scornful stranger band
His boast shall be of YANKEE LAND. 40

WHAT STATE STREET SAID TO
SOUTH CAROLINA, AND WHAT
SOUTH CAROLINA SAID TO STATE
STREET

MUTTERING "fine upland staple," "prime
Sea Island finer,"

With cotton bales pictured on either
retina,

"Your pardon!" said State Street to South
Carolina;

"We feel and acknowledge your laws are
diviner

Than any promulgated by the thunders of
Siuai!

Sorely pricked in the sensitive conscience
of business

We own and repent of our sins of remiss-
ness:

Our honor we've yielded, our words we
have swallowed;

And quenching the lights which our fore-
fathers followed,

And turning from graves by their memories
hallowed,

With teeth on ball-cartridge, and finger on
trigger,

Reserved Boston Notions, and sent back a
nigger!"

"Get away!" cried the Chivalry, busy
a-drumming,

And firing and drilling, and such Quattle-
bumming;

"With your April-fool slave hunt! Just
wait till December

Shall see your new Senator stalk through
the Chamber,

And Puritan heresy prove neither dumb nor
blind in that pestilent Anakim, Sumner!"

A FRÉMONT CAMPAIGN SONG

SOUND now the trumpet warningly!

The storm is rolling nearer,
The hour is striking clearer,

In the dusky dome of sky.
If dark and wild the morning be,

A darker morn before us
Shall fling its shadows o'er us

If we let the hour go by.
Sound we then the trumpet chorus!

Sound the onset wild and high! 10
Country and Liberty!

Freedom and Victory!
These words shall be our cry,—

Frémont and Victory!

Sound, sound the trumpet fearlessly!

Each arm its vigor lending,
Bravely with wrong contending,

And shouting Freedom's cry!

The Kansas homes stand cheerlessly,
 The sky with flame is ruddy, 20
 The prairie turf is bloody,
 Where the brave and gentle die.
 Sound the trumpet stern and steady!
 Sound the trumpet strong and high!
 Country and Liberty!
 Freedom and Victory!
 These words shall be our cry, —
 Frémont and Victory!

Sound now the trumpet cheerily!
 Nor dream of Heaven's forsaking 30
 The issue of its making,
 That Right with Wrong must try.
 The cloud that hung so drearily
 The Northern winds are breaking;
 The Northern Lights are shaking
 Their fire-flags in the sky.
 Sound the signal of awaking;
 Sound the onset wild and high!
 Country and Liberty!
 Freedom and Victory! 40
 These words shall be our cry, —
 Frémont and Victory!

THE QUAKERS ARE OUT

NOT vainly we waited and counted the
 hours,
 The buds of our hope have all burst into
 flowers.
 No room for misgiving — no loop-hole of
 doubt, —
 We've heard from the Keystone! The
 Quakers are out.

The plot has exploded — we've found out
 the trick;
 The bribe goes a-begging; the fusion won't
 stick.
 When the Wide-awake lanterns are shining
 about,
 The rogues stay at home, and the true men
 are out!

The good State has broken the cords for
 her spun;
 Her oil-springs and water won't fuse into
 one;
 The Dutchman has seasoned with Freedom
 his kraut,
 And slow, late, but certain, the Quakers are
 out!

Give the flags to the winds! set the hills all
 aflame!
 Make way for the man with the Patriarch's
 name!
 Away with misgiving, away with all doubt,
 For Lincoln goes in, when the Quakers are
 out!

A LEGEND OF THE LAKE

SHOULD you go to Centre Harbor,
 As haply you some time may,
 Sailing up the Winnepesaukee
 From the hills of Alton Bay, —

Into the heart of the highlands,
 Into the north wind free,
 Through the rising and vanishing
 islands,
 Over the mountain sea, —

To the little hamlet lying
 White in its mountain fold, 10
 Asleep by the lake and dreaming
 A dream that is never told, —

And in the Red Hill's shadow
 Your pilgrim home you make,
 Where the chambers open to sunrise,
 The mountains, and the lake, —

If the pleasant picture wearies,
 As the fairest sometimes will,
 And the weight of the hills lies on
 you
 And the water is all too still, — 20

If in vain the peaks of Gunstock
 Reddened with sunrise fire,
 And the sky and the purple mountains
 And the sunset islands tire, —

If you turn from in-door thrumming
 And the clatter of bowls without,
 And the folly that goes on its travels,
 Bearing the city about, —

And the cares you left behind you
 Come hunting along your track, 30
 As Blue-Cap in German fable
 Rode on the traveller's pack, —

Let me tell you a tender story
 Of one who is now no more,
 A tale to haunt like a spirit
 The Winnepesaukee shore, —

Of one who was brave and gentle,
 And strong for manly strife,
 Riding with cheering and music
 Into the tourney of life. 40

Faltering and failing midway
 In the Tempter's subtle snare,
 The chains of an evil habit
 He bowed himself to bear.

Over his fresh young manhood
 The bestial veil was flung, —
 The curse of the wine of Circe,
 The spell her weavers sung.

Yearly did hill and lakeside
 Their summer idyls frame; 50
 Alone in his darkened dwelling
 He hid his face for shame.

The music of life's great marches
 Sounded for him in vain;
 The voices of human duty
 Smote on his ear like pain.

In vain over island and water
 The curtains of sunset swung;
 In vain on the beautiful mountains
 The pictures of God were hung. 60

The wretched years crept onward,
Each sadder than the last;
All the bloom of life fell from him,
All the freshness and greenness past.

But deep in his heart forever
And unprofaned he kept
The love of his saintly mother,
Who in the graveyard slept.

His house had no pleasant pictures;
Its comfortless walls were bare: 70
But the riches of earth and ocean
Could not purchase his mother's chair.

The old chair, quaintly carved,
With oaken arms outspread,
Whereby, in the long gone twilights,
His childish prayers were said.

For thence in his long night watches,
By moon or starlight dim,
A face full of love and pity
And tenderness looked on him. 80

And oft, as the grieving presence
Sat in his mother's chair,
The groan of his self-upbraiding
Grew into wordless prayer.

At last, in the moonless midnight,
The summoning angel came,
Severe in his pity, touching
The house with fingers of flame.

The red light flashed from its win-
dows
And flared from its sinking roof; 90
And baffled and awed before it
The villagers stood aloof.

They shrank from the falling rafters,
They turned from the furnace glare;
But its tenant cried, "God help me!
I must save my mother's chair."

Under the blazing portal,
Over the floor of fire,
He seemed, in the terrible splendor,
A martyr on his pyre. 100

In his face the mad flames smote
him,
And stung him on either side;
But he clung to the sacred relic,—
By his mother's chair he died!

O mother, with human yearnings!
O saint, by the altar stairs!
Shall not the dear God give thee
The child of thy many prayers?

O Christ! by whom the loving,
Though erring, are forgiven, 110
Hast thou for him no refuge,
No quiet place in heaven?

Give palms to thy strong martyrs,
And crown thy saints with gold,
But let the mother welcome
Her lost one to the fold!

LETTER TO LUCY LARCOM

25th, 3d mo., 1866.

BELIEVE me, Lucy Larcom, it gives me
real sorrow
That I cannot take my carpet-bag and go
to town to-morrow;
But I'm "snow-bound," and cold on cold,
like layers of an onion,
Have piled my back and weighed me down
as with the pack of Bunyan.
The north-east wind is damper and the
north-west wind is colder,
Or else the matter simply is that I am grow-
ing older.
And then I dare not trust a moon seen over
one's left shoulder,
As I saw this with slender horns caught in
a west hill-pine,
As on a Stamboul minaret curves the arch-
impostor's sign,—
So I must stay in Amesbury, and let you go
your way,
And guess what colors greet your eyes,
what shapes your steps delay;
What pictured forms of heathen lore, of god
and goddess please you,
What idol graven images you bend your
wicked knees to.
But why should I of evil dream, well know-
ing at your head goes
That flower of Christian womanhood, our
dear good Anna Meadows.
She'll be discreet, I'm sure, although once,
in a freak romantic,
She flung the Doge's bridal ring, and mar-
ried "The Atlantic!"
And spite of all appearances, like the wo-
man in a shoe,
She's got so many "Young Folks" now,
she don't know what to do.
But I must say I think it strange that thee
and Mrs. Spaulding,
Whose lives with Calvin's five-railed creed
have been so tightly walled in,
Should quit your Puritan homes, and take
the pains to go
So far, with malice aforethought, to "walk
in a vain show!"
Did Emmons hunt for pictures? Was Jon-
athan Edwards peeping
Into the chambers of imagery, with maids
for Tammuz weeping?
Ah well! the times are sadly changed, and
I myself am feeling
The wicked world my Quaker coat from off
my shoulders peeling.
God grant that in the strange new sea of
change wherein we swim,
We still may keep the good old plank, of
simple faith in Him!

LINES ON LEAVING APPLIEDORE

UNDER the shadow of a cloud, the light
Died out upon the waters, like a smile
Chased from a face by grief. Following the
flight
Of a lone bird that, scudding with the breeze,

Dipped its crank wing in leaden-colored
seas,
I saw in sunshine lifted, clear and bright,
On the horizon's rim the Fortunate Isle
That claims thee as its fair inhabitant,
And glad of heart I whispered, "Be to
her,
Bird of the summer sea, my messenger ;
Tell her, if Heaven a fervent prayer will
grant,
This light that falls her island home above,
Making its slopes of rock and greenness
gay,
A partial glory midst surrounding gray,
Shall prove an earnest of our Father's love,
More and more shining to the perfect day."

MRS. CHOATE'S HOUSE-WARMING

OF rights and of wrongs
Let the feminine tongues
Talk on — none forbid it.
Our hostess best knew
What her hands found to do,
Asked no questions, but DID IT.

Here the lesson of work,
Which so many folks shirk,
Is so plain all may learn it;
Each brick in this dwelling,
Each timber is telling,
If you want a home, EARN IT.

The question of labor
Is solved by our neighbor,
The old riddle guessed out :
The wisdom sore needed,
The truth long unheeded,
Her flat-iron's pressed out!

Thanks, then, to Kate Choate!
Let the idle take note
What their fingers were made for:
She, cheerful and jolly,
Worked on late and early,
And bought — what she paid for!

Never vainly repining,
Nor begging, nor whining;
The morning-star twinkles
On no heart that's lighter
As she makes the world whiter
And smooths out its wrinkles.

So, long life to Kate!
May her heirs have to wait
Till they're gray in attendance;
And her flat-iron press on,
Still teaching its lesson
Of brave independence!

AN AUTOGRAPH

THE years that since we met have flown
Leave as they found me, still alone:
No wife, nor child, nor grandchild dear,
Are mine the heart of age to cheer.
More favored thou, with hair less gray
Than mine, canst let thy fancy stray

To where thy little Constance sees
The prairie ripple in the breeze;
For one like her to lisp thy name
Is better than the voice of fame.

TO LUCY LARCOM

3d mo., 1870.

PRAY give the "Atlantic"
A brief unpedantic
Review of Miss Phelps' book,
Which teaches and helps folk
To deal with the offenders
In love which surrenders
All pride unforgiving,
The lost one receiving
With truthful believing
That she like all others,
Our sisters and brothers,
Is only a sinner
Whom God's love within her
Can change to the whiteness
Of heaven's own brightness.
For who shall see tarnish
If He sweep and garnish?
When He is the cleanser
Shall *we* dare to censure?
Say to Fields, if he ask of it,
I can't take the task of it.

P. S. — For myself, if I'm able,
And half comfortable,
I shall run for the seashore
To some place as before,
Where blunt we at least find
The teeth of the East wind,
And spring does not tarry
As it does at Amesbury;
But where it will be to
I cannot yet see to.

A FAREWELL

WHAT shall I say, dear friends, to whom I
owe
The choicest blessings, dropping from the
hands
Of trustful love and friendship, as you go
Forth on your journey to those older lands,
By saint and sage and bard and hero trod?
Scarcely the simple farewell of the Friends
Sufficeth; after you my full heart sends
Such benediction as the pilgrim bears
Where the Greek faith its golden dome up-
rears,
From Crimea's roses to Archangel snows,
The fittest prayer of parting: "Go with
God!"

ON A FLY-LEAF OF LONGFELLOW'S POEMS

HUSHED now the sweet consoling tongue
Of him whose lyre the Muses strung;
His last low swan-song has been sung!

His last! And ours, dear friend, is near;
As clouds that rake the mountains here,
We too shall pass and disappear.

Yet howsoever changed or tost,
Not even a wreath of mist is lost,
No atom can itself exhaust.

So shall the soul's superior force
Live on and run its endless course
In God's unlimited universe.

And we, whose brief reflections seem
To fade like clouds from lake and stream,
Shall brighten in a holier beam.

SAMUEL E. SEWALL

LIKE that ancestral judge who bore his
name,
Faithful to Freedom and to Truth, he
gave,
When all the air was hot with wrath and
blame,
His youth and manhood to the fettered
slave.

And never Woman in her suffering saw
A helper tender, wise, and brave as he;
Lifting her burden of unrighteous law,
He shamed the boast of ancient chivalry.

Noiseless as light that melts the darkness
is,
He wrought as duty led and honor bid,
No trumpet heralds victories like his, —
The unselfish worker in his work is his.

LINES WRITTEN IN AN ALBUM

WHAT shall I wish him? Strength and
health
May be abused, and so may wealth.
Even fame itself may come to be
But wearing notoriety.

What better can I ask than this? —
A life of brave unselfishness,
Wisdom for council, eloquence
For Freedom's need, for Truth's defence,
The championship of all that's good,
The manliest faith in womanhood,

The steadfast friendship changing not
With change of time or place or lot,
Hatred of sin, but not the less
A heart of pitying tenderness
And charity, that, suffering long,
Shames the wrong-doer from his wrong:
One wish expresses all — that he
May even as his grandsire be!

A DAY'S JOURNEY

AFTER your pleasant morning travel
You pause as at a wayside inn,
And take with grateful hearts your break-
fast
Though served in dishes all of TIN.

Then go, while years as hours are counted,
Until the dial's hand at noon
Invites you to a dinner table
Garnished with SILVER fork and spoon.

And when the vesper bell to supper
Is calling, and the day is old,
May love transmute the tin of morning
And noonday's silver into GOLD.

A FRAGMENT

THE dreadful burden of our sins we feel,
The pain of wounds which Thou alone canst
heal,
To whom our weakness is our strong ap-
peal.

From the black depths, the ashes, and the
dross
Of our waste lives, we reach out to Thy
cross,
And by its fulness measure all our loss!

That holy sign reveals Thee: throned
above
No Moloch sits, no false, vindictive Jove —
Thou art our Father, and Thy name is
Love!¹

¹ This is an alternative reading which has been cancelled: —

"No lawless Terror dwells in light above,
Cruel as Moloch, deaf and false as Jove —
Thou art our Father, and Thy name is Love!"

NOTES

[All the notes that are not inclosed in brackets are copied or abridged from notes made by Mr. Whittier himself.]

Page 3. THE VAUDOIS TEACHER.

"The manner in which the Waldneses and heretics disseminated their principles among the Catholic gentry, was by carrying with them a box of trinkets, or articles of dress. Having entered the houses of the gentry and disposed of some of their goods, they cautiously intimated that they had commodities far more valuable than these, — inestimable jewels, which they would show if they could be protected from the clergy. They would then give their purchasers a Bible or Testament; and thereby many were deluded into heresy." — *R. Sancho*.

Page 4. THE FEMALE MARTYR.

Mary G——, aged eighteen, a Sister of Charity, died in one of our Atlantic cities, during the prevalence of cholera, while in voluntary attendance on the sick.

Page 6. Sole Pythoness of ancient Lynn.

The Pythoness of ancient Lynn was the redoubtable Moll Pitcher, who lived under the shadow of High Rock in that town, and was sought far and wide for her supposed powers of divination. She died about 1810.

Page 10. PENTUCKET.

The village of Haverhill on the Merrimac, called by the Indians Pentucket, was for nearly seventeen years a frontier town, and during thirty years endured all the horrors of savage warfare. In a paper entitled *The Border War of 1708*, published in my collection of *Recreations and Miscellanies*, I have given a prose narrative of the surprise of Haverhill.

Page 11. THE NORSEMEN.

In the early part of the present century, a fragment of a statue, rudely chiselled from dark gray stone, was found in the town of Bradford, on the Merrimac. Its origin must be left entirely to conjecture. The fact that the ancient Northmen visited New England, some centuries before the discoveries of Columbus, is now very generally admitted.

Page 15. ST. JOHN.

[Dr. Francis Parkman has given a detailed account of this episode in New England history in *The Feudal Chiefs of Acadia*, published in *The Atlantic Monthly*, January, February, 1893.]

Page 25. THE NEW WIFE AND THE OLD.

This ballad is founded upon one of the marvellous legends connected with the famous General Moulton of Hampton, New Hampshire, who was regarded by his neighbors as a Yankee Faust, in league with the adversary.

Page 27. THE BRIDAL OF PENNA-COOK.

Winnepurkit, otherwise called George, Sachem of Saugus, married a daughter of Passaconaway, the great Pennacook chieftain, in 1662. The wedding took place at Pennacook (now Concord, N. H.), and the ceremonies closed with a great feast. According to the usages of the chiefs, Passaconaway ordered a select number of his men to accompany the newly-married couple to the dwelling of the husband, where in turn there was another great feast. Some time after, the wife of Winnepurkit expressing a desire to visit her father's house, was permitted to go, accompanied by a brave escort of her husband's chief men. But when she wished to return, her father sent a messenger to Saugus, informing her husband, and asking him to come and take her away. He returned for answer that he had escorted his wife to her father's house in a style that became a chief, and that now if she wished to return, her father must send her back in the same way. This Passaconaway refused to do, and it is said that here terminated the connection of his daughter with the Saugus chief. — *Vide Morton's New Canaan*.

Page 31. THE BASHARA.

This was the name which the Indians of New England gave to two or three of their principal chiefs, to whom all their inferior sagamores acknowledged allegiance. Passaconaway seems to have been one of these chiefs. His residence was at Pennacook. (Mass. Hist. Coll., Vol. III. pp. 21, 22.) "He was regarded," says Hubbard, "as a great sorcerer, and his fame was widely spread. It was said of him that he could cause a green leaf to grow in winter, trees to dance, water to burn, etc. He was, undoubtedly, one of those shrewd and powerful men whose achievements are

always regarded by a barbarous people as the result of supernatural aid. The Indians gave to such the names of Powahs or Panisees."

"The Panisees are men of great courage and wisdom, and to these the Devil appears more familiarly than to others."

— *Winslow's Relation*.

Page 33. *With these the household-god.*

"The Indians," says Roger Williams, "have a god whom they call Wetuomanit, who presides over the household."

Page 35. *In the river scooped by a spirit's hands.*

There are rocks in the river at the Falls of Amoskeag, in the cavities of which, tradition says, the Indians formerly stored and concealed their corn.

Page 37. *Aukeetamit.*

The Spring God. See Roger Williams's *Key to the Indian Language*.

Page 39. *Mat wonck kunna-monee.*

We shall see thee or her no more. See Roger Williams's *Key*.

Page 40. *Sowanna.*

"The Great South West God." See Roger Williams's *Observations*, etc.

Page 40. BARCLAY OF URY.

Among the earliest converts to the doctrines of Friends in Scotland was Barclay of Ury, an old and distinguished soldier, who had fought under Gustavus Adolphus, in Germany. As a Quaker, he became the object of persecution and abuse at the hands of the magistrates and the populace. None bore the indignities of the mob with greater patience and nobleness of soul than this once proud gentleman and soldier. One of his friends, on an occasion of uncommon rudeness, lamented that he should be treated so harshly in his old age who had been so honored before. "I find more satisfaction," said Barclay, "as well as honor, in being thus insulted for my religious principles, than when, a few years ago, it was usual for the magistrates, as I passed the city of Aberdeen, to meet me on the road and conduct me to public entertainment in their hall, and then escort me out again, to gain my favor."

Page 40. *As we charged on Tilly's line.*

The barbarities of Count de Tilly after the siege of Magdeburg made such an impression upon our forefathers that the phrase "like old Tilly" is still heard sometimes in New England of any piece of special ferocity.

Page 43. THE LEGEND OF ST. MARK.

This legend is the subject of a celebrated picture by Tintoretto, of which Mr. Rogers possesses the original sketch. The slave lies on the ground, amid a crowd of spectators, who look on, animated by all

the various emotions of sympathy, rage, terror; a woman, in front, with a child in her arms, has always been admired for the lifelike vivacity of her attitude and expression. The executioner holds up the broken implements; St. Mark, with a headlong movement, seems to rush down from heaven in haste to save his worshipper. The dramatic grouping in this picture is wonderful; the coloring, in its gorgeous depth and harmony, is, in Mr. Rogers's sketch, finer than in the picture. — *Mrs. Jameson's Sacred and Legendary Art*.

Page 44. KATHLEEN.

This ballad was originally published in *Leaves from Margaret Smith's Journal*, as the song of a wandering Milesian schoolmaster. In the seventeenth century, slavery in the New World was by no means confined to the natives of Africa. Political offenders and criminals were transported by the British government to the plantations of Barbadoes and Virginia, where they were sold like cattle in the market. Kidnapping of free and innocent white persons was practised to a considerable extent in the seaports of the United Kingdom.

Page 46. THE WELL OF LOCH MAREE.

Pennant, in his "Voyage to the Hebrides," describes the holy well of Loch Maree, the waters of which were supposed to effect a miraculous cure of melancholy, trouble, and insanity.

Page 46. THE CHAPEL OF THE HERMITS.

The incident upon which this poem is based is related in a note to Bernardin Henri Saint-Pierre's *Etudes de la Nature*.

"We arrived at the habitation of the Hermits a little before they sat down to their table, and while they were still at church. J. J. Rousseau proposed to me to offer up our devotions. The hermits were reciting the Litanies of Providence, which are remarkably beautiful. After we had addressed our prayers to God, and the hermits were proceeding to the refectory, Rousseau said to me, with his heart overflowing, 'At this moment I experience what is said in the gospel: *Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.* There is here a feeling of peace and happiness which penetrates the soul.' I said, 'If Fénelon had lived, you would have been a Catholic.' He exclaimed, with tears in his eyes, 'Oh, if Fénelon were alive, I would struggle to get into his service, even as a lackey!'"

In my sketch of Saint-Pierre, it will be seen that I have somewhat antedated the period of his old age. At that time he was not probably more than fifty. In describ-

ing him, I have by no means exaggerated his own history of his mental condition at the period of the story. In the fragmentary Sequel to his Studies of Nature, he thus speaks of himself: "The ingratitude of those of whom I had deserved kindness, unexpected family misfortunes, the total loss of my small patrimony through enterprises solely undertaken for the benefit of my country, the debts under which I lay oppressed, the blasting of all my hopes, — these combined calamities made dreadful inroads upon my health and reason. . . . I found it impossible to continue in a room where there was company, especially if the doors were shut. I could not even cross an alley in a public garden, if several persons had got together in it. When alone, my malady subsided. I felt myself likewise at ease in places where I saw children only. At the sight of any one walking up to the place where I was, I felt my whole frame agitated, and retired. I often said to myself, 'My sole study has been to merit well of mankind; why do I fear them?'"

He attributes his improved health of mind and body to the counsels of his friend, J. J. Rousseau. "I renounced," says he, "my books. I threw my eyes upon the works of nature, which spake to all my senses a language which neither time nor nations have it in their power to alter. Thenceforth my histories and my journals were the herbage of the fields and meadows. My thoughts did not go forth painfully after them, as in the case of human systems; but their thoughts, under a thousand engaging forms, quietly sought me. In these I studied, without effort, the laws of that Universal Wisdom which had surrounded me from the cradle, but on which heretofore I had bestowed little attention."

Speaking of Rousseau, he says: "I derived inexpressible satisfaction from his society. What I prized still more than his genius, was his probity. He was one of the few literary characters, tried in the furnace of affliction, to whom you could, with perfect security, confide your most secret thoughts. . . . Even when he deviated, and became the victim of himself or of others, he could forget his own misery in devotion to the welfare of mankind. He was uniformly the advocate of the miserably. There might be inscribed on his tomb these affecting words from that Book of which he carried always about him some select passages, during the last years of his life: *His sins, which are many, are forgiven, for he loved much.*"

Page 49. *Like that the gray-haired seaking passed.*

Dr. Hooker, who accompanied Sir James Ross in his expedition of 1841, thus describes the appearance of that unknown land of frost and fire which was seen in latitude 77° south, — a stupendous chain of mountains, the whole mass of which, from its highest point to the ocean, was covered with everlasting snow and ice:—

"The water and the sky were both as blue, or rather more intensely blue, than I have ever seen them in the tropics, and all the coast was one mass of dazzlingly beautiful peaks of snow, which, when the sun approached the horizon, reflected the most brilliant tints of golden yellow and scarlet; and then, to see the dark cloud of smoke, tinged with flame, rising from the volcano in a perfect unbroken column, one side jet-black, the other giving back the colors of the sun, sometimes turning off at a right angle by some current of wind, and stretching many miles to leeward! This was a sight so surpassing everything that can be imagined, and so heightened by the consciousness that we had penetrated, under the guidance of our commander, into regions far beyond what was ever deemed practicable, that it caused a feeling of awe to steal over us at the consideration of our own comparative insignificance and helplessness, and at the same time an indescribable feeling of the greatness of the Creator in the works of his hand."

Page 66. SKIPPER IRESON'S RIDE.

In the valuable and carefully prepared *History of Marblehead*, published in 1879 by Samuel Roads, Jr., it is stated that the crew of Captain Ireson, rather than himself, were responsible for the abandonment of the disabled vessel. To screen themselves they charged their captain with the crime. In writing to Mr. Roads, the author of the ballad said: "I have now no doubt that thy version of Skipper Ireson's ride is the correct one. My verse was founded solely on a fragment of rhyme which I heard from one of my early school-mates, a native of Marblehead. I supposed the story to which it referred dated back at least a century. I knew nothing of the participators, and the narrative of the ballad was pure fancy. I am glad for the sake of truth and justice that the real facts are given in thy book."

Page 70. TELLING THE BEES.

A remarkable custom, brought from the Old Country, formerly prevailed in the rural districts of New England. On the death of a member of the family, the bees were at once informed of the event, and their hives dressed in mourning. This ceremonial was supposed to be necessary to prevent the swarms from leaving their hives and seeking a new home. [The

scene is minutely that of the Whittier homestead.]

Page 72. THE SWAN SONG OF PARSON AVERY.

In Young's *Chronicles of Massachusetts Bay* from 1623 to 1636 may be found Anthony Thacher's Narrative of his Shipwreck. Thacher was Avery's companion and survived to tell the tale. Mather's *Magnalia*, iii. 2, gives further *Particulars of Parson Avery's End*.

Page 84. THE PREACHER.

George Whitefield died in Newburyport in 1770, and was buried under the church which has since borne his name.

Page 94. COBBLER KEEZAR'S VISION.

This ballad was written on the occasion of a Horticultural Festival. Cobbler Keazar was a noted character among the first settlers in the valley of the Merrimac.

Page 126. THE PENNSYLVANIA PILGRIM.

The beginning of German emigration to America may be traced to the personal influence of William Penn, who in 1677 visited the Continent, and made the acquaintance of an intelligent and highly cultivated circle of Pietists, or Mystics, who, reviving in the seventeenth century the spiritual faith and worship of Tauler and the "Friends of God" in the fourteenth, gathered about the pastor Spener, and the young and beautiful Eleonora Johanna Von Merlau. In this circle originated the Frankfort Land Company, which bought of William Penn, the Governor of Pennsylvania, a tract of land near the new city of Philadelphia.

The company's agent in the New World was a rising young lawyer, Francis Daniel Pastorius, son of Judge Pastorius, of Windsheim, who, at the age of seventeen, entered the University of Altorf. He studied law at Strasburg, Basle, and Jena, and at Ratisbon, the seat of the Imperial Government, obtained a practical knowledge of international polity. Successful in all his examinations and disputations, he received the degree of Doctor of Law at Nuremberg in 1676. In 1679 he was a law lecturer at Frankfort, where he became deeply interested in the teachings of Dr. Spener. In 1680-81 he travelled in France, England, Ireland, and Italy with his friend Herr Von Rodeck. In 1683, in company with a small number of German Friends, he emigrated to America, settling upon the Frankfort Company's tract between the Schuylkill and the Delaware rivers. The township was divided into four hamlets, namely, Germantown, Krisheim, Creffield, and Sommerhausen. Soon after his arrival he united himself with the Society of Friends, and became one of its most able

and devoted members, as well as the recognized head and lawgiver of the settlement. He married, two years after his arrival, Anneke (Anna), daughter of Dr. Klosterman, of Mnhlheim.

In the year 1688 he drew up a memorial against slaveholding, which was adopted by the Germantown Friends and sent up to the Monthly Meeting, and thence to the Yearly Meeting at Philadelphia. It is noteworthy as the first protest made by a religious body against Negro Slavery. The original document was discovered in 1844 by the Philadelphia antiquarian, Nathan Kite, and published in *The Friend* (Vol. XVIII, No. 16). It is a bold and direct appeal to the best instincts of the heart. "Have not," he asks, "these negroes as much right to fight for their freedom as you have to keep them slaves?"

Under the wise direction of Pastorius, the Germantown settlement grew and prospered. The inhabitants planted orchards and vineyards, and surrounded themselves with souvenirs of their old home. A large number of them were linen-weavers, as well as small farmers. The Quakers were the principal sect, but men of all religions were tolerated, and lived together in harmony.

Pastorius seems to have been on intimate terms with William Penn, Thomas Lloyd, Chief Justice Logan, Thomas Story, and other leading men in the Province belonging to his own religious society, as also with Kelpins, the learned Mystic of the Wissahickon, with the pastor of the Swedes' church, and the leaders of the Mennonites. He wrote a description of Pennsylvania, which was published at Frankfort and Leipsic in 1700 and 1701. His *Lives of the Saints*, etc., written in German and dedicated to Professor Schurmberg, his old teacher, was published in 1690. He left behind him many unpublished manuscripts covering a very wide range of subjects, most of which are now lost. One huge manuscript folio, entitled *Hive Beestock, Melliotropheum Alucar, or Rusca Apium*, still remains, containing one thousand pages with about one hundred lines to a page. It is a medley of knowledge and fancy, history, philosophy, and poetry, written in seven languages. A large portion of his poetry is devoted to the pleasures of gardening, the description of flowers, and the care of bees. The following specimen of his punning Latin is addressed to an orchard-pilferer:—

"Quisquis in hæc furtim reptas viridaria nostra
Tangere fallaci poma caveto manu,
Si non obsequeris faxit Deus omne quod opto,
Cum malis nostris ut mala cuncta feras."

Professor Oswald Seidenstecker, to whose papers in *Der Deutsche Pioneer* and that able periodical *The Penn Monthly*, of Philadelphia, I am indebted for many of the foregoing facts in regard to the German pilgrims of the New World, thus closes his notice of Pastorius:—

"No tombstone, not even a record of burial, indicates where his remains have found their last resting-place, and the pardonable desire to associate the homage due to this distinguished man with some visible memento cannot be gratified. There is no reason to suppose that he was interred in any other place than the Friends' old burying-ground in Germantown, though the fact is not attested by any definite source of information. After all, this obliteration of the last trace of his earthly existence is but typical of what has overtaken the times which he represents; that Germantown which he founded, which saw him live and move, is at present but a quaint idyl of the past, almost a myth, barely remembered and little cared for by the keener race that has succeeded."

Page 128. *As once he heard in sweet Von Merlau's bowers.*

Eleonora Johanna Von Merlau, or, as Sewall the Quaker Historian gives it, Von Merlane, a noble young lady of Frankfort, seems to have held among the Mystics of that city very much such a position as Annia Maria Schurmans did among the Labadists of Holland.

Page 130. *Or painful Kelpius from his hermit den.*

Magister Johann Kelpius, a graduate of the University of Helmstadt, came to Pennsylvania in 1694, with a company of German Mystics. They made their home in the woods on the Wissahickon, a little west of the Quaker settlement of Germantown. Kelpius was a believer in the near approach of the Millennium, and was a devout student of the Book of Revelation, and the *Morgen-Rothe* of Jacob Behmen. He called his settlement "The Woman in the Wilderness" (*Das Weib in der Wueste*). He was only twenty-four years of age when he came to America, but his gravity, learning, and devotion placed him at the head of the settlement. He disliked the Quakers, because he thought they were too exclusive in the matter of ministers. He was, like most of the Mystics, opposed to the severe doctrinal views of Calvin and even Luther, declaring "that he could as little agree with the *Damnamus* of the Augsburg Confession as with the *Anathema* of the Council of Trent."

He died in 1704, sitting in his little garden surrounded by his grieving disciples. Previous to his death it is said that he

cast his famous "Stone of Wisdom" into the river, where that mystic souvenir of the times of Van Helmont, Paracelsus, and Agrippa has lain ever since, undisturbed.

Page 131. *Or Sluyter, saintly familist.*

Peter Sluyter, or Schluter, a native of Wesel, united himself with the sect of Labadists, who believed in the Divine commission of John de Lahadie, a Roman Catholic priest converted to Protestantism, enthusiastic, eloquent, and evidently sincere in his special calling and election to separate the true and living members of the Church of Christ from the formalism and hypocrisy of the ruling sects. George Keith and Robert Barclay visited him at Amsterdam and afterward at the communities of Herford and Wieward; and, according to Gerard Croes, found him so near to them on some points, that they offered to take him into the Society of Friends. This offer, if it was really made, which is certainly doubtful, was, happily for the Friends at least, declined. Invited to Herford in Westphalia by Elizabeth, daughter of the Elector Palatine, Labadie and his followers preached incessantly, and succeeded in arousing a wild enthusiasm among the people, who neglected their business and gave way to excitements and strange practices. Labadie died in 1674 at Altena, in Denmark, maintaining his testimonies to the last.

In 1679, Peter Sluyter and Jasper Dankers were sent to America by the community at the Castle of Wieward. Their journal, translated from the Dutch and edited by Henry C. Murphy, has been recently published by the Long Island Historical Society. They made some converts, and among them was the eldest son of Hermanns, the proprietor of a rich tract of land at the head of Chesapeake Bay, known as Bohemia Manor. Sluyter obtained a grant of this tract, and established upon it a community numbering at one time a hundred souls. Very contradictory statements are on record regarding his headship of this spiritual family, the discipline of which seems to have been of more than monastic severity. He evinces in his journal an overweening spiritual pride, and speaks contemptuously of other professors, especially the Quakers whom he met in his travels. His journal shows him to have been destitute of common gratitude and Christian charity. He threw himself upon the generous hospitality of the Friends wherever he went, and repaid their kindness by the coarsest abuse and misrepresentation.

Page 131. *His long-disused and half-forgotten lore.*

Among the pioneer Friends were many men of learning and broad and liberal views. Penn was conversant with every department of literature and philosophy. Thomas Lloyd was a ripe and rare scholar. The great Loganian Library of Philadelphia bears witness to the varied learning and classical taste of its donor, James Logan. Thomas Story, member of the Council of State, Master of the Rolls, and Commissioner of Claims under William Penn, and an able minister of his Society, took a deep interest in scientific questions, and in a letter to his friend Logan, written while on a religious visit to Great Britain, seems to have anticipated the conclusion of modern geologists. "I spout," he says, "some months, especially at Scarborough, during the season attending meetings, at whose high cliffs and the variety of strata therein and their several positions I further learned and was confirmed in some things, — that the earth is of much older date as to the beginning of it than the time assigned in the Holy Scriptures as commonly understood, which is suited to the common capacities of mankind, as to six days of progressive work, by which I understand certain long and competent periods of time, and not natural days." It was sometimes made a matter of reproach by the Anabaptists and other sects, that the Quakers read profane writings and philosophies, and that they quoted heathen moralists in support of their views.

Page 132. *As still in Hemskerck's Quaker Meeting.*

The Quaker's Meeting, a painting by E. Hemskerck (supposed to be Eghert Hemskerck the younger, son of Eghert Hemskerck the old), in which William Penn and others — among them Charles II. or the Duke of York — are represented along with the rudest and most stolid class of the British rural population at that period. Whatever was strange and uncommon attracted Hemskerck's free pencil. Judging from the portrait of Penn, he must have drawn his faces, figures, and costumes from life, although there may be something of caricature in the convulsed attitudes of two or three of the figures.

Page 134. *The Indian from his face washed all his war-paint off.*

In one of his letters addressed to his friends in Germany Pastorius says: "These wild men, who never in their life heard Christ's teachings about temperance and contentment, herein far surpass the Christians. They live far more contented and unconcerned for the morrow. They do not overreach in trade. They know nothing of our everlasting pomp and styl-

ishness. They neither curse nor swear, are temperate in food and drink, and if any of them get drunk, the mouth-Christians are at fault, who, for the sake of accursed lucre, sell them strong drink."

Again he wrote in 1698 to his father that he finds the Indians reasonable people, willing to accept good teaching and manners, evincing an inward piety toward God, and more eager, in fact, to understand things divine than many among you who in the pulpit teach Christ in word, but by ungodly life deny him.

"It is evident," says Professor Seidenstecker, "Pastorius holds up the Indian as Nature's unspoiled child to the eyes of the 'European Babel,' somewhat after the same manner in which Tacitus used the barbarian *Germani* to shame his degenerate countrymen."

Page 139. *To-morrow shall bring another day.*

A common saying of Valdemar; hence his sobriquet *Alterdag*.

Page 144. CONDUCTOR BRADLEY.

A railway conductor who lost his life in an accident on a Connecticut railway, May 9, 1873.

Page 150. THE DEAD FEAST OF THE KOL-FOLK.

See Tylor's *Primitive Culture*, vol. ii. pp. 32, 33. Also *Journal of Asiatic Society*, vol. iv. p. 795.

Page 152. THE KING'S MISSIVE.

This ballad, originally written for *The Memorial History of Boston*, describes, with pardonable poetic license, a memorable incident in the annals of the city. The interview between Shattuck and the Governor took place, I have since learned, in the residence of the latter, and not in the Council Chamber.

Page 160. HOW THE WOMEN WENT FROM DOVER.

The warrant issued by Major Waldron of Dover, December 22, 1662, to the constables of eleven towns, for the punishment of three "vagabond Quakers," as described in the poem, was executed only in Dover and Hampton. At Salisbury the constable refused to obey it. He was sustained by the town's people, who were under the influence of Major Robert Pike, who stood far in advance of his time, as an advocate of religious freedom.

Page 173. *The hardy Anglo-Saxon stood.*

The celebrated Captain Smith, after resigning the government of the Colony in Virginia, in his capacity of "Admiral of New England," made a careful survey of the coast from Penobscot to Cape Cod, in the summer of 1614.

Page 173. *The sweetest name in all his story.*

Captain Smith gave to the promontory now called Cape Ann the name of Tragabizanda, in memory of his young and beautiful mistress of that name, who, while he was a captive at Constantinople, like Desdemona, "loved him for the dangers he had passed."

Page 176. *Upon the Smile of God.*
Winnipiseogee: "Smile of the Great Spirit."

Page 189. **THE OLD BURYING-GROUND.**
This poem was written with a thought of the ancient cemetery at East Haverhill, near Rocks Village.

Page 204. **ST. MARTIN'S SUMMER.**
This name in some parts of Europe is given to the season we call Indian Summer, in honor of the good St. Martin. The title of the poem was suggested by the fact that the day it refers to was the exact date of the Saint's birth, the 11th of November.

Page 212. *Over Sibmah's vine.*
"O vine of Sibmah! I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer!" *Jeremiah*, xlviii. 32.

Page 214.
Even as the great Augustine
Questioned earth and sea and sky.
"Interrogavi Terram," etc. *August. Soliloq.* Cap. xxxi.

Page 215. **LEGGETT'S MONUMENT.**
William Leggett, who died in 1839 at the age of thirty-seven, was the intrepid editor of the *New York Evening Post* and afterwards of *The Plain Dealer*.

Page 216. **LUCY HOOVER.**
Lucy Hooper died at Brooklyn, L. I., on the 1st of 8th mo., 1841, aged twenty-four years.

Page 218. **FOLLEN.**
Charles Follen, one of the noblest contributions of Germany to American citizenship, was at an early age driven from his professorship in the University of Jena, and compelled to seek shelter in Switzerland, on account of his liberal political opinions. He became Professor of Civil Law in the University of Basle. The governments of Prussia, Austria, and Russia united in demanding his delivery as a political offender; and, in consequence, he left Switzerland, and came to the United States. He early became a member of the American Anti-Slavery Society, and by so doing lost his Harvard professorship. He perished in the ill-fated steamer Lexington, which was burned on its passage from New York, January 13, 1840. The few writings left behind him show him to have been a profound thinker of rare spiritual insight.

Page 220. **CHALKLEY HALL.**
Chalkley Hall, near Frankford, Pa., the residence of Thomas Chalkley, an emi-

nent minister of the Friends' denomination. He was one of the early settlers of the Colony, and his Journal, which was published in 1749, presents a quaint but beautiful picture of a life of unostentatious and simple goodness. He was the master of a merchant vessel, and, in his visits to the West Indies and Great Britain, omitted no opportunity to labor for the highest interests of his fellow-men. During a temporary residence in Philadelphia, in the summer of 1838, the quiet and beautiful scenery around the ancient village of Frankford frequently attracted me from the heat and bustle of the city.

Page 223. **CHANNING.**
The last time I saw Dr. Channing was in the summer of 1841, when, in company with my English friend, Joseph Sturge, so well known for his philanthropic labors and liberal political opinions, I visited him in his summer residence in Rhode Island. In recalling the impressions of that visit, it can scarcely be necessary to say, that I have no reference to the peculiar religious opinions of a man whose life, beautifully and truly manifested above the atmosphere of sect, is now the world's common legacy.

Page 224. **TO MY FRIEND ON THE DEATH OF HIS SISTER.**

Sophia Sturge, sister of Joseph Sturge, of Birmingham, the President of the British Complete Suffrage Association, died in the 6th month, 1845. She was the colleague, counsellor, and ever-ready helpmate of her brother in all his vast designs of beneficence. The *Birmingham Pilot* says of her: "Never, perhaps, were the active and passive virtues of the human character more harmoniously and beautifully blended than in this excellent woman."

Page 227. **TO FREDRIKA BREMER.**
It is proper to say that these lines are the joint impromptus of my sister and myself. They are inserted here as an expression of our admiration of the gifted stranger whom we have since learned to love as a friend.

Page 230. **ELLIOTT.**
Ebenezer Elliott was, to the artisans of England, what Burns was to the peasantry of Scotland. His *Corn-law Rhymes* contributed not a little to that overwhelming tide of popular opinion and feeling which resulted in the repeal of the tax on bread. Well has the eloquent author of *The Reforms and Reformers of Great Britain* said of him, "Not corn-law repealers alone, but all Britons who moisten their scanty bread with the sweat of the brow, are largely indebted to his inspiring lay, for the mighty bound which the laboring mind of England has taken in our day."

Page 230. ICHABOD.

This poem was the outcome of the surprise and grief and forecast of evil consequences which I felt on reading the seventh of March speech of Daniel Webster in support of the "compromise," and the Fugitive Slave Law. No partisan or personal enmity dictated it. On the contrary my admiration of the splendid personality and intellectual power of the great senator was never stronger than when I laid down his speech, and, in one of the saddest moments of my life, penned my protest. I saw, as I wrote, with painful clearness its sure results. If one spoke at all, he could only speak in tones of stern and sorrowful rebuke.

But death softens all resentments, and the consciousness of a common inheritance of frailty and weakness modifies the severity of judgment. Years after, in *The Lost Occasion*, I gave utterance to an almost universal regret that the great statesman did not live to make his last days glorious in defence of "Liberty and Union, one and inseparable."

Page 234. KOSSUTH.

It can scarcely be necessary to say that there are elements in the character and passages in the history of the great Hungarian statesman and orator, which necessarily command the admiration of those, even, who believe that no political revolution was ever worth the price of human blood.

Page 234. TO MY OLD SCHOOLMASTER.

These lines were addressed to my worthy friend Joshua Coffin, teacher, historian, and antiquarian.

Page 236. *Homilies from Oldbug hear.*

Dr. Withington, author of *The Puritan*, under the name of Jonathan Oldbug.

Page 237. THE HERO.

The hero of the incident related in this poem was Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, the well-known philanthropist, who, when a young man, volunteered his aid in the Greek struggle for independence.

Page 239. RANTOUL.

No more fitting inscription could be placed on the tombstone of Robert Rantoul than this: "He died at his post in Congress, and his last words were a protest in the name of Democracy against the Fugitive-Slave Law."

Page 240. WILLIAM FORSTER.

William Forster, of Norwich, England, died in East Tennessee, in the 1st month, 1854, while engaged in presenting to the governors of the States of this Union the address of his religious society on the evils of slavery. He was the relative and coadjutor of the Buxtons, Gurneys, and Frys; and his whole life, extending almost to

threescore and ten years, was a pure and beautiful example of Christian benevolence. He had travelled over Europe, and visited most of its sovereigns, to plead against the slave-trade and slavery; and had twice before made visits to this country, under impressions of religious duty. He was the father of the Right Hon. William Edward Forster.

Page 247. NAPLES.

Helen Ruthven Waterston, a lovely girl of seventeen, the only surviving child of the Rev. R. C. Waterston, died at Naples in July, 1858, and lies buried in the Protestant cemetery there.

Page 253. THE SINGER.

This poem was written on the death of Alice Cary. Her sister Phœbe, heart-broken by her loss, followed soon after. Lovely in person and character, they left behind them only friends and admirers.

Page 255. HOW MARY GREW.

These lines were in answer to an invitation to hear a lecture of Mary Grew, of Philadelphia, before the Boston Radical Club. The reference in the last stanza is to an essay on Sappho by T. W. Higginson, read at the club the preceding month.

Page 295. NORUMBEGA HALL.

Norumbega Hall at Wellesley College, named in honor of Eben Norton Horsford, who was one of the most munificent patrons of that noble institution, and who had just published an essay claiming the discovery of the site of the somewhat mythical city of Norumbega, was opened with appropriate ceremonies, in April, 1886. The following sonnet was written for the occasion, and was read by President Alice E. Freeman, to whom it was addressed.

Page 296. ONE OF THE SIGNERS.

Written for the unveiling of the statue of Josiah Bartlett at Amesbury, Mass., July 4, 1888. Governor Bartlett, who was a native of the town, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Amesbury or Ambresbury, so called from the "anointed stones" of the great Druidical temple near it, was the seat of one of the earliest religious houses in Britain. The tradition that the guilty wife of King Arthur fled thither for protection forms one of the finest passages in Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*.

Page 298. THE TENT ON THE BEACH.

It can scarcely be necessary to name as the two companions whom I reckoned with myself in this poetical picnic, Fields the lettered magnate, and Taylor the free cosmopolite. The long line of sandy beach which defines almost the whole of the New Hampshire sea-coast is especially marked near its southern extremity by the salt-meadows of Hampton. The Hampton River

winds through these meadows, and the reader may, if he choose, imagine my tent pitched near its mouth, where also was the scene of *The Wreck of Rivermouth*.

Page 302. **THE WRECK OF RIVERMOUTH.**

The Goody Cole who figures in this poem and *The Changeling* was Ennice Cole, who for a quarter of a century or more was feared, persecuted, and hated as the witch of Hampton. Rev. Stephen Bachiler was one of the ablest of the early New England preachers. His marriage late in life to a woman regarded by his church as disreputable induced him to return to England.

Page 313. **THE MAIDS OF ATTITASH.** Attitash, an Indian word signifying "huckleberry," is the name of a large and beautiful lake in the northern part of Amesbury.

Page 327. **TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE.** Toussaint L'Ouverture, the black chieftain of Hayti, was a slave on the plantation "de Libertas," belonging to M. Bayou. When the rising of the negroes took place, in 1791, Toussaint refused to join them until he had aided M. Bayou and his family to escape to Baltimore. The white man had discovered in Toussaint many noble qualities, and had instructed him in some of the first branches of education; and the preservation of his life was owing to the negro's gratitude for this kindness.

In 1797, Toussaint L'Ouverture was appointed, by the French government, General-in-Chief of the armies of St. Domingo, and, as such, signed the Convention with General Maitland for the evacuation of the island by the British. From this period, until 1801, the island, under the government of Toussaint, was happy, tranquil, and prosperous. The miserable attempt of Napoleon to re-establish slavery in St. Domingo, although it failed of its intended object, proved fatal to the negro chieftain. Treacherously seized by Leclerc, he was hurried on board a vessel by night, and conveyed to France, where he was confined in a cold subterranean dungeon, at Besançon, where, in April, 1803, he died. The treatment of Toussaint finds a parallel only in the murder of the Duke D'Enghien. It was the remark of Godwin, in his *Lectures*, that the West India Islands, since their first discovery by Columbus, could not boast of a single name which deserves comparison with that of Toussaint L'Ouverture.

The reader may, perhaps, call to mind the beautiful sonnet of William Wordsworth, addressed to Toussaint L'Ouverture, during his confinement in France.

"Toussaint! — thou most unhappy man of men!
Whether the whistling rustic tends his plough
Within thy hearing, or thou liest now
Buried in some deep dungeon's earless den;
O miserable chieftain! — where and when
Wilt thou find patience? — Yet, die not, do
thou
Wear rather in thy bonds a cheerful brow;
Though fallen thyself, never to rise again,
Live and take comfort. Thou hast left behind
Powers that will work for thee; air, earth, and
skies, —
There 's not a breathing of the common wind
That will forget thee: thou hast great allies.
Thy friends are exultations, agonies,
And love, and man's unconquerable mind."

Page 330. **THE SLAVE-SHIPS.**

The French ship *Le Rodeur*, with a crew of twenty-two men, and with one hundred and sixty negro slaves, sailed from Bonny, in Africa, April, 1819. On approaching the line, a terrible malady broke out, — an obstinate disease of the eyes, — contagious, and altogether beyond the resources of medicine. It was aggravated by the scarcity of water among the slaves (only half a wineglass per day being allowed to an individual) and by the extreme impurity of the air in which they breathed. By the advice of the physician, they were brought upon deck occasionally; but some of the poor wretches, locking themselves in each other's arms, leaped overboard, in the hope, which so universally prevails among them, of being swiftly transported to their own homes in Africa. To check this, the captain ordered several who were stopped in the attempt to be shot, or hanged, before their companions. The disease extended to the crew; and one after another were smitten with it, until only *one* remained unaffected. Yet even this dreadful condition did not preclude calculation; to save the expense of supporting slaves rendered unsalable, and to obtain grounds for a claim against the underwriters, *thirty-six* of the negroes, having become blind, were thrown into the sea and drowned!

In the midst of their dreadful fears lest the solitary individual, whose sight remained unaffected, should also be seized with the malady, a sail was discovered. It was the Spanish slaver, *Leon*. The same disease had been there; and, horrible to tell, all the crew had become blind! Unable to assist each other, the vessels parted. The Spanish ship was never afterward heard of. The *Rodeur* reached Guadalupe on the 21st of June; the only man who had escaped the disease, and had thus been enabled to steer the slaver into port, caught it in three days after its arrival.

Page 339. **CLERICAL OPPRESSORS.**
In the report of the celebrated pro-

slavery meeting in Charleston, S. C., on the fourth of the ninth month, 1835, published in the *Courier* of that city, it was stated: "The clergy of all denominations attended in a body, lending their sanction to the proceedings, and adding by their presence to the impressive character of the scene."

Page 347. PENNSYLVANIA HALL.

Read at the dedication of Pennsylvania Hall, Philadelphia, May 15, 1838. The building was erected by an association of gentlemen, irrespective of sect or party, "that the citizens of Philadelphia should possess a room wherein the principles of Liberty, and Equality of Civil Rights, could be freely discussed, and the evils of slavery fearlessly portrayed." On the evening of the 17th it was burned by a mob, destroying the office of the *Pennsylvania Freeman*, of which I was editor, and with it my books and papers.

Page 351. *And he, the basest of the base.*

The Northern author of the Congressional rule against receiving petitions of the people on the subject of Slavery.

Page 360. THE SENTENCE OF JOHN L. BROWN.

John L. Brown, a young white man of South Carolina, was in 1844 sentenced to death for aiding a young slave woman, whom he loved and had married, to escape from slavery. No event in the history of the anti-slavery struggle so stirred the two hemispheres as did this dreadful sentence. A cry of horror was heard from Europe. Indeed, so strong was the pressure of the sentiment of abhorrence and disgust that South Carolina yielded to it, and the sentence was commuted to scourging and banishment.

Page 365. TO A SOUTHERN STATESMAN.

John C. Calhoun, who had strongly urged the annexation of Texas, even if it should involve a war with England, was unwilling to promote the acquisition of Oregon, and pleaded as an excuse the peril of foreign complications.

Page 368. THE BRANDED HAND.

Captain Jonathan Walker of Harwich, Mass., was solicited by several fugitive slaves at Pensacola, Florida, to carry them in his vessel to the British West Indies. Although well aware of the great hazard of the enterprise he attempted to comply with the request, but was seized at sea by an American vessel, thence sent back to Pensacola, where, after a long and rigorous confinement in prison, he was sentenced to be branded on his right hand with the letters "S. S." (slave-stealer) and amerced in a heavy fine.

Page 370. A LETTER.

Supposed to be written by the chairman of the "Central Clique" at Concord, N. H., to the Hon. M. N., Jr., at Washington, giving the result of the election.

These verses were published in the *Boston Chronotype* in 1846. They refer to the contest in New Hampshire, which resulted in the defeat of the pro-slavery Democracy, and in the election of John P. Hale to the United States Senate. Although their authorship was not acknowledged, it was strongly suspected. They furnish a specimen of the way, on the whole rather good-natured, in which the liberty-lovers of half a century ago answered the social and political outlawry and mob violence to which they were subjected.

Page 370. *I hear the Free-Wills singing.*

The book-establishment of the Free-Will Baptists in Dover was refused the act of incorporation by the New Hampshire Legislature, for the reason that the newspaper organ of that sect and its leading preachers favored abolition.

Page 370. *Our Belknap brother heard with awe.*

The senatorial editor of the *Belknap Gazette* all along manifested a peculiar horror of "niggers" and "nigger parties."

Page 370. *At Pittsfield, Reuben Leavitt saw.*

The justice before whom Elder Storrs was brought for preaching abolition on a writ drawn by Hon. M. N., Jr., of Pittsfield. The sheriff served the writ while the elder was praying.

Page 370. *The schoolhouse, out of Canaan hauled.*

The academy at Canaan, N. H., received one or two colored scholars, and was in consequence dragged off into a swamp by Democratic teams.

Page 371.

*What boots it that we pelted out
The anti-slavery women.*

The Female Anti-Slavery Society, at its first meeting in Concord, was assailed with stones and brickbats.

Page 371.

For this did shifty Atherton

Make gag rules for the Great House?

"Papers and memorials touching the subject of slavery shall be laid on the table without reading, debate, or reference." So read the gag-law, as it was called, introduced into the House by Mr. Atherton.

Page 372. DANIEL NEALL.

Dr. Neall was one of the noble band of Pennsylvania abolitionists, whose bravery was equalled only by their gentleness and tenderness.

Page 372. SONG OF SLAVES IN THE DESERT.

Suggested by a passage in Richardson's *Journal in Africa*.

Page 373. YORKTOWN.

Dr. Thacher, surgeon in Scammel's regiment, in his description of the siege of Yorktown, says: "The labor on the Virginia plantations is performed altogether by a species of the human race cruelly wrested from their native country, and doomed to perpetual bondage, while their masters are manfully contending for freedom and the natural rights of man. Such is the inconsistency of human nature." Eighteen hundred slaves were found at Yorktown, after its surrender, and restored to their masters. Well was it said by Dr. Barnea, in his late work on slavery: "No slave was any nearer his freedom after the surrender of Yorktown than when Patrick Henry first taught the notes of liberty to echo among the hills and vales of Virginia."

Page 378. THE CURSE OF THE CHARTER-BREAKERS.

The rights and liberties affirmed by Magna Charta were deemed of such importance in the thirteenth century, that the Bishops, twice a year, with tapers burning, and in their pontifical robes, pronounced, in the presence of the king and the representatives of the estates of England, the greater excommunication against the infringer of that instrument. The imposing ceremony took place in the great Hall of Westminster.

Page 382. LINES ON THE PORTRAIT OF A CELEBRATED PUBLISHER.

These lines were addressed to a magazine publisher, who, alarmed for his Southern circulation, not only dropped the name of Grace Greenwood from his list of contributors, but made an offensive parade of his action, with the view of strengthening his position among slaveholders and conservatives. By some coincidence his portrait was issued about the same time.

Page 384. DERNE.

The storming of the city of Derna, in 1805, by General Eaton, at the head of nine Americans, forty Greeks, and a motley array of Turks and Arabs, was one of those feats of hardihood and daring which have in all ages attracted the admiration of the multitude. The higher and holier heroism of Christian self-denial and sacrifice, in the humble walk of private duty, is seldom so well appreciated.

Page 389. *Tell of the first great triumph won.*

The election of Charles Sumner to the U. S. Senate "followed hard upon" the rendition of the fugitive Sims by the U. S. officials and the armed police of Boston.

Page 395. LE MARAIS DU CYGNE.

The massacre of unarmed and unoffending men, in Southern Kansas, took place near the Marais du Cygne of the French *voyageurs*.

Page 396. A SONG FOR THE TIME.

Written in the summer of 1856, during the political campaign of the Free Soil party under the candidacy of John C. Frémont.

Page 397. A SONG.

Written after the election in 1856, which showed the immense gains of the Free Soil party, and insured its success in 1860.

Page 415. MITHRIDATES AT CHIOS.

It is recorded that the Chians, when subjugated by Mithridates of Cappadocia, were delivered up to their own slaves, to be carried away captive to Colchis. Athenæus considers this a just punishment for their wickedness in first introducing the slave-trade into Greece. From this ancient villany of the Chians the proverb arose, "The Chian hath bought himself a master."

Page 439. *And beauty is its own excuse.*

For the idea of this line, I am indebted to Emerson, in his inimitable sonnet to the Rhodera, —

If eyes were made for seeing,
Then Beauty is its own excuse for being.

Page 451. THE CHRISTIAN TOURISTS.

The reader of the Biography of William Allen, the philanthropic associate of Clarkson and Romilly, cannot fail to admire his simple and beautiful record of a tour through Europe, in the years 1818 and 1819, in the company of his American friend, Stephen Grellett.

Page 453. TO PIUS IX.

The writer of these lines is no enemy of Catholics. He has, on more than one occasion, exposed himself to the censures of his Protestant brethren, by his strenuous endeavors to procure indemnification for the owners of the convent destroyed near Boston. He defended the cause of the Irish patriots long before it had become popular in this country; and he was one of the first to urge the most liberal aid to the suffering and starving population of the Catholic island. The severity of his language finds its ample apology in the reluctant confession of one of the most eminent Romish priests, the eloquent and devoted Father Ventura.

Page 461. THE NEW EXODUS.

Written upon hearing that slavery had been formally abolished in Egypt. Unhappily the pledges of the government proved unreliable.

Page 461. THE CONQUEST OF FINLAND.

"Joseph Sturge, with a companion,

Thomas Harvey, has been visiting the shores of Finland, to ascertain the amount of mischief and loss to poor and peaceable sufferers, occasioned by the gunboats of the Allied squadrons in the late war, with a view to obtaining relief for them."

Friends' Review.

Page 463. FROM PERUGIA.

"The thing which has most dissevered the people from the Pope, — the unforgivable thing, — the breaking point between him and them, — has been the encouragement and promotion he gave to the officer under whom were executed the slaughters of Perugia." Mrs. STOWE'S *Letters from Italy.*

Page 471. ON THE BIG HORN.

In the disastrous battle on the Big Horn River, in which General Custer and his entire force were slain, the chief Rain-in-the-Face was one of the fiercest leaders of the Indians. In Longfellow's poem on the massacre, these lines will be remembered: —

"Revenge!" cried Rain-in-the-Face,
"Revenge upon all the race
Of the White Chief with yellow hair!"
And the mountains dark and high
From their crags resounded the cry
Of his anger and despair.

He is now a man of peace; and the agent at Standing Rock, Dakota, writes, September 28, 1886: "Rain-in-the-Face is very anxious to go to Hampton. I fear he is too old, but he desires very much to go." *The Southern Workman*, the organ of General Armstrong's Industrial School at Hampton, Va., said of this: —

"Rain-in-the-Face has applied before to come to Hampton, but his age would exclude him from the school as an ordinary student. He has shown himself very much in earnest about it, and is anxious, all say, to learn the better ways of life. It is as unusual as it is striking to see a man of his age, and one who has had such an experience, willing to give up the old way, and put himself in the position of a boy and a student."

Page 472. MEMORIES.

[Whittier's biographer says that this poem was written in 1841. "To a friend who told the poet that *Memories* was her favorite poem, he said, 'I love it too; but I hardly knew whether to publish it, it was so personal and near my heart.'"]

Page 487. SNOW-BOUND.

The inmates of the family at the Whittier homestead who are referred to in the poem were my father, mother, my brother, and two sisters, and my uncle and aunt. The "not unfeared, half-welcome guest" was Harriet Livermore, daughter of Judge Livermore of New Hampshire, a young

woman of fine natural ability, enthusiastic, eccentric, with slight control over her violent temper, which sometimes made her religious profession doubtful. She was equally ready to exhort in school-house prayer-meetings and dance in a Washington ball-room, while her father was a member of congress. She early embraced the doctrine of the Second Advent, and felt it her duty to proclaim the Lord's speedy coming. With this message she crossed the Atlantic and spent the greater part of a long life in travelling over Europe and Asia. She lived for some time with Lady Hester Stanhope on the slope of Mt. Lebanon. A friend of mine found her, when quite an old woman, wandering in Syria with a tribe of Arabs, who accepted her as their prophetess and leader. At the time referred to in *Snow-Bound* she was boarding at the Rocks Village, about two miles from us.

Page 503. VOYAGE OF THE JETTIE.

The picturesquely situated Wayside Inn at West Ossipee, N. H., is now in ashes; and to its former guests these somewhat careless rhymes may be a not unwelcome reminder of pleasant summers and autumns on the banks of the Bearcamp and Chocorua. To the author himself they have a special interest from the fact that they were written, or improvised, under the eye, and for the amusement of a beloved invalid friend whose last earthly sunsets faded from the mountain ranges of Ossipee and Sandwich.

Page 538. *O Beauty, old yet ever new!*

"Too late I loved Thee, O Beauty of ancient days, yet ever new! And lo! Thou wert within, and I abroad searching for Thee. Thou wert with me, but I was not with Thee." — *August. Saliloq.*, Book X.

Page 538. *Who saw the Darkness overflowed.*

"And I saw that there was an Ocean of Darkness and Death: but an infinite Ocean of Light and Love flowed over the Ocean of Darkness: And in that I saw the infinite Love of God." — *George Fox's Journal.*

Page 539. THE CRY OF A LOST SOUL.

Lieutenant Herndon's *Report of the Exploration of the Amazon* has a striking description of the peculiar and melancholy notes of a bird heard by night on the shores of the river. The Indian Guides called it "The Cry of a Lost Soul." Among the numerous translators of the poem was the late Emperor of Brazil.

Page 547. *Such golden words as hers.*

Avis Keene, whose very presence was a benediction.

Page 547. *Repeating where His works were wrought.*

Sibyl Jones, whose inspired eloquence impressed all who knew her. She made visits of Christian love to various parts of Europe, to the West Coast of Africa and Palestine.

Page 572. **HYMNS OF THE BRAHMO SOMAJ.**

I have attempted this paraphrase of the Hymns of the Brahmo Somaj of India, as I find them in Mozoondar's account of the devotional exercises of that remarkable religious development which has attracted far less attention and sympathy from the Christian world than it deserves, as a fresh revelation of the direct action of the Divine Spirit upon the human heart.

Page 576. **THE CAPTAIN'S WELL.**

The story of the shipwreck of Captain Valentine Bagley, on the coast of Arabia, and his sufferings in the desert, has been familiar from my childhood. It has been partially told in the singularly beautiful lines of my friend, Harriet Prescott Spofford, on the occasion of a public celebration, at the Newburyport Library. To the charm and felicity of her verse, as far as it goes, nothing can be added, but I have endeavored to give a fuller detail of the touching incident upon which it is founded.

Page 578. **AN OUTDOOR RECEPTION.**

The substance of these lines, hastily pencilled several years ago, I find among such of my unprinted seraps as have escaped the waste-basket and the fire. In transcribing it I have made some changes, additions, and omissions.

Page 585. **To G. G.**

The daughter of Daniel Gurteen, Esq., delegate from Haverhill, England, to the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebration of Haverhill, Massachusetts. The Rev. John Ward of the former place and many of his old parishioners were the pioneer settlers of the new town on the Merrimac.

Page 601. **METACOM.**

Metacom, or Philip, the chief of the Wampanoags, was the most powerful and sagacious sachem who ever made war upon the English.

Page 603. **MOUNT AGIOCHOOK.**

The Indians supposed the White Mountains were the residence of powerful spirits, and in consequence rarely ascended them.

Page 603. **THE DRUNKARD TO HIS BOTTLE.**

I was thinking of the temperance lyrics the great poet of Scotland might have written had he put his name to a pledge of abstinence, a thing unhappily unknown in his day. The result of my cogitation was this poor imitation of his dialect.

Page 605. **ISABELLA OF AUSTRIA.**

Isabella, Infanta of Parma, and consort of Joseph of Austria, predicted her own death, immediately after her marriage with the Emperor. Amidst the gayety and splendor of Vienna and Presburg, she was reserved and melancholy; she believed that Heaven had given her a view of the future, and that her child, the namesake of the great Maria Theresa, would perish with her. Her prediction was fulfilled.

Page 608. **MOGG MEGONE.**

Mogg Megone, or Hegone, was a leader among the Saco Indians, in the bloody war of 1677. He attacked and captured the garrison at Black Point, October 12th of that year; and cut off, at the same time, a party of Englishmen near Saco River. From a deed signed by this Indian in 1664, and from other circumstances, it seems that, previous to the war, he had mingled much with the colonists. On this account, he was probably selected by the principal sachems as their agent in the treaty signed in November, 1676.

Page 608. *'T was the gift of Castine to Mogg Megone.*

Baron de St. Castine came to Canada in 1644. Leaving his civilized companions, he plunged into the great wilderness, and settled among the Penobscot Indians, near the mouth of their noble river. He here took for his wives the daughters of the great Modocawando, — the most powerful sachem of the East. His castle was plundered by Governor Andros, during his reckless administration; and the enraged Baron is supposed to have excited the Indians into open hostility to the English.

Page 608. *Grey Jocelyn's eye is never sleeping.*

The owner and commander of the garrison at Black Point, which Mogg attacked and plundered. He was an old man at the period to which the tale relates.

Page 608. *Where Phillips' men their watch are keeping.*

Major Phillips, one of the principal men of the Colony. His garrison sustained a long and terrible siege by the savages. As a magistrate and a gentleman, he exacted of his plebeian neighbors a remarkable degree of deference. The Court Records of the settlement inform us that an individual was fined for the heinous offence of saying that "Major Phillips's mare was as lean as an Indian dog."

Page 608. *Steals Harmon down from the sands of York.*

Captain Harmon, of Georgeana, now York, was for many years the terror of the Eastern Indians. In one of his expeditions up the Kennebec River, at the head of a party of rangers, he discovered twenty

of the savages asleep by a large fire. Cautiously creeping towards them until he was certain of his aim, he ordered his men to single out their objects. The first discharge killed or mortally wounded the whole number of the unconscious sleepers.

Page 608. *For vengeance left his vine-hung isle.*

Wood Island, near the mouth of the Saco. It was visited by the Sieur de Monts and Champlain, in 1603. The following extract, from the journal of the latter, relates to it: "Having left the Kennebec, we ran along the coast to the westward, and cast anchor under a small island, near the mainland, where we saw twenty or more natives. I here visited an island, beautifully clothed with a fine growth of forest trees, particularly of the oak and walnut; and overspread with vines, that, in their season, produce excellent grapes. We named it the island of Baccus." — *Les Voyages de Sieur Champlain*, liv. 2, c. 8.

Page 608. *The hunted outlaw, Boniton.*
John Bonython was the son of Richard Bonython, Gent., one of the most efficient and able magistrates of the Colony. John proved to be "a degenerate plant." In 1635, we find by the Court Records that, for some offence, he was fined 40s. In 1640, he was fined for abuse toward R. Gibson, the minister, and Mary, his wife. Soon after he was fined for disorderly conduct in the house of his father. In 1645, the "Great and General Court adjudged John Bonython outlawed, and incapable of any of his Majesty's laws, and proclaimed him a rebel." (*Court Records of the Province*, 1645.) In 1651, he bade defiance to the laws of Massachusetts, and was again outlawed. He acted independently of all law and authority; and hence, doubtless, his burlesque title of "the Sagamore of Saco," which has come down to the present generation in the following epitaph: —

Here lies Bonython, the Sagamore of Saco;
He lived a rogue, and died a knave, and went to
Hobomoko.

By some means or other, he obtained a large estate. In this poem, I have taken some liberties with him, not strictly warranted by historical facts, although the conduct imputed to him is in keeping with his general character. Over the last years of his life lingers a deep obscurity. Even the manner of his death is uncertain. He was supposed to have been killed by the Indians; but this is doubted by the able and indefatigable author of the *History of Saco and Biddeford*. — Part I. p. 115.

Page 608. *From the leaping brook to the Saco River.*

Foxwell's Brook flows from a marsh or bog, called the "Heath," in Saco, containing thirteen hundred acres. In this brook, and surrounded by wild and romantic scenery, is a beautiful waterfall, of more than sixty feet.

Page 609. *Where zealous Hiacoomes stood.*

Hiacoomes, the first Christian preacher on Martha's Vineyard; for a biography of whom the reader is referred to Increase Mayhew's account of the Praying Indians, 1726. The following is related of him: "One Lord's day, after meeting, where Hiacoomes had been preaching, there came in a Powwaw very angry, and said, 'I know all the meeting Indians are liars. You say you don't care for the Powwaws;' then calling two or three of them by name, he railed at them, and told them they were deceived, for the Powwaws could kill all the meeting Indians, if they set about it. But Hiacoomes told him that he would be in the midst of all the Powwaws in the island, and they should do the utmost they could against him; and when they should do their worst by their witchcraft to kill him, he would without fear set himself against them, by remembering Jehovah. He told them also he did put all the Powwaws under his heel. Such was the faith of this good man. Nor were these Powwaws ever able to do these Christian Indians any hurt, though others were frequently hurt and killed by them." — Mayhew, pp. 6, 7, c. 1.

Page 610. *Because she cries with an ache in her tooth.*

"The tooth-ache," says Roger Williams in his observations upon the language and customs of the New England tribes, "is the only pain which will force their stoute hearts to cry." He afterwards remarks that even the Indian women never cry as he has heard "some of their men in this paine."

Page 611. *Wuttamuttata*, "Let us drink." *Weekan*, "It is sweet." *Vide* Roger Williams's *Key to the Indian Language*, "in that part of America called New England." — London, 1643, p. 35.

Page 611. *Wetomanit*, — a house god, or demon. "They — the Indians — have given me the names of thirty-seven gods which I have, all which in their solemn Worships they invoke!" — R. Williams's *Briefs Observations of the Customs, Manners, Worships, etc., of the Natives, in Peace and Warre, in Life and Death*: on all which is added *Spiritual Observations, General and Particular, of Chiefs and Special use* — upon all occasions — to all the English inhabiting these

parts; yet Pleasant and Profitable to the view of all Mene; p. 110, c. 21.

Page 612. *Which marks afar the Desert Isle.*

Mt. Desert Island, the Bald Mountain upon which overlooks Frenchman's and Penobscot Bay. It was upon this island that the Jesuits made their earliest settlement.

Page 613. *Half trembling, as he seeks to look.*

Father Hennepin, a missionary among the Iroquois, mentions that the Indians believed him to be a conjurer, and that they were particularly afraid of a bright silver chalice which he had in his possession. "The Indians," says Père Jerome Lallamant, "fear us as the greatest sorcerers on earth."

Page 613. *For Bomazeen from Tacconock.* Bomazeen is spoken of by Penhallow as "the famous warrior and chieftain of Norridgewock." He was killed in the attack of the English upon Norridgewock, in 1724.

Page 613. *Like a shrouded ghost the Jesuit stands.*

Père Ralle, or Rasles, was one of the most zealous and indefatigable of that band of Jesuit missionaries who at the beginning of the seventeenth century penetrated the forests of America, with the avowed object of converting the heathen. The first religious mission of the Jesuits to the savages in North America was in 1611. The zeal of the fathers for the conversion of the Indians to the Catholic faith knew no bounds. For this they plunged into the depths of the wilderness; habituated themselves to all the hardships and privations of the natives; suffered cold, hunger, and some of them death itself, by the extremest tortures. Their success among the natives, however, by no means equalled their exertions. Père Lallamant says: "With respect to adult persons, in good health, there is little apparent success; on the contrary, there have been nothing but storms and whirlwinds from that quarter."

Sebastian Ralle established himself, some time about the year 1670, at Norridgewock, where he continued more than forty years. He was accused, and perhaps not without justice, of exciting his praying Indians against the English, whom he looked upon as the enemies not only of his king, but also of the Catholic religion. He was killed by the English, in 1724, at the foot of the cross which his own hands had planted. This Indian church was broken up, and its members either killed outright or dispersed.

In a letter written by Ralle to his

nephew he gives the following account of his church, and his own labors: "All my converts repair to the church regularly twice every day; first, very early in the morning, to attend mass, and again in the evening, to assist in the prayers at sunset. As it is necessary to fix the imagination of savages, whose attention is easily distracted, I have composed prayers, calculated to inspire them with just sentiments of the august sacrifice of our altars: they chant, or at least recite them aloud, during mass. Besides preaching to them on Sundays and saints' days, I seldom let a working-day pass, without making a concise exhortation, for the purpose of inspiring them with horror at those vices to which they are most addicted, or to confirm them in the practice of some particular virtue." *Vide Lettres Edifiantes et Cur.*, Vol. VI. p. 127.

Page 616. *Pale priest! what proud and lofty dreams.*

The character of Ralle has probably never been correctly delineated. By his brethren of the Romish Church, he has been nearly atheosized. On the other hand, our Puritan historians have represented him as a demon in human form. He was undoubtedly sincere in his devotion to the interests of his church, and not over-scrupulous as to the means of advancing those interests. "The French," says the author of the History of Saco and Biddeford, "after the peace of 1713, secretly promised to supply the Indians with arms and ammunition, if they would renew hostilities. Their principal agent was the celebrated Ralle, the French Jesuit" (p. 215).

Page 617. *Where are De Rouville and Castine?*

Hertel de Rouville was an active and unsparing enemy of the English. He was the leader of the combined French and Indian forces which destroyed Deerfield and massacred its inhabitants, in 1703. He was afterwards killed in the attack upon Haverhill. Tradition says that, on examining his dead body, his head and face were found to be perfectly smooth, without the slightest appearance of hair or beard.

Page 617. *Cowesass? — tawhich wessa-seen? Are you afraid? — why fear you?*

Page 619. THE MISSIONARY.

"It is an awful, an arduous thing to root out every affection for earthly things, so as to live only for another world. I am now far, very far, from you all; and as I look around and see the Indian scenery, I sigh to think of the distance which separates us." — *Letters of Henry Martyn, from India.*

Page 622. MASSACHUSETTS.

Written on hearing that the Resolutions of the Legislature of Massachusetts on the subject of Slavery, presented by Hon. C. Cushing to the House of Representatives of the United States [in 1837] had been laid on the table unread and unREFERRED under the infamous rule of "Patton's Resolution."

Page 622. THE HOME-COMING OF THE BRIDE.

[The home of Sarah Greenleaf was upon the Newbury shore of the Merrimac, nearly opposite the home of the Whittiers. The house was standing until a recent date. Among Mr. Whittier's papers was found this fragment of a ballad about the home-coming, as a bride, of his grandmother, Sarah Greenleaf.]

Page 622. THE SONG OF THE VERMONTERS.

[Written during school-days, and published anonymously in 1833. The secret of authorship was not discovered for sixty years.]

Page 623. TO A POETICAL TRIO IN THE CITY OF GOTHAM.

[This *jeu d'esprit* was written by Whittier in 1832. The notes are his own. The authorship was not discovered till after his death.]

Page 625. ALBUM VERSES.

[Written in the album of May Pillsbury of West Newbury, in the fall of 1838, when Whittier was at home on a visit from Philadelphia, where he was engaged in editorial work.]

Page 625. WHAT STATE STREET SAID.

[Published in *The National Era*, May 22, 1851.]

Page 626. THE QUAKERS ARE OUT.

[A campaign song written to be sung at a Republican Mass Meeting held in Newburyport, Mass., October 11, 1860.]

Page 626. A LEGEND OF THE LAKE.

[This poem, originally printed in *The Atlantic Monthly*, was withheld from publication in his volumes by Mr. Whittier, in deference to living relatives of the hero of the poem. Death finally removed the restriction.]

Page 627. LINES ON LEAVING APPLEDORE.

[Sent in a letter to Celia Thaxter.]

Page 628. MRS. CHOATE'S HOUSE-WARMING.

[“His washerwoman, Mrs. Choate, by industry and thrift had been enabled to build for her family a comfortable house. When it was ready for occupancy, there was a house-warming, attended by all the neighbors, who brought substantial tokens of their good-will, including all the furniture needed in her new parlor. Mr. Whittier's hand was to be seen in the whole movement: he was present at the festivity, and made a little speech, congratulating Mrs. Choate upon her well-deserved success in life, and said he would read a piece of machine poetry which had been intrusted to him for the occasion. These are the lines, which were, of course, of his own composition.”—S. T. PICKARD, *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier.*]

Page 628. AN AUTOGRAPH.

[Written for an old friend, Rev. S. H. Emery, of Quincy, Ill., who revisited Whittier in 1868.]

Page 628. A FAREWELL.

[Written for Mr. and Mrs. Claffin as they were about to sail for Europe.]

Page 628. ON A FLY-LEAF OF LONG-FELLOW'S POEMS.

[Written at the Asquam House in the summer of 1882.]

Page 629. SAMUEL E. SEWALL.

[An inscription for a marble bust, modeled by Anne Whitney, and placed in the Cary Library, Lexington, Mass., May, 1884.]

Page 629. LINES WRITTEN IN AN ALBUM.

[The album belonged to the grandson of Whittier's life-long friend, Theodore D. Weld, and the lines were written in April, 1884.]

Page 629. A DAY'S JOURNEY.

[Written in 1886, for the tenth anniversary of the wedding of his niece.]

Page 629. A FRAGMENT.

[Found among Mr. Whittier's papers, in his handwriting, but undated.]

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