

# **Anti-Slavery Poems III.**

## **From Volume III., The Works of Whittier: Anti-Slavery Poems and Songs of Labor and Reform**

**John Greenleaf Whittier**

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Volume III., The Works of Whittier: Anti-Slavery, Labor and Reform  
#22 in our series by John Greenleaf Whittier

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ANTI-SLAVERY POEMS

SONGS OF LABOR AND REFORM

BY

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

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DERNE.

The storming of the city of Derne, 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 walks of private duty, is seldom so well appreciated.

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  
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The merchant with his wares withdrawn;  
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  
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  
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,  
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,  
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  
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 tip 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  
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.

'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,  
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  
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,  
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!  
1850.

#### A SABBATH SCENE.

This poem finds its justification in the readiness with which, even in the North, clergymen urged the prompt execution of the Fugitive Slave Law as a Christian duty, and defended the system of slavery as a Bible institution.

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 swelling  
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?

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?"  
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.

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;  
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!

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,  
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 coattail seize on;  
I heard the priest cry, "Infidel!"  
The lawyer mutter, "Treason!"

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,  
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.

For to my ear methought the breeze  
Bore Freedom's blessed word on;  
Thus saith the Lord: Break every yoke,  
Undo the heavy burden  
1850.

#### IN THE EVIL DAYS.

This and the four following poems have special reference to that darkest hour in the aggression of slavery which preceded the dawn of a better day, when the conscience of the people was roused to action.

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.

Our Union, like a glacier stirred



By voice below,  
Or bell 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!

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.

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."

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.

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  
1850.

MOLOCH IN STATE STREET.

In a foot-note of the Report of the Senate of Massachusetts on the case of the arrest and return to bondage of the fugitive slave Thomas Sims it is stated that--"It would have been impossible for the U. S. marshal thus successfully to have resisted the law of the State, without the assistance of the municipal authorities of Boston, and the countenance and support of a numerous, wealthy, and powerful body of citizens. It was in evidence that 1500 of the most wealthy and respectable citizens-merchants, bankers, and others--volunteered their services to aid the marshal on this occasion. . . . No watch was kept upon the doings of the marshal, and while the State officers slept, after the moon had gone down, in the darkest hour before daybreak, the accused was taken out of our jurisdiction by the armed police of the city of Boston."

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;  
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?

Who, dimly beckoning, speed ye on  
With mocking cheer?  
Lo! spectral Andros, Hutchinson,  
And Gage are here!

For ready mart or favoring blast  
Through Moloch's fire,  
Flesh of his flesh, unsparing, passed  
The Tyrian sire.

Ye make that ancient sacrifice  
Of Mail to Gain,  
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.

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;  
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.

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 bell and gun,  
And hills aflame,  
Tell of the first great triumph won  
In Freedom's name. [10]

The long night dies: the welcome gray  
Of dawn we see;  
Speed up the heavens thy perfect day,  
God of the free!  
1851.

#### OFFICIAL PIETY.

Suggested by reading a state paper, 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 devout,  
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 wayside 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 shuddering 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 progeny.  
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 soups of men,--  
Brothers, God's children, Christ's redeemed,--and then,  
With uprolled eyeballs and on bended knee,  
Whining a prayer for help to hide the key!  
1853.

#### THE RENDITION.

On the 2d of June, 1854, Anthony Burns, a fugitive slave from Virginia, after being under arrest for ten days in the Boston Court House, was remanded to slavery under the Fugitive Slave Act, and taken down State Street to a steamer chartered by the United States Government, under guard of United States troops and artillery, Massachusetts militia and Boston police. Public excitement ran high, a futile attempt to rescue Burns having been made during his confinement, and the streets were crowded with tens of thousands of people, of whom many came from other towns and cities of the State to witness the humiliating spectacle.

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 closed 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.  
6th mo., 1855.

#### 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 Suabian;  
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  
Sound welcome to his regal quarters.

The Koran's reader makes complaint  
Of Shitan dancing on and off it;  
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;  
Its angels negro overseers,  
And Heaven itself a snug plantation!

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.

The Judge partakes, and sits erelong  
Upon his bench a railing blackguard;  
Decides off-hand that right is wrong,  
And reads the ten commandments backward.

O potent plant! so rare a taste  
Has never Turk or Gentoo gotten;  
The hempen Haschish of the East  
Is powerless to our Western Cotton!  
1854.

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!  
1855.

#### THE KANSAS EMIGRANTS.

This poem and the three following were called out by the popular movement of Free State men to occupy the territory of Kansas, and by the use of the great democratic weapon--an over-powering majority--to settle the conflict on that ground between Freedom and Slavery. The opponents of the movement used another kind of weapon.

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!  
1854.

LETTER FROM A MISSIONARY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH SOUTH, IN KANSAS, TO A DISTINGUISHED POLITICIAN.

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-doublets quilted  
With forty stripes save one, all Yankee comers,  
Uncircumcised and Gentile, aliens from  
The Commonwealth of Israel, who despise  
The prize of the high calling of the saints,  
Who plant amidst this heathen wilderness  
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 Penueel, 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--  
Fulfilling thus the word of prophecy,  
"Cursed be Cannan." 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 backsliders,  
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.  
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 morning,  
Drinking with thirsty souls of the sincere  
Milk of the Word. Glory! Amen, and Selah!

Here, at the Mission, all things have gone well  
The brother who, throughout my absence, acted  
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 ministrations  
And works of love; and some of them already  
Have purchased negroes, and are settling down  
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 Ephesus,  
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,  
Each face set like a flint of Plymouth Rock  
Against our institutions--staking out  
Their farm lots on the wooded Wakarusa,  
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  
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 becalmed.  
Methinks I hear a voice come up the river  
From those far bayous, where the alligators  
Mount guard around the camping filibusters  
"Shake off the dust of Kansas. Turn to Cuba--  
(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 revolvers.  
There may'st thou, underneath thy vine and figtree,  
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.

#### BURIAL OF BARBER.

Thomas Barber was shot December 6, 1855, near Lawrence, Kansas.

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  
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  
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,  
Though but whispered, He can 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,  
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,  
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,

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; I  
And let martyr mound and tree  
Be our pledge and guaranty  
Of the freedom of the West!  
1856.

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 me., 1856.

#### LE MARAIS DU CYGNE.

The massacre of unarmed and unoffending men, in Southern Kansas, in May, 1858, took place near the Marais du Cygne of the French voyageurs.

A BLUSH as of roses  
Where rose never grew!  
Great drops on the bunch-grass,  
But not of the dew!  
A taint 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!  
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,--  
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!  
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.

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!  
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:  
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,  
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,  
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!"

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,  
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!

Rise up, Fremont! 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.

Written in the summer of 1856, during the political campaign of the Free Soil party under the candidacy of John C. Fremont.

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, accursed 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-fettered and sold!

But ye, who still boast of hearts beating 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 striking 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 Falsehood in mail;  
The Wrong cannot prosper, the Right cannot fail.

Like leaves of the summer once numbered the foe,  
But the hoar-frost is falling, the northern winds blow;  
Like leaves of November ere long shall they fall,  
For earth wearies of them, and God's over all!

#### WHAT OF THE DAY?

Written during the stirring weeks when the great political battle for Freedom under Fremont's leadership was permitting strong hope of success,--a hope overshadowed and solemnized by a sense of the magnitude of the barbaric evil, and a forecast of the unscrupulous and desperate use of all its powers in the last and decisive struggle.

A SOUND of tumult troubles all the air,  
Like the low thunders of a sultry sky  
Far-rolling ere the downright lightnings 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 whirlwind'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 Armageddon'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  
1856.

#### A SONG, INSCRIBED TO THE FREMONT CLUBS.

Written after the election in 1856, which showed the immense gains of  
the Free Soil party, and insured its success in 1860.

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 ellvs nocht that may him plese  
Gyff Fredome failythe."  
ARCHDEACON BARBOUR.

THROUGH the long hall the shuttered 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 below;  
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-crumbled 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 unguessed;  
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 greenness pours;  
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 summer'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 surplus 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 wandering 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,  
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 seed 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,  
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  
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 alternative."

Then, with a burst of music, touching all  
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,  
And the tall maize its yellow tassels spun.  
Smooth highways set with hedge-rows living green,  
With steeped 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,  
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 outward 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  
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 Ponchartrain hears,  
Where, through the noonday dusk of wooded shores  
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!" garnishing its walls;  
Without, surrounded by a motley crowd,  
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,  
Yield shrinking girlhood up to graybeard sin;  
Sell all the virtues with his human stock,  
The Christian graces on his auction-block,  
And coolly count on shrewdest bargains driven  
In hearts regenerate, and in souls forgiven!

Look once again! The moving canvas 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,

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 decay,  
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,  
The cracked veranda with a tipsy lean.  
Without, loose-scattered like a wreck adrift,  
Signs of misrule and tokens of unthrift;  
Within, profusion to discomfort joined,  
The listless body and the vacant mind;  
The fear, the hate, the theft and falsehood, born  
In menial hearts of toil, and stripes, and scorn  
There, all the vices, which, like birds obscene,  
Batten on slavery loathsome and unclean,  
From the foul kitchen to the parlor rise,  
Pollute the nursery where the child-heir lies,  
Taint infant lips beyond all after cure,  
With the fell poison of a breast impure;  
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 revenge.

Still scenes like these the moving chart reveals.  
Up the long western steppes the blighting 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 attitude  
One moment, then with sudden gesture 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.  
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.  
If questions,--idle and absurd as those  
The old-time monks and Paduan doctors 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,  
Full many a noble heart, (and such remain  
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 prayers as saints,  
Would half-way meet the frankness of your tone,  
And feel their pulses beating with your own.

"The North! the South! no geographic line  
Can fix the boundary or the point define,  
Since each with each so closely interblends,  
Where Slavery rises, and where Freedom ends.  
Beneath your rocks the roots, far-reaching, hide  
Of the fell Upas on the Southern side;  
The tree whose branches in your northwinds wave  
Dropped its young blossoms on Mount Vernon's grave;  
The nursling growth of Monticello's crest  
Is now the glory of the free Northwest;  
To the wise maxims of her olden school  
Virginia listened from thy lips, Rantoul;  
Seward's words of power, and Sumner'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 Euphrates' 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 Wythes and Pinckneys swell that old refrain,  
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,--  
Whom shall we strike? Who most deserves 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 northern air,  
With nasal speech and puritanic hair,  
Whose cant the loss of principle survives,  
As the mud-turtle e'en its head outlives;  
Who, caught, chin-buried in some foul offence,  
Puts on a look of injured innocence,  
And consecrates his baseness to the cause  
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,  
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 Quattlebum!  
Or they who, doubly armed with vote and gun,  
Following thy lead, illustrious Atchison,  
Their drunken franchise shift from scene to scene,  
As tile-beard Jourdan did his guillotine!  
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 martyrdom!

"Bane of the North, its canker and its moth!  
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 perverted sight  
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 Chali'er's Bible at his ass's tail!

"Such are the men who, with instinctive dread,  
Whenever Freedom lifts her drooping head,  
Make prophet-tripods of their office-stools,  
And scare the nurseries and the village 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 Cortius throw,  
And test the virtues of cohesive dough;  
As tropic monkeys, linking heads and tails,  
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 unawares,  
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 disease,  
Courts the mild balsam of the Southern breeze,  
With hue and cry pursue him on his track,  
And write Free-soiler on the poor man's back.  
Such are the men who leave the pedler's cart,  
While faring South, to learn the driver's art,  
Or, in white neckcloth, soothe with pious aim  
The graceful sorrows of some languid dame,  
Who, from the wreck of her bereavement, 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,  
Or make a bonfire of their birthplace mail!

"So some poor wretch, whose lips no longer bear  
The sacred burden of his mother's prayer,  
By fear impelled, or lust of gold enticed,  
Turns to the Crescent from the Cross of Christ,  
And, over-acting in superfluous zeal,  
Crawls prostrate where the faithful only kneel,  
Out-howls the Dervish, hugs his rags to court  
The squalid Santon's sanctity of dirt;  
And, when beneath the city gateway's span  
Files slow and long the Meccan caravan,  
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 behind,  
With brush and pitcher following, grave and mute,  
In meek attendance on the holy brute!

"Men of the North! beneath your very eyes,  
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 pulpits 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;  
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 outlooks hold,  
While truth and conscience with your wares are sold,  
While grave-browed merchants band themselves to aid  
An annual man-hunt for their Southern trade,  
What moral power within your grasp remains  
To stay the mischief on Nebraska's plains?  
High as the tides of generous impulse flow,  
As far rolls back the selfish undertow;  
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  
To prayer and toil and manhood's manliest part;  
Though to the soul's deep tocsin Nature 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 northern 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 Reason's hand  
The guiding rein and symbol of command.  
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 began  
With the first lapse of new-created man,  
Wisely and well has Providence assigned  
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,  
By dint of fasting, if you fail by prayer.  
And in their place bring men of antique 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,  
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 prudence 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.  
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 manly instincts, in his pride revolts,  
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 glorious land!

"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 children 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 living flood  
Breaks on the snow-line of majestic Hood;  
And lonely Shasta listening hears the tread  
Of Europe's fair-haired children, Hesper-led;  
And, gazing downward through his boar-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 shadows go;  
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,  
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;  
I owe but kindness to my fellow-men;  
And, South or North, wherever hearts of prayer  
Their woes and weakness to our Father 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.  
1856.

#### ON A PRAYER-BOOK,

WITH ITS FRONTISPIECE, ARY SCHEFFER'S "CHRISTUS CONSOLATOR,"  
AMERICANIZED BY THE OMISSION OF THE BLACK MAN.

It is hardly to be credited, yet is true, that in the anxiety of the  
Northern merchant to conciliate his Southern customer, a publisher was  
found ready thus to mutilate Scheffer's picture. He intended his edition  
for use in the Southern States undoubtedly, but copies fell into the  
hands of those who believed literally in a gospel which was to preach  
liberty to the captive.

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 devout  
Of sleek oppression kneeling down to pray  
Where the great oriel stains the Sabbath 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 Thibetar brooks,  
Or beat a drum on Yedo's temple-floor.  
No falser idol man has bowed before,

In Indian groves or islands of the sea,  
Than that which through the quaint-carved Gothic door  
Looks forth,--a Church without humanity!  
Patron of pride, and prejudice, and wrong,--  
The rich man's charm and fetich of the strong,  
The Eternal Fulness meted, clipped, and shorn,  
The seamless robe of equal mercy torn,  
The dear Christ hidden from His kindred 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 prayers to make  
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 unction move  
The Eternal Goodness more than lives of truth and love.  
Alas, the Church! The reverend head of Jay,  
Enhaloed 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 Assyrian'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 wellnigh gone out,  
Like candles dying in exhausted air,  
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! Looking forth,  
As from the Mount of Vision, I behold,  
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,  
Brimmed with His blessing, pass from lip to lip  
In sacred pledge of human fellowship;  
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 Genesaret's shore,  
Folding together, with the all-tender might  
Of His great love, the dark bands and the white,  
Stands the Consoler, soothing every pain,  
Making all burdens light, and breaking every chain.  
1859.

## 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 tolled  
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!  
1860.

## TO WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

On the 12th of January, 1861, Mr. Seward delivered in the Senate chamber a speech on The State of the Union, in which he urged the paramount duty of preserving the Union, and went as far as it was possible to go, without surrender of principles, in concessions to the Southern party, concluding his argument with these words: "Having submitted my own opinions on this great crisis, it remains only to say, that I shall cheerfully lend to the government my best support in whatever prudent yet energetic efforts it shall make to preserve the public peace, and to maintain and preserve the Union; advising, only, that it practise, as far as possible, the utmost moderation, forbearance, and conciliation.

"This Union has not yet accomplished what good for mankind was manifestly designed by Him who appoints the seasons and prescribes the duties of states and empires. No; if it were cast down by faction to-day, it would

rise again and re-appear in all its majestic proportions to-morrow. It is the only government that can stand here. Woe! woe! to the man that madly lifts his hand against it. It shall continue and endure; and men, in after times, shall declare that this generation, which saved the Union from such sudden and unlooked-for dangers, surpassed in magnanimity even that one which laid its foundations in the eternal principles of liberty, justice, and humanity."

STATESMAN, I thank thee! and, if yet dissent  
Mingles, reluctant, with my large content,  
I cannot censure what was nobly meant.  
But, while constrained to hold even Union less  
Than Liberty and Truth and Righteousness,  
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 justice, 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!  
1861.

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