2 ro 1863.

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
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 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? 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,
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
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. 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, 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?

862.

BARBARA FRIETCHIE¹

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 Maryland.

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 mountainwall:

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.

On the authenticity of the story see Pickard's Life of Whittier, vol. ii, pp. 454-459. '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 your country's flag,' she said.

A shade of sadness, a blush of shame, Over the face of the leader came;

The nobler nature within him stirred
To life at that woman's deed and
word;

'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 1863.

THE WRECK OF RIVERMOUTH 1

RIVERMOUTH Rocks are fair to see,
By dawn or sunset shone across,
When the ebb of the sea has left them

To dry their fringes of gold-green moss: For there the river comes winding down, 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

Over a floor of burnished steel.

Once, in the old Colonial days,
Two hundred years ago and more,
A boat sailed down through the winding

Of Hampton River to that low shore, 20
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 Their scythes to the swaths of salted

'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, 30
Hearing a voice in a far-off song,
Watching a white hand beckoning long.

¹ The Goody Cole who figures in this poem and 'The Changeling' was Eunice Cole, who for a quarter of a century or more was feared, persecuted, and hated as the witch of Hampton. She lived alone in a hovel a little distant from the spot where the Hampton Academy now stands, and there she died, unattended. When her death was discovered, she was hastily covered up in the earth near by, and a stake driven through her body, to exorcise the evil spirit. Rev. Stephen Bachiler or Batchelder 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, where he enjoyed the esteem and favor of Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate. (Whitties.)

See also Pickard's Whittier-Land, pp. 88-89.

'Fie on the witch!' cried a merry girl,
As they rounded the point where Goody
Cole

Sat by her door with her wheel atwirl, A bent and blear-eyed poor old soul.

'Oho!' she muttered, 'ye're brave to-

But I hear the little waves laugh and say,
"The broth will be cold that waits at

For it's one to go, but another to come !"'

'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

But merrily still, with laugh and shout, From Hampton River the boat sailed out, Till the huts and the flakes on Star seemed

And they lost the scent of the pines of Rye.

They dropped their lines in the lazy tide, Drawing up haddock and mottled cod; 50 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.

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 cheerily,

'Yet there is time for our homeward run.' 60 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!

The skipper hauled at the heavy sail:
'God be our help!'he only cried,
As the roaring gale, like the stroke of a

Smote the boat on its starboard side. The Shoalsmen looked, but saw alone Dark films of rain-cloud slantwise blown, 70 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

Scarcely she saw the Head of the Boar
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

Lord, forgive me! my words were true!' 80

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.
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: 90 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,
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, to 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
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, 110 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

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. 120

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 buryingground.

She let the staff from her clasped hands fall:

'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, 130
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.

And the sunset paled, and warmed once more

With a softer, tenderer after-glow; In the east was moon-rise, with boats offshore

And sails in the distance drifting slow. 140
The beacon glimmered from Portsmouth

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!

THE VANISHERS 1

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.

1 Whittier wrote to Fields, September 27, 1864: 'I take the liberty of inclosing a little poem of mine which has beguiled some weary hours. I hope thee will like it. How strange it seems not to read it to my sister! If thee have read Schoolcraft thee will remember what he says of the Puck-wud-jinnies, or "Little Vanishers." The legend is very beautiful, and I hope I have done it justice in some sort.

60

From the clefts of mountain rocks. Through the dark of lowland firs, 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.

Fringed with gold their mantles flow On the slopes of westering 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; 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, Sought and seeker soon shall meet, Lost and found, in Sunset Land! 1864.

BRYANT ON HIS BIRTHDAY 1

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 denied, -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! 1865.

LAUS DEO!2

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!

¹ Written for the celebration of Bryant's seventieth birthday at the Century Club in New York. On hearing the bells ring on the passage of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. The resolution was adopted by Congress, January 31, 1865. The ratification by the requisite number of States was

announced December 18, 1865. (WHITTIER.)
The suggestion came to the poet as he sat in the Friends' Meeting-house in Amesbury, where he was present at the regular Fifth-day meeting. All sat in present at the regular Fith-day meeting. All sat in silence, but on his return to his home, he recited a portion of the poem, not yet committed to paper, to his housemates in the garden room. 'It wrote itself, or rather sang itself, while the bells rang,' he wrote to Lucy Larcom. (Cambridge Edition of Whittier.) See also Picked to Itself. Whittier and it - 488 450. also Pickard's Life of Whittier, vol. ii, pp. 488-489.

Ring, O bells! Every stroke exulting tells Of the burial hour of crime. Loud and long, that all may hear, 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; 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!'

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 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 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! 1865.

HYMN

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF EMANCIPA-TION AT NEWBURYPORT

Nor 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.

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.

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: 1865.

We prayed for love to loose the chain; 'T is shorn by battle's axe in twain!

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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.

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!

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: 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.

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, with-Myself, alas! I know: Too dark ye cannot paint the sin, Too small the merit show.

I bow my forehead to the dust, I veil mine eves 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.

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, 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.

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; 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.

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!

1865 ?

SNOW-BOUND 1

A WINTER IDYL

TO THE MEMORY OF THE HOUSEHOLD IT DESCRIBES

THIS POEM IS DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR

As the Spirits of Darkness be stronger in the dark, so Good Spirits, which be Angels of Light, are augmented not only by the Divine light of the Sun, but also by our common VVood Fire: and as the Celestial Fire drives away dark spirits, so also this our Fire of VVood 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 housemates 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.

1 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, both unmarried. In addition, there was the district school-master, who boarded with us. 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 some time with Lady Hester Stanhope, a woman as fantastic and mentally strained as herself, on the slope of Mt. Lebanon, but finally quar-relled with her in regard to two white horses with red marks on their backs which suggested the idea of saddles, on which her titled hostess expected to ride into

Slow tracing down the thickening sky Its mute and ominous prophecy, A portent seeming less than threat, It sank from sight before it set.

Jeruszlem with the Lord. A friend of mine found her, when quite an old woman, wandering in Syria with a tribe of Arabs, who with the Oriental notion that madness is inspiration, 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.

In my boyhood, in our lonely farm-house, we had scanty sources of information; few books and only a small weekly newspaper. Our only annual was the Almanac. Under such circumstances story-telling was a necessary resource in the long winter evenings. My father when a young man had traversed the wilderness to Canada, and could tell us of his adventures with In-dians and wild beasts, and of his sojourn in the French villages. My uncle was ready with his record of hunting and fishing and, it must be confessed, with stories, which he at least half believed, of witchcraft and apparitions. My mother, who was born in the Indian-haunted region of Somersworth, New Hampshire, between Dover and Portsmouth, told us of the inroads of the savages, and the narrow escape of her ancestors. She described strange people who lived on the Piscataqua and Cocheco, among whom was Bantam the sor-cerer. I have in my possession the wizard's 'conjuring book,' which he solemnly opened when consulted. It is a copy of Cornelius Agrippa's Magic, printed in 1651, dedicated to Dr. Robert Child, who, like Michael Scott, had learned

the art of glammorie In Padua beyond the sea,

and who is famous in the annals of Massachusetts, where he was at one time a resident, as the first man who dared petition the General Court for liberty of conscience. The full title of the book is Three Books of Occult Philosophy, by Henry Cornelius Agrippa, Knight, Doctor of both Laws, Counsellor to Cæsar's Sacred Majesty and Judge of Prerogative Court.

See also Pickard's Life of Whittier, vol. i, pp. 27-36, and vol. ii, pp. 494-500; and Whittier-Land, pp. 12, 24,