

A RECALL.

Upon my bed in sickness I did lie,
 Too weak to know or think, too sick to dream;
And they had left me, and I feared to die,
 For through my veins
 An ever-growing, turgid, rolling stream
Of blood and youth unconquered hurried by;
 And in my brains
 All though was merged into a lurid gleam
 Of light; my laboured breath
 Too strong for me did seem,—
And then came peace and calm, and with them mighty
 Death.

A somber mantle o'er his shoulders fell,
 Trailing the ground, where scarce his feet did
 light;
And he exhaled a faded, musky smell
 With his slow breath;
 His eyes were deepless as a starless night;
His bosom with deep breath did sink and swell;
 No word he saith,
 But held his bended arms, as loath to smite,
 Against his sides; he seemed
 Fitter for sleep than fight;
Around his radiant head an ominous halo streamed.

Bright stars the window of my chamber bore,
As in a frame-work set; I strove to rise
Upon my elbow; said I "Never more,
Unless I strive,
Shall I behold the daylight with mine eyes."
And agony had chilled my being's core;
"Now shall I dive
With this dark angel who is over-wise,
Into his sunless halls,
Where the dark fate denies
A gleam of light, a flash of summer, to her thralls?"

The angel to my window moved, and gazed
Into my garden sweet with night and dew,
And, his head leaning on his arms, upraised
His speechless eyes:
Then, turning to my bed-side, slowly drew
My eyes to his, that held me dulled and dazed.
I strove to rise,
But a calm breeze from the still garden blew,
Over my weary brow,
And suddenly I knew
That, as his sad lips moved, he whispered softly, "Now."

And so I rose, night-garmented, and sped
 Swift doorwards, with the angel at my side
And marveled at the speed with which he led,
 Yet felt no speed,
 And he traversed much space and counties wide;
Past myriad towns o'er which were stars thick-
 spread,
 He still did lead.
And still I followed swiftly in his stride
 Over unshadowed lands;
 Then, by the yellow tide
Of a broad hastening stream, he turned, and seized my
 hands.

Now, on the purple hills the dawn did fall,
 Slow-moving, grey, it crept around the world,
And fringed with light the somber, flowing pall
 Of ancient Night;
 The angel's lips in sorrow deep are curled,
As one's whose steps are stayed by a great wall
 Of dreadful height,
 Or one's who spies an alien flag unfurled
 His city's heart within,
 And sees his kinsfolk hurled
From towers high, and hears their bones crash 'midst
 the din.

So gazed the angel as he dropped my hand,
And somberly surveyed the dawning day;
Then, lingering a moment on the strand,
 Unfurled his wings
That then I first saw; swift he sped away,
His wings vibrating as the skies he spanned;
 He passed the rings
Of light that fringe the sun,—his dark array
 Faded into the light,
 And so I wondering lay
Upon my couch, and lo! the day had conquered night!

And so they came to see me when daylight came,
I smiled at them and at the light of morn;
The sun had risen as a mighty flame;
 The morning breeze
Blew me the thrushes' singing; I was worn
And wearied pleasantly. They spoke my name.
 Slow-rustling trees
I heard them outside my window, on them borne
 The healing morning air,
 Ah! then no more forlorn,
I lay at ease, and smiled that life should seem so fair.