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Nos, Victuri, Salutamus.

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NOS, VIGTURI, SALUTAMUS.

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.)

At the close of a long life, reaching near the four-score years, few of the early friends are to be found to recall the past or exchange impressions of the future, yet if one has made the best use of his memories, and his hopes have become clearer as he has threaded the mazes of life he will have many sympathies with the young, and will be disposed to take old friends by the hand as we pass over. A few words as to some new thoughts and their mode of treatment. stands as it were on the inner or thither side of nature and speaks of the phenomena of existence from that side, rather than from the outer side of things. From watching the operations of his own mind, and the courses of action by others, and seeing that all loves, whether conscious or spontaneous, centre to the solf, and that the muscular or physical force of centralizing to the self is the prominent agency in drawing to and centering to and around the self, even as attraction draws to its centre; and that in all outward action, conscious or spontaneous, the muscular or physical force of projection. repulsion, is the prominent agency in such facts; and that the mind creates its own forms for embodiment in the various acts of life and works of fancy, he therefore treats the physical forces of nature as representative of mental or spiritual powers. The demonstration of this law of the universe he has made elsewhere in a more precise and formal manner. The use he has made of the ether as the nerve of the universe is fully justified by science, when it demonstrates that the sun is a

great electric battery, and the earth a great magnet, and most of the growths and changes which take place on the face of the world are produced by the action of the sun on the earth through the sensibility of this universal ether which extends everywhere and conveys to us the light of the farthest stars, distant from us myriads of millions of miles, so that thousands of years are necessary for the light to reach us, and beyond that is infinite. It is true our earth is but a dot, yet our minds go out with an infinite grasping to the stars and the nebulæ on the waves of the ether, in the measurement of its vibrations, much as we measure the forces along our nerves from the brain to the extremities. Having a moral system to which these and all other facts are subsidiary, it is proper that one who is about to live (victurus is the future participle of both vivo and vinco) should make his parting salutation.

Steenrod, May 14th, 1884.

The Crucial Life---The Transition of Humanity.

Ι.

Bring cypress and myrtle to crown the Dead, The dying Present, and the Past With dust of ages on him cast, And the sere leaves of Autumn lately shed. Autumnal leaves in dying glory shed Shall turn to dust whence forth they came, Or go to make some future flame, Or flowers for spring-time, in their early bed. Time died yesterday, and to-day he lies In death,—and he, to-morrow dies 'Mid laughing sounds and wailing cries,-And not a soul could live unless he dies. Time is immortality,—and time is life;— Its changes are the mortal span That measure all the life of man, Which by the forces make his field of strife. Bring cypress and myrtle to crown the dead; Emblems of death, emblems of love! Whence come they; -beneath or above, -Dark shadows of Fate, or symbols of Jove? Bring cypress and myrtle to crown the dead, For from dying and living come

Wail and laugh, and life's busy hum, The hurrying tramp, and the burying tread. Death moveth onwards, and onward moves life;—

Force into forces is changed,*
And atoms in order are ranged,
And Order rules over or comes out of strife.

Strife, from the forces forever shall come;—
Attraction to centres shall draw.—

 $\label{eq:Repulsion these centres shall flaw:-} Atoms, —these centres—are Nature's whole sum.$

Nature's whole sum, in these atoms of strife, Incessantly works into form.—

Th' ice that is cold, the blood that is warm,
The death that destroys, the *life* that gives life.
Attraction is shaped in manifold laws.

Yet by one law draws to its ends:—
What is Love that draws and that blends,—
That centres to self, and self is its cause?
So Repulsion comes from heart and from brain,
Offensive,—defensive in strife;—

And passion and love make the life,—
A life of forces,—or a life in vain.

A life in vain,—if empty, causeless thought,
And causeless love shall be no cause
To move the nerves, give force no laws
That in our conscious deeds our life be wronght.

Myrtle and cypress from ashes of life, And grasses, fruits, flowers and grain,— Needs of the poor, wants of the vain,

Come from the fires and the ashes of strife.

II.

Bring wine-cup and ivy to cheer the Heart,

The heart,—the hearts that are sinking,

The head,—the heads that are thinking

Of wearisome days,—and would sadly depart;—

Depart to the land of shadow and dream,

For that is the whole which we seem,
Light on the cloud, shade on the stream,
When the real is gone,—shadow and gleam!
Light gleams through shadows,—the shadow is life,
Glooms of the day, gleams of the night,

Glooms of the day, gleams of the night,
Woven from gloom, weaving to light,
And the woof and the warp is love and is strife.
And the shuttle of life with colors we fill

^{*}One of the scientific theories of forces.

Which picture the tints of the weft As it passes to right and to left By pulse of the heart, by thought, and by will. And the mottled web of our life is spun

From threads of woof,—from threads of weft

Across the warp from right to left, From glooms of night and rosy gleams of sun.

And this many-colored web of life is spun

By darkened thoughts, by brightened deeds, By lightened eyes, by heart that bleeds,

Until our mystic work of life is done.

Until the mystic work of life is done,—

By thought is done, and web is wove In pulse of guilt or throbs of love.

In colors, like changing hues from sun.

And the fateful web of our life is laid

From tints in the thread of life.

By the skill, and the work and the strife

Of the mystic self—the maker, and made. Maker and made! there are Powers that give

> Forces which this Maker may use, Other forces to use or abuse,

And fashion and weave the life he may live! 'Tis power of will that rules to outward fact,

Projectile force for conscious deed:

And so attractive force we read When conscious love gives life to conscious act.

And life's picture, with bright lines and with stain In the web of the life remains

Lighting the heart, darkening the brain. As we labor in love,—or labor in vain.

Serpents come forth and cross our human path,

The lamb its gentle nature owns. And human nature sadly moans

The human nature's folly, wrong, and wrath.

Man labors in love, though a love that will stain:

Mind has its glooms, hearts have their stains: Ape, serpent, and tiger have brains,

But man labors in love, or labors in vain,

If brains to ape, serpent, tiger, belong,

And their acts respond to their brains, And all shades of light are its stains,

Whence cometh the right, and whence cometh wrong!

TTT.

Bring flowers to crown the ghastly skull,—the skull Once many-thoughted,-wildly dazed,-

In its own light and gloom beerazed,— Dazed and becrazed;—with its own light too full. But now the thinker gone, no thought is there;—

No thought is there,—no love for thought,
From heart to askes turned, is brought
To give a bliss, or cause a future care.
The relace of the life are govern-

The ashes of the life are gone,—are gone;—

Where gone;—whither! Gone where they serve New sense to make, and newer nerve Of the universal Life that hurries on.

The empty skull,—the emptied skull is here:—
No thought, no love,—the real gone,—
Gone with the Life that hurries on

And thro' this skull no more shall think or fear.— Bring flowers to crown my life;—bring wine— Bring ruby wine and woman's smile,—

True or false:—shadows will beguile

The passing moment:—passing shall be mine.

Be mine,—be mine;—snatched from th' Eternal Now,

Shall now,—shall now be mine, and mine

In my divinity divine,
The passing life with pleasures I endow.
And mine in my divinity divine,—

The wine of life inflames the soul,
The wine of life inflames the whole,
And sense, and joy, and love I drink as wine.

IV.

To-morrow,—to-morrow is the fool of time,
Which is, and is not till it come
With cant of prayer or roll of drum,
And all the *rights* it brings are linked with crime.
Linked with crime, and grimmed with blood, and gained

By indirection and sharp deceit, Which all the ages oft repeat,

And Rights by Wrongs are founded and sustained. 'Tis war for life, 'tis toil for daily bread;

'Tis war for rights that must be won, Heroic deeds that must be done, Till human rights o'er human wrongs shall tread. To-day,—this day we are the fools of time;

In thought, in love, in busy deed
We idly laugh or inly bleed,

And curse what yesterday we deemed sublime. What yesterday we did and deemed sublime,

And walked the earth with port erect, To-day the very fools detect As errant folly, or as arrant crime!

Bring wine; -with radiant wine dry up the tears,

And let the blood flow freely on,

And fill some other use when we are gone,— The empty skull holds nor thoughts, nor loves nor fears.

And painted imagery of woof and weft

Of passion, changing love and thought,

With changing phantasies o'er wrought, Perish in their own law of change,—nor trace is left.

No trace is left except the law of change,

Which on the Past the Future builds

And with the ash of death still gilds

The varied change of nature's mighty range,— Changing and changing still. All things

Are changing in perpetual flow;

The changing forces come and go,—

Earth's mutability but changes brings.

'Tis toil for daily bread, and they shall keep

Who have, and they will get who can;

'Tis man at war with fellow man ;—

The weak and poor must sow, the strong will reap. They who have, they who thrive will learn to keep,

Or there's no proper state for man:

Such is the law since life began,

Tho' some may laugh, tho' many more may weep.

And rank, and wealth, and state and church are built

On human rights—it so will be,—

And contests fierce shall constantly

Record this two-fold sum of human guilt.

Wrongs lurk in rights; rights in endless toil

And heart-break struggle must be found;

And so we pace life's weary round To find at every step some sad recoil.

Bring flowers to crown the skull; bring wine

To cheer the heart and make it ring

With thoughts the living brain shall bring,

With thought and love the moment make divine.

This much we catch, but may not, cannot keep

Succession of these lights and shades,— Gloom that changes, and light that fades,—

And in the gloom of all life sinks to sleep.

v.

Earth—Time, the great kaleidoscope, revolves,
And many pictured changes brings—
Shadows of earth's all changing things,
And movement is the only truth it solves.

The infinite life is hurrying on,

And space the changing phantoms fill,— Changes of thought, of love, of will, With which to seek the Unchanging One.
The Unchanging One!—if such there be,

In mutability is lost,

And Self, by every tempest tost, May find no rest upon the shoreless sea. May find no rest upon this shoreless sea,

Where every thing in change is lost,
And where this self is tempest tost,
But would not rest in sloth eternally:

But would not rest,—and would not change—yet be

A self-directive power to act—
Self-creator of conscious fact,
And by conscious facts proclaim that he is free:
That he is free to do, and free to dare

And win some conscious prize of life,
A self-reward, tho' born of strife,—
If strengthened by the struggle with despair.
And strengthened by the struggle with despair,

And worn and weary never quails,
And worn and weary never wails,
Looks to his toil and peace is smiling there;
Hope, tried and firm,—not she of silken curls—

Holds steady helm,—o'er Fate prevails, Looks to himself, and sets all sails Into the dark sea that circles all the worlds; With burning thoughts that press him to the sea

Of time and space—immensity,— Where his own self, by truth, shall be The measure of its dread eternity.

VI.

And the mystic work of life is all done
By the forces of life in each,
As upward and onward we reach,
And the summit by toil of brain is won;
And the summit by heart and by brain is won,—

For there is high, and there is low In mind to which this self may go,— Dark deeps that are conscious, heights light as the sun. 'Tis foulness of depth, or grandeur of height,

As truly and clearly the goal
Is the noblest summit of soul
Where love is all pure and knowledge all light.
And knowledge and love are the Powers of life

Which to him who wins may belong:—
Baffled in right, baffled by wrong,—
He is th' autocrat who rules in the strife.
He moves thro the strife in his own manly air,
And weary and worn never wails,
And weary and worn never quails,
His light in his soul, his heel on despair.

Bring cypress to crown the dead,—myrtle bring
For chaplets on the living brow,
For all,—for all is passing now,
And wail and wassail in earth's echoes ring.
And wail and wassail thro the ages ring,—
But for a higher, broader brow
Which truth and genius shall endow,
The laurel, palm, oak, and olive bring;
And the coming man in his place shall stand,
Bearing the torch of all the lights,
Bearing the sword to guard all rights,
Bearing the lofty soul of just command.

VII.

Memories!—The sad memories when hope is none, And dead—the hope forever dead, And on the dust of life we tread, And there is no goal of Love which may be won! No love to woo the heart and win the mind! Whence, how, and why or mind or heart; Joy when we come, grief when depart, Love for the lost, or those we leave behind? No mind no thought,—no love, no purposed mind;— All ends are in some purpose fixed;— All deeds are thought and purpose mixed; And thought, and love, and will are powers combined; And to the outward world their strength display By forces that thro' muscles move, As ponderous weight in iron groove, And their power of cause stands as open day. Memory and hope in life's full current flow, Make all the past and future one-Make life continuous life begun, And on the future all the past bestow. Scene passes scene, and nobler aims of strife With newer forms of thought appear— Higher in each coming year With richer memories and with fuller life; As if through all a conscious moving soul

The onward life of Thought diffused,
The upward life of Love suffused—
Brought from the past, into the future roll.
And in the whole all to one issue tend:

Love and thought unfold the plan, Completed in perfected man.

The salient aim in such a salient end.

Nature, in grades, ascends to higher planes,

Man on to broader life *deploys*,

To higher aimings, richer joys,—

Tis the same power which man more fully gains. Tis in the Book, God said that all was good,

Fitted to changing time and place,
Tho' God's own image we deface

And write all human rights in blood.

Such goodness, then, is in some far-off end

Which growing goodness may attain, And human will, thro' toil and pain, To this great issue all its powers must bend.

So reads the regal law in nature's page,
And measures all the acts of men,

And doom prescribes with iron pen When base corruption spreads from age to age.

End:—concordant means thro' all changes shine:
Tho' shadows mix with broken light.

The very shadows mould the sight,
As thro' some screen is poured the light divine.

The shadowy changes are but forms of light
In soft or darker shadows cast,

And shadows passing, shadows past

Are pictures on the screen of human sight.

And pictures come; they live, they go, each fades

As shadows cast their darkness o'er,

But ever and for-ever-more

Thro all a nerve of life and power pervades. Slight *tact* for touch, slight touch for every nerve.

Slight touch upon the talking wire,

Deep throbs which spring from each desire,

Bespeak a cause all fitted ends to serve! Bespeak a cause all fitted means to serve,

All ends in matter well to gain,
All functions of the active brain

That send their forces thro each living nerve, Where mind presides to alter, change, supply,

And give the impress of its cause, And stamp intelligence in laws

Where means and ends to conscious wish reply.

And what is wish but love,—and love is fear T' offend the majesty of mind, And binds the good in kind to kind, And meaning gives to time's unfolding year. Forces, in forms, thro nature's changes wind; They fill the ether's starry deep, And order give, and order keep-Memorial and prophecy of Mind. So mind is there; an universal nerve Whose touch to deepest, farthest space May reach, in slow or swiftest pace, Is there and everywhere that mind to serve. Across the deeps of time and starry space The nerve of Ether gives the ken Of kindling worlds and dying men, And the whole moves within its wide embrace.* Within, without the range of human sight It moves, an universal sense, Moves and works in omnipresence, And forms of matter are richer nodes of light. Light was in earth's billowing atoms nursed, And the first germs of nature fed, Remoulds the ashes of the dead, And in the *last* produces still the *first*. And light thro all the mazy courses runs, Gives form to flowers, gives life to seeds, And with abundant bounty feeds The living movements of the worlds and suns. Light in crude nature moulds the flow of all, And light is life, and light is mind, And binds all men in kind to kind, And breaks the darkness of the eternal pall. The darkness when no law or order was; No law in force to rule the deep, No order law to give or keep, And nothing was, or nothing was as cause. For light is but a blank and arid cause That science measures in the waves Of ether; living self-hood eraves

When Dr. Samuel Clarke (1675-1727) published his great work, "The Being and Attributes of God," Bishop Butler (1692-1752) took exception that he made space a self-existent something which filled and pervaded the infinitude and was therefore evidence of any eternal omnipresent entithy. Later writers hold that Clarke made no such vain proposition. Space, in itself, is not a power, agency, or entity. It is but the nominal emptiness in which powers, forces, entities are and work. Had Dr. Clarke known, as all scientists now know, that an actual and communicating ether filled all space, that portion of his argument would have had a more solid base and a clearer significance. Those readers who may be curious to see how great minds do not, sometimes, understand themselves, and cannot interpret themselves to each other, can find a remarkable instance of this in the correspondence on this subject between these two able men, contained in an appendix to the Life of Bishop Butler.

The higher truth that speaks from *living* laws. If cause affects the mind, then what is mind So to explore, and feel, and know Cause in its universal flow, And as conscious cause its own self-hood find. In conscious cause its conscious self-hood find.

And know the *light* behind the light
That gives thought, love, will, clear insight
That so in *life* thro' all the darkness wind;
And darkness knows as absence of the light.

And darkness knows as absence of the light,
And so the light is known as cause
That giveth life, that giveth laws,

And gives to man, alone, the sense of right. So nature is transparent screen impressed

With forms of all we see or know, And lights behind it thro' it flow In living warmth, and living cause attest. If nothing was, whence all this moving cause

Of series in successive flow;
If cause moves all things here below
Whence order, in its multitude of laws?
If evolution—and naught else—then blank

All nature in beginning was,
And involution was not cause;
But cause and involution equal rank.
If involution.—all involved in seed

f involution,—all involved in seed
Of possibilities to act
And make the universal fact,—

Then all *potentialities* of deed
To provision th' universe were there,

And the great whole in system bind And give the crown of mind from Mind, And *mind* was more than formless plasm, *or air*,

Or aught that evolution can suppose

For eause, or chance, or sightless law,
Or thought, or will, or love, or awe,
For instinct races, or the mind that knows.
Man's mind, that plans by its creative force,
Reads the great system of the whole,
And draws, in richness, from his soul
Bright previsions of natures wisest course.*
And endless cause, which all the future moves,

Is Immortality of Power;

^{*}It is certain that men have demonstrated problems in science and mathematics before it was known that they had been employed in the structure of the universe, or in the movement of its parts. It is also certain that without this prevision of the mind of man many of the discoveries of the laws of nature would not have been made, or would not have been made as early as they were. Many important instances could be cited.

If Future has no *fated* hour
Its past, eternal as the future proves.

If formless plasm,—then it again may be,

And all the phantom-scenes may pass Like pictures mirrored in the glass,—

But how the picture, how the glass I see? If pictures mirrored in the glass I see

But endless changes are present, Their endless cause they represent

In moving order to this thoughful me.

If in the causes as they onward trend

Thought, love and will I trace or find, Then all the elements of mind

Are there, and to that Mind my brow I bend. Mind which, in certitude, in varied laws,

O'er all, its order supervenes,

In system moves the shifting scenes By wisdom, iove and power, is Primal Cause. Then what is mind?—Self-consciousness of Power

To mould and move in forms of thought,

Thought or matter into action brought For act and END of love, earth's noblest dower.

There is no deeper base for universal cause

Than thought, and love and will;

And these, in energy fulfil The varied change of life; and nature's laws, In like results, fill all her vast domain,

And, like the picture-books in schools,

Teach wisest men her wisest rules,

But first, the mind to know leads all the train. And Love must combat Wrong, and suffer seathe;

How else could Love its nature prove;

How else can wisdom wed with love,

And reach to Him, thro' discords, but by faith?

And what is faith but thought; and tove, and will,

Seeking their full accord of life,

And thro' the dim and mazy strife

Their own concurring oneness to fulfil.

For Love attracts, tho' knowledge vague and slight May guide its wandering, devious ways;

Love impels, aspires, gathers rays

Of thought, deeper love and power, in trifold light. Love attracts in love, and will projects its force,

And Reason's laws we all can see,

And man, in his divinity,

Is the rich emblem of his living source.

God creates; man creates in kindred kind, And power and force to both belong :--Noble life is the epic song Of mind which represents eternal mind. The trifold *light* thro nature's shadows shine, In wisdom formed, by love inspired; In wisdom and in love attired Creative power proclaims itself divine. And in the causes as they onward roll Wisdom and love and power I find, And as nature's mirrored to my mind This higher truth is mirrored in my soul. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes; nature gives And takes, and moves her means of life, And all our days are change and strife, But 'tis by truth and love the Spirit lives;

Truth gathered in each sad and flowing year,
Truth garnered from the awful past,
And love like light on hill tops cast,
To fill with joyance all the rolling sphere.

VIII.

In nature all things place and fitness find, Crude, fierce, wild, wayward tho they be: Each perfect in its sort we see: The perfect whole reflects the perfect mind— So far; and all the parts in eddying whirls Of movements in their systems joined, And systems into system groined Is thought infinite arching all the worlds. Think matter! 'Tis of forces that we think, That many forms of show assume. And change like pictures of the loom, But still there is a factive missing link. Think mind! and Power at once comes forth to view, And thought must have its fitting place, And Love will come in charm and grace, And Person—God and Man—these will endue. Man, thinker, lover, actor, systems finds, Of evil, which to evil moves, Of good, which all goodness loves, And here we find the work and test of minds. 'Tis love of evil, and 'tis love of good, And 'tis this self which must decide, This deepmost, inner conflict guide

In council of his spirit's solitude.

And shall we think and love and act in vain?

No: by knowledge of the right,
By power of love, stronger than might,
Unite all powers in love and summit gain.
This deepmost, inner Life shall rise thro' night
With Powers unfolded in the strife,
Perfected in the life of life,
And from itself shall find the light of light.

IX.

Each self is free to do and free to dare; Self-director of conscious act, Self-creator of conscious fact, And by thought, love, and act of all is heir. What if he toils and struggles with the wrong, And love and hope, and knowledge gains, And thus his higher end attains— Then life is the true melody of song,-Then life is the full melody of song Upon this brink of shoreless sea, The authem, toned eternally To truth and love which win the right from wrong, That win the right and leave no wrong behind To stain the pathway of the past--To stain the love the Father cast O'er all his works, from his omniscient mind, Mind from his universal centre sends Life in glorious plenitude— Life, flowing in infinitude, Blending in love, and in his wisdom blends— Hope, tried and firm, her victor's flag unfurls-Holds steady helm—o'er fate prevails— With conscious purpose sets all sails Into the sea of light which eircles all the worlds.

х,

Life—of its noblest heritage be heir,
Face wrong, the Right maintain, nor let Despair
Stain the rich thought and Love thou hast.
Memory and Hope from out the Past,
Like Light into the Morning cast,
Like Morn which filled the formless Vast
With Light and shade for Time's immortal year
Shall weave the robes that Purity shall wear.

Bring olive and palm—the Olive and Palm Sing life's choral hymn, chant life's choral psalm When the undying dead lies here,
And thought and love conquer despair,
And man's son shall be God's own heir,
Robed in truth, the light he shall wear,
Wearing the olive crown, wearing the palm,
Whose thoughts were a Hymn, whose deeds were a Psalm.





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