

POETRY.

THE ANGEL OF THE TWILIGHT

BY WALLACE BARNES.

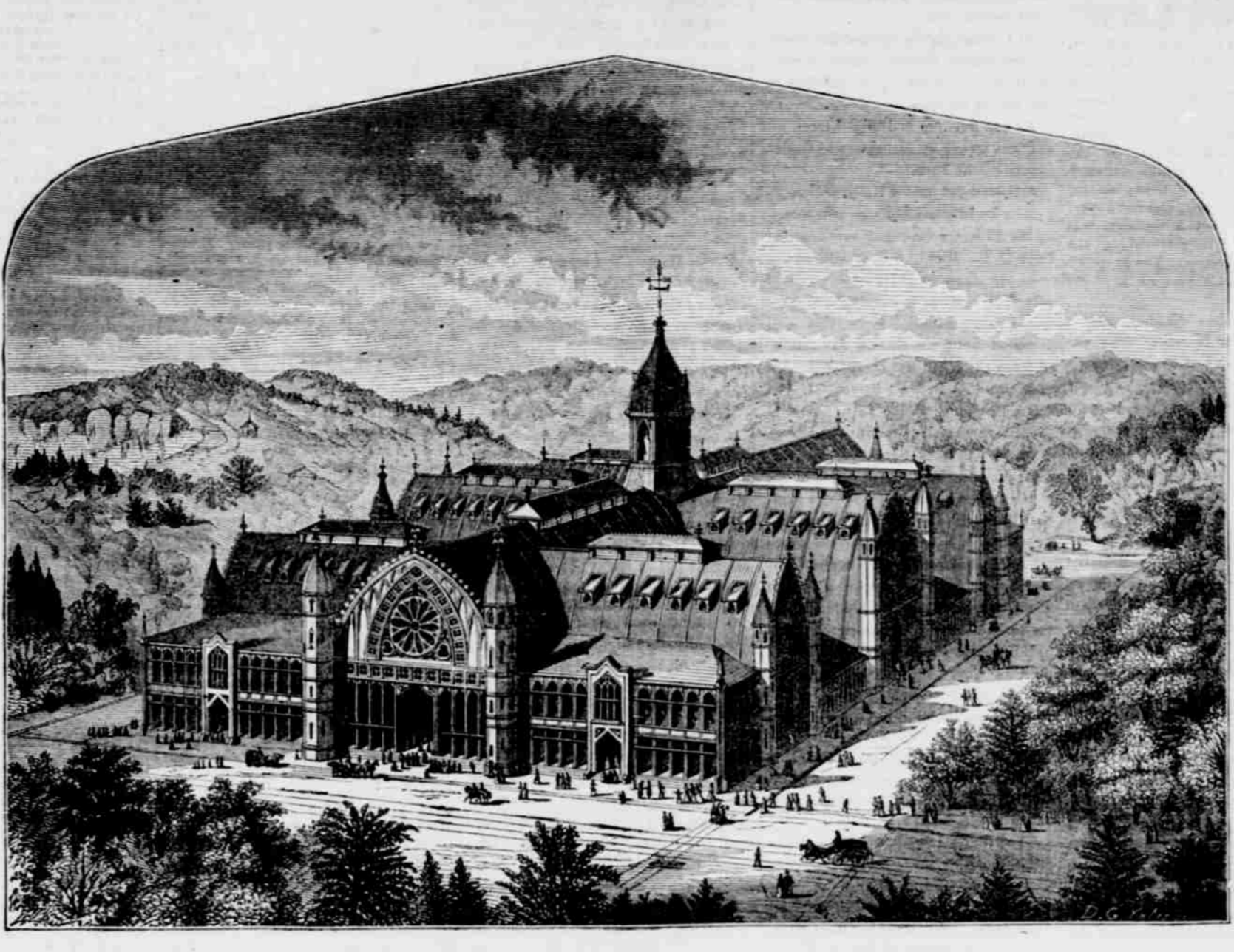
When the long evenings slanting grow In crystal rafters over the beach...

Once more an old grief comes and wrestles As Jacob wrestled at Jacob's ford...

THE DIVER'S STORY.

"To be caught in a tight place, with twenty fathoms of water above, and a stillness, as of death, about you...

"The sea was running pretty high" as I was carried down in my heavy armor from the deck of the steamer...



CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION OF 1876.—THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.

How a Woman Posts a Letter.

Any day when you have time you can see how she does it by dropping into the post-office. She arrives there with the letter in her hand...

"Great caution was necessary lest I should become entangled among the ropes or caught under the shifting...

Important Invention for Making Bags.

Two hundred millions of sacks and bags are annually used throughout the globe. Of this vast number, fully a hundred million are manufactured in England...

Real and Apparent Death.

People who fear that they may possibly be buried alive will be glad to know that Dr. Donchut, one of the leading physicians of Paris...

"Great Heaven! what did it all mean? Had they forgotten me? Were they to leave me there at the bottom of the sea with that awful crew?"

"Was it some monster who was playing with my rope?—some great fish who was holding it in his jaws?"

"I was alone at the bottom of the sea, with no means of signaling my distress! The india-rubber tube, which was my only means of breathing, was left to me; but as soon as they should begin to wind in the ropes and tube, it would snap in two, and the waters would come in upon me."

"What I craved? Was I mad, or was this a new torture for me in my last moments? I had laid quiet and fast asleep. I started up in terror, uttering a cry—a weak, miserable cry, which died on my lips as I sank again on the deck and closed my eyes to a terrible sleep."

"We saw what was wrong right away, dear boy," he said to me afterward, when the ragged ends of your ropes floated to the surface. There was only one way of reaching you, old fellow, and I can tell you we drew around lively. We had no "bell" to go down to you in, so we just fastened some weights to my feet, and ropes to my arms. I took a rubber mouth-piece between my teeth, and dropped overboard. The water oppressed me fearfully, and I couldn't have stood it more than a few minutes. In that few minutes I found you, old fellow, caught in my arms, and signalled them to haul us up mighty quick. I couldn't have stood it much longer, dear boy, for it was killing me. You took his dear hands in mine, and looked into his good, honest eyes. With a swelling heart I told him in such words as I could, of my gratitude for his heroic efforts when he came down through the waters at the risk of his own life to save mine."

The first time I visited England, under the influence of a few days' impressions I wrote a friend: "England is a picture of happiness and a dream of beauty. All her meadows are green, all her window-curtains are white, all her mutton-chops are tender, all her chambermaids are beautiful. The idea of a war with such a country is simply absurd."

"I continued my walk along the crowded Strand, a low pleasant voice, always in my ear, said: 'Don't look behind, sir.' If anything was likely to make me look behind, it was just that. But I didn't. I kept my course without turning my head."

"I dashed to the door. By the mercy of God it was not locked. I slammed it to after me and flew on my way. Not Byron's steel, the 'Far of the Ukraine' brood, with Mazaepa on his back, not Camilla skipping or the unbenching corn, got over the ground much faster than I as I leaped across that gloomy court, burst into the gin palace and out of it again, and winged my breathless and inglorious flight away from my pursuer, whose tread I could hear approaching nearer and nearer behind me. By what heavenly instinct, by what unseen guidance, I threaded that dark, filthy, and not very nice-smelling labyrinth of turnings and windings I know not, but I did thread it, and suddenly found myself in one of the open, respectable streets. The tread of my pursuer ceased: I was safe.—Lippincott's Magazine.

The production of opium in Asia Minor, which in former years averaged annually from 2000 to 3000 bales or cases, each containing 150 pounds, has of late years much increased, and the crop now averages from 4000 to 6000 bales. Out of this quantity, which is shipped at Smyrna, the United States take over 2000 cases. England at one time consumed a large proportion. The Dutch East India Company also for many years has purchased a large quantity annually to send to the Islands of Java, Batavia and Sumatra, and of late years the consumption generally has largely increased, especially for North and South America and the West Indies. Turkey opium is always preferred in England before that of India, as it contains a much higher percentage of morphia than either Indian or Persian; it is on this account that the greater portion of the opium used for medical purposes both in Europe and America, is the production of Asia Minor. The price of opium in the market has advanced much of late; from fifteen years ago the average price was about \$1.75 per pound, and it now realizes about \$3 per pound, though the fair character even of this product has been tarnished by a system of adulteration which has prevailed during the last two years.

The Agricultural Building. One of the most impressive sections of the Centennial Exposition, in view of the interests of the great West, and of the class so powerfully represented in the present day by the Grange organization, will certainly be the "Palace of the Patrons of Husbandry," as it might appropriately be designated, but which in the nomenclature of the Centennial Commissioners is simply THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDING. This fine structure, having in its immediate vicinity a stock yard, with divisions for horses, cattle, sheep and swine, and poultry-houses, will be located north of the Conservatory and on the east side of Belmont Avenue. The ground plan of this department, covering an area of about ten acres, is a parallelogram of 540 by 820 feet; constructed chiefly of wood and glass, it will consist of a long nave crossed by three transepts, both nave and transepts being constituted of truss arches of a Gothic style. This is intended for the reception of every kind of agricultural and dairy implements and utensils, except of course such as are property included in the machinery department. Such an exhibition, aided, as it will be, by the fraternal feeling which now exists among the farming profession, cannot fail to inspire a lively interest in the present, and be productive of substantial benefit in the future. There will also be arranged in this section specimens of grain, and products generally, which, considering the wide area and capabilities of the soil, should insure a national display of vast importance, and place the Agricultural interests of this country in a position to compare favorably with other developments of the national progress during the past century. The Farming fraternity should certainly take a lively, earnest, and liberal interest in making this department in particular, and the Centennial Exposition in general, an undoubted and proud success.

An eminently effective method of identifying the Agricultural interests with the culmination of the Celebration would be a mass convention of "Grange delegates" from every State in the Union, meeting in Philadelphia on the Fourth of July, 1876, and proceeding in a body to this section of the Exposition. Such a demonstration, given in itself an imposing and cord with the spirit of the order, and the assemblage of Patrons of Husbandry, representing every variety of soil culture from Maine to Texas, would be in itself an imposing and interesting national spectacle.

The Woman Who Lived as Long as She Wanted to. The legend says there once dwelt on the island of Patmos a lady of rare wit who was extremely rich, but had neither son or daughter to inherit her wealth. She therefore resolved to dedicate it to a pious use, and caused a church to be built which was both spacious and magnificent. When it was completed, she had the altar candles lighted, and going through the choir to the altar she cast herself on her knees and prayed to God that in reward for her pious gift he would add as many years to her life as her church should stand. From time to time her relatives and servants died, but she who had made so foolish a prayer lived on. At length she had no longer relative or friend. She saw children grow up, become aged, and their children again grow old, while she herself was wasting through extreme age, so that she gradually lost the use of all her senses. Sometimes however, she recovered her voice, and on one Christmas night she desired to be laid in an oak coffin, and placed in the church, that she might there die, but that the priest should attend her, every Christmas night to receive her commands. From that time her coffin was stood in the church, but she has not been permitted to die. Every Christmas night, the priest goes to her, lifts the lid of the coffin, and as he raises it, she rises slowly up. When sitting she asks, "is my church yet standing?" And when

the priest answers, "Yes," she sighs and says: "Al! did I grant that my church were built? For then only would my affairs be quiet."

She then sinks back into the coffin, the priest lets the lid fall, and comes not again until the next Christmas night tolls from the high church tower. —Home and School Louisville, Ky.

It is an interesting fact that the Greek word translated "daily" in our version of the Lord's Prayer—epiosion—is a word found nowhere in Greek literature, sacred or profane, except in this divine portion, as given by Matthew and by Luke. Its literal meaning has been discussed by Origin, Chrysostom, Theophylactus—in short, by innumerable fathers and commentators, ancient and modern. In various Latin versions of the Gospel, in my library, I find it rendered super-subsistentibus, sufficientibus, quotidianis; but though Jerome speaks, in using the first, to suppose spiritual bread implied, Rome has not followed him, but uses in her missals quotidianus.

The King James translators showed great wisdom and a thorough comprehension of the original in their translation of the word "daily,"— "Give us this day our daily bread." They saw no intelligent person uses the words of the prayer without the clear idea that he asks on this day the proper, necessary and customary support of every day, which hangs back for every day to be found in the Greek word, yet the whole idea of the Greek is contained in the English sentence. "Give us this day our daily bread." The fact that the Lord's Prayer in the original Greek version, contains an important word found nowhere else, seems to me worthy a note.

Some people never make acquaintances, but shut themselves up from their kind like an oyster in its shell; while others—say by far the happiest—are never at a loss for cheerful companionship. It is not hard to make acquaintances if we set about it the right way; but it is useless to hang back for every door to be opened; we must push them ourselves. Said a lady to me the other day, "I never make any acquaintances when traveling. I wish a renowned scholar to the sea, and then I acquainted with everybody. I talk to the woman who sweeps the ferry boats, and to any decent person who happens to sit by me in the cars. I find every human heart is human, and then I can learn something I didn't know before from every new acquaintance, or communicate information that may be valuable to them. We are all part of the same family, and we must help each other, and will benefit the community in which we live, and add constantly to the number of our friends."

Orderly Habits. Men are admitted to be more untidy than women. "One boy creates more trouble in a house than three girls," says many a suffering mother. But, after all, she's to blame for it; there's no real reason why a boy should not form tidy habits. One of the benefits that the mother of sons can confer on her own sex and all the world beside, is to form in them the habit of putting things in place. This can be done only by following them around and requiring them, when they are through with a library book, to put it on the shelf where it belongs; when they take off their overcoats to hang them on the rack; when skates are unstrapped or boots taken off that they be put somewhere else beside on the hearth rug or under foot; when slippers are removed off their overcoats to hang them on the rack; when she has not been permitted to die. Every Christmas night, the priest goes to her, lifts the lid of the coffin, and as he raises it, she rises slowly up. When sitting she asks, "is my church yet standing?" And when

The duties of a schoolmaster in 1661 were as follows:—"To read the canon messenger; to serve summonses; to conduct services in the church; to lead the choir on Sundays; to ring the bell for public worship; to dig the graves; to take charge of the school; and to perform other occasional duties. Hence the compound word over-worked.

In the city of Cognac, France, there is an establishment fitted with an automatic indicator to guard against theft. It is simply a mercury rises to a certain point it starts an electric alarm, which rings a bell in the proprietor's quarters. It prevents a burglar from the ordinary burglar alarm against thieves.

The villa in which Michael Angelo was born, and in which he passed his childhood, is now occupied by a lineal descendant of his old enemy, Baccio Pontormo, and these old and new great artist, including that of the so-called Sisyphus, the upper portion of which only remains to be seen. A very old chimney-piece said to have been sculptured by him in his youth.

The following test may be applied to quartz to determine its surface character: After being well ground and calcined it should be treated with a bath of iodine or bromine, and allowed to digest in it for some time. Then a piece of filter paper should be soaked in the solution, dried, and burned to ash. If the ash is purple, it presents the ash is purple. One pennyweight of gold to the ton may thus be detected.

At Mons, in Belgium, this is the way the public "interviews" the manager when it has a quarrel with him. He plays some one in the gallery shies a folded letter to the stage, and as it falls all the interested public call out, "Read it!" It reads: "There is no peace till the manager's resignation is accepted. The gentleman has to come forward and explain. It is not a bad institution, but they have just decided in the courts that it is 'disorderly.'"

The following marriage certificate was recently found among some old archives of the town of Norwich, Conn. There was no date of the year, but the penmanship and paper bore testimony to the fact that it was a document of the year 1840. "Married, at Norwich, Sunday evening, 31st of December, Dr. Enoch Smith, so called, aged 60, more or less, a renowned collier, to the said, and accomplished Miss Mary Melony a celebrated tailor, aged 26; next grass:—"

To kill time—Take a horse and sleigh it. Sweetening one's coffee is generally the best stirring sort of the Attila, so historians say, often dined on horseback. We prefer canvas back.

The sentinel who did not sleep on his watch had left it at the pawnbroker's. The fisheries on the coast of Scotland during the past season have yielded more than 8,000,000 of herrings.

When a naughty little boy breaks a window, he should be punished on the principle that panes and penalties go together. The boy's new trousers, copper-fastened throughout, and plated at the knee so as to be impregnable to friction are known as the "once plus ultra."

"What," said a teacher to a pupil, "makes you feel uncomfortable after you have done a lesson?" "My papa's big leather strap," feelingly replied the boy.

A Scotch divine recently praying said:—"O Lord, give unto us neither poverty nor riches; and passing solemnly a moment, he added, 'especially poverty.'"

The Americans being the better looking, of course had an advantage over the Englishmen in the late interview of Venues and got more than their share of smiles.