

Thanks for the heavenly message brought by thee,
 Child of the wandering sea,
 Cast from her lap, forlorn !
 From thy dead lips a clearer note is born
 Than ever triton blew from wreathed horn !
 While on my ear it rings, [that sings :—
 Through the deep caves of thought I hear a voice

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
 As the swift seasons roll !
 Leave thy low-vaulted past !
 Let each new temple, nobler than the last
 Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
 Till thou at length art free,
 Leaving thine out-grown shell by life's unresting sea.
 —OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

ALCHEMY.

Prepared by a student of Acadia College, Wolfville, as a class exercise.

A number of scientists and philosophers of considerable note have advanced, and to some extent propagated the theory that man, the lord of the universe, has genealogically descended, and at the same time morally, physically and intellectually ascended by a process of regular gradation from an origin most humble. As to the truth or absurdity of this proposition we shall not attempt a discussion. But that a constant order and progression from a feeble beginning to a greater and wider strength is observed in all created things which by the law of their being are not immutable is a fact universally admitted because it has found illustration on every page of life. Perhaps no better illustration is possible than that which follows the observation of the working of human mind and its hard struggle after truth. It has ever been the case that first searchings into deep, mysterious and hidden truths, which only by patient study and long experience can be brought into the light of complete revelation, have been uncertain and mistaken. It is our present purpose to speak briefly of the first slow, and to our superior wisdom, almost ridiculous efforts of the human mind, as