

Let judges and criminals be transposed! let the prison-keepers
be put in prison! let those that were prisoners take the
keys! Say! why might they not just as well be trans-
posed?)¹

Let the slaves be masters! let the masters become slaves!

Let the reformers descend from the stands where they are forever
bawling! let an idiot or insane person appear on each of
the stands!²

Let the Asiatic, the African, the European, the American, and
the Australian, go armed against the murderous stealthi-
ness of each other! let them sleep armed! let none be-
lieve in good will!

Let there be no unfashionable³ wisdom! let such be scorn'd and
derided off from the earth!

Let a floating cloud in the sky—let a wave of the sea⁴—let grow-
ing mint, spinach, onions, tomatoes—let these be ex-
hibited as shows, at a great price for admission!

Let all the men of These States stand aside for a few smouchers!
let the few seize on what they choose! let the rest gawk,
giggle, starve, obey!⁵⁰

Let shadows be furnish'd with genitals! let substances be deprived
of their genitals!

Let there be wealthy and immense cities—but still through any
of them, not a single poet, savior, knower, lover!

Let the infidels of These States laugh all faith away!

If one man be found who has faith, let the rest set upon him!

Let them affright faith! let them destroy the power of breeding
faith!

Let the she-harlots and the he-harlots be prudent! let them
dance on, while seeming lasts! (O seeming! seeming!
seeming!)

Let the preachers recite creeds! let them still teach only what
they have been taught!⁵

Let insanity still have charge of sanity!

Let books take the place of trees, animals, rivers, clouds!

¹ See note at line 22.

² See note at line 22.

³ 1856 for "unfashionable" reads "living."

⁴ 1856 '60 add "—Let one glimpse of your eye-sight upon the landscape
or grass—"

⁵ "let them teach only what they have been taught!" added in 1860. 1856
'60, after line 57 read "Let the preacher of creeds never dare to go meditate
upon the hills, alone, by day or by night! (If one ever once dare, he is lost!)"