

some one of those green oases which fled fast and ever faster, as he stretched nerve to reach them, before they vanished into the sunset! Oh, for some high, holy, tenable belief!

We see the lonely scholar lay down his stylus, and look out into the night; his dark inquisitive eyes slowly filling with tears. He joins the tips of his two outstretched forefingers and his two thumbs, lapping the one over the other, making, unconsciously, under the impact of an overpowering thought, an isosceles triangle (a symbol employed by Browning with wonderful effectiveness in "The Ring and The Book," and lying half-concealed in this, and some others of his poems). We hear his heart tread in, fast and faster, upon the brain, gaining ground there; our own hearts throb in rapturous unison with it; we hear his rapid, audible, inspired reasoning, as the thumbs draw back, widening gradually the base of the imperfect triangle we hear him murmur: "This overwhelming knowledge on the one hand, this resistless force on the other! if I could find a base broad enough upon which to rest them!—and this story of the epileptic about Jesus—ha! that would lengthen the basal line and, equalizing the three, make—why God!—a God men might adore." The thumbs recede more and more as the starved heart pleads with the inflexible, stern mind, demanding the "last ounce of flesh, the last drop of blood;" he glances into the blue Syrian-sky, and thinks he sees a right-angle-triangle outlined in stars! They merge slowly and lo, they are all one star, large, luminous, tender! Is it that one which had, some years ago, led the Magi—he had known them in his boyhood, as boys do know mature men—they were his countrymen—to a peasant baby's cradle in Bethlehem? Again he takes up the stylus, not to say, "if this miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus had been a verity it would account for this man's life—if it were the prelude to the rising from the dead of him who effected it, which is, in fact, stoutly insisted upon by some few obscure men—his followers—too undisciplined, it may be, to prove the truth of their assertion, but not too feeble to die to maintain it—it would solve many questions, hitherto unanswerable—not to say this, but to write:

"The very God! Think Abib, dost thou think?  
So, the All-Great were the All-Loving too—  
So, through the thunder comes a human voice  
Saying, 'O heart, I made a heart beat here!  
Face my hands fashioned see it in myself!  
Thou hast no power nor may'st conceive of mine  
But love I gave thee with myself to love!  
The madman saith he said so; it is strange!"

Surely this poem, the least difficult because the most individual and immediate of Browning's, opens for us the very heart of the poet: it draws back, very reverently, the veil of its innermost sanctuary, and if that august figure, which we perceive to have gone in before, be another than the Son of God, "It is very strange."

M. R. ADAMS.

### The Harvest.

They are gathering in the harvest,  
From the fields of green and gold;  
The woodland shadows deepen  
And the nights are growing cold.  
The birds in hedge and thicket,  
Are sober now and dumb:  
'Tis time we hoisted anchor,  
And went a-voyaging home.

We are tarrying in a stranger land,  
A stranger band among;  
We see few faces that we know  
When you and I were young;  
The hearts to ours responsive once  
Have pulseless now become:  
'Tis time we hoisted anchor  
And went a-voyaging home.

There is much that's very beautiful  
In these sober autumn days,  
In the tints of field and forest,  
In shimmering brooks and bays.  
But somehow, all the day long  
We wish the night would come:  
'Tis time we hoisted anchor  
And went a-voyaging home.

St. John, N.B.

H. L. SPENCER.

### Causes of the War of 1812.

AS in the early colonial history of America many of the descendants of the Puritans and Parliamentarians of England, settled in New England, were hostile to royalty and the Government of England, and in the American revolutionary epoch the Continental Congress party of democrats was suspicious of the designs of the officers of the Continental Army to create a royalty with Washington for king, so after the time of Washington these same parties existed as Federalists and Republicans, the one in favour of an executive form of government, the other pledged to a parliamentary democracy. The former, in which were included the friends of Washington, favoured England in the war which at this time was being waged between England and France, and the latter was anxious for an alliance with France against England.

So strong was the hostility of these parties in the United States against each other that Jefferson, the chief of the Republicans, accused Washington, while he was President, of being a "friend of England," and Hamilton, who was in Washington's Cabinet, of "squinting towards monarchy."

This hostility was manifested in a violent manner in New York City, when the mob assembled before the hall of the Order of Cincinnatus and threatened to destroy it. The members of that body came together at the sound of the drum with arms in their hands. A scroll was placed beneath the name of the Order over the entrance, bearing the words, "We will maintain it," and they did.

In South Carolina a politician of the Republican stripe named Burke wrote vigorously against the Order in that state. He said it was forming nobility there, and had already two-thirds of the power of that state under control. Many of the states refused to allow its incorporation. Many of the weaker-minded of its members, for fear of political ostracism, withdrew.

When the news reached America that the parliamentary demagogues in France had overthrown the monarchy, it was hailed with delight by the Republicans. When it was also known that England had declared war against the French revolutionists the anger of these Republicans was turned against England.

The French revolutionary Government, encouraged by this feeling in the United States, tried to draw that country into a war with England. An appeal was made to Washington, who was then President, bidding him remember the aid that France had given to the colonies in their fight with Great Britain. But Washington replied that it was the king of France and not the French democracy to whom he owed his gratitude, and that, as they had overthrown the king who had helped America, they could not expect that Americans would help the foes of that king.

The war went on in Europe. Washington's administration had passed away in America. Napoleon was now ruling in France. He had stifled the demagogues and had become dictator with imperial authority.

The principal foe of Napoleon was England, and the fleets of England blockaded the coasts of France. Neutral vessels on the seas near France were searched to find if they were carrying stores to the French.

Napoleon, on his side, in 1806, from his victorious camp at Berlin, published a decree declaring the British Isles to be in a state of blockade. All correspondence and commerce with them were prohibited. Every British citizen found in countries occupied by French troops was liable to seizure and his goods were to be confiscated. No vessel coming directly from England or her colonies was to be admitted to any port.

English commerce, by this Berlin decree, was almost paralyzed. The British Government, to counteract the effect of this, issued what is known as the Orders in Council. They declared all trade with France or her dependencies to be prohibited. Vessels of any nation carrying on this trade to be seized. Madison, Republican, being President of the United States, an understanding was said to exist between him and Napoleon by which no American vessel was interfered with by the French, in foreign trade. For a "whole year no French cruiser molested American vessels trading with England." The consequence of this was, that while the commerce of England declined, that of America increased