

RETROSPECT

I gazed on them with older eyes
And spirit sane and worldly-wise,
 But in the heaven's silver blurr
 No fancy linked beyond the dome
 Nor spread for me a broader home
In starry-studded Paradise,
That once I saw in summer skies.

I wondered why the summer wind
 And fields and skies of yesterday
And boyhood paths that still I find
Are impotent to fire the mind
 Now sorely schooled in manhood's way ;
 And realized my tale of years
 Had stolen that which most endears—
The truths by little boys divined
Elude us like the summer wind.