White Nassau

Live the harmless merry lizards, quicksilver in the sun,

Or still as any image with their shadow on a stone.

Through the lemon-trees at leisure a tiny olive bird

Moves all day long and utters his wise assuring word;

While up in their blue chantry murmur the solemn palms,

At their litanies of joyance, their ancient ceaseless psalms.

There in the endless sunlight, within the surf's low sound,

Peace tarries for a lifetime at doorways unrenowned;

And a velvet air goes breathing across the sea-girt land,

Till the sense begins to waken and the soul to understand.

There's a pier in the East River, where a black Ward Liner lies,

With her wheezy donkey-engines taking cargo and supplies;