

THE DEATH OF AN ANGEL.*Translated from the French.*

For the angel of the last hour, he whom we so harshly call Death ; heaven sends us the tenderest, the best of the angels, that he may gently cull from life the fainting heart of man, and softly carry it from our fast cooling breast, to the high and vivifying regions of Eden. His brother is the angel of the first hour ; twice he kisses the brow of man, the first time in order that he may enter this world less painfully ; the second time that he may awake above without injury—and that he may arrive in the other world smiling, he who entered this one weeping.

When the fields of battle were wet with blood and tears, and the angel of the last hour gathered thousands of trembling souls, his eyes so mild, became dim, and he said " Ah ! once I will die like man, to learn what is his last agony, and soften it, when I deliver him from life ! " The infinite circle of angels who love each other, surrounded the compassionate angel, and promised to shed around him their celestial rays at his last sigh, that he might know that it had been death ; and his brother, whose kiss uncloses our stiffened lips, as the first dawn of day causes the chilled flowers to burst forth in renewed loveliness, tenderly approached his face and said : " When I again embrace thee, my brother, thou wilt be dead on earth, and again with us."

Agitated and filled with love, the Angel descended to a field of battle, where one man only breathed ; a fine youth, full of fire, whose shattered chest still moved ; by the young hero none remained, save his betrothed ; he no longer felt her burning embraces, and her groans seemed the confused sound of distant combatants. Oh ! how rapidly the angel covered him with his wings ! under the form of his beloved, he pressed him in his arms ; by a soft kiss he drew his wounded soul from his bleeding breast, and remitted it to his brother.—His brother kissed it, and instantly it smiled.

The angel of the last hour glided like lightning into the empty envelope, penetrated the corpse with his divine warmth, and powerfully reanimated the sources of life, But how painfully this