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THE ANGEL OF DEATH.

Strange, how we think of death.
The angel beloved of God.
With his face like an asphodel flower,
And his feet with nepenthe shod.
Strange, how we turn and flee
When he comes by the sunset way,
Out of the valley of rest,
Down through the purpling day!

Why should we fear him so?
What doth the white one bear?
Heartscase of paradise,
Lilies of purest air!
Comes he so soft, so kind,
Down from the singing sky
Soft as a mother comes,
Stirred by an infant's cry.

-J. Buckham.

A NEW OLD SONG.

I pray as men have prayed since earth was young, I pray as men have prayed since earth was youn I varied voice or speech, a prayer of pain.

I sing—ah, me! the song is ever sung,
And evermore as now, in vain, in vain.

"I'is oh, to be a little child once more—
A little, lowly child, dear God, I pray.
I would give all my life has yet in store
Could I retrace my childhood's rosy way.

Oh, cruel, questioning eyes, so keen and bright—
Oh, cruel, all-revealing monday sun!
How can I choose but shudder at the light
When I have only wrecks to gaze upon—
Oh, for the long, long shadows of the morn,
(The sun showe only on high places then)
To will me or from pity or from scorn—
Would God I were a sinless child again!

How can I choose but mourn my lost estate

Of high emprize and white untroubled trust.

The palace of my dreams made desolate,

My king uncrowned, my treasures turned to dust.

Oh, tell me not that life has much in store—

Can it give back what once I cast away?

But, oh, to be a little child once more!

A little, lowly child, dear God, I pray.

Katherine E. Connay, in the Pilot.

THE CHARACTER OF CLEOPATRA.

In order to escape a violent death at the hands of Anthony, who, she knew, suspected her, Cleopatra took refuge in her tomb; but bailled in her attempt to commit suicide there, she allowed herself, after the death of Anthony, to be conveyed as a prisoner to the palace of the Lagides, where she one day, suddenly, received a visit from Octavius, the victor of Actium. The object of the visit was to deter Cleopatra from committing snicide, for Octavius, as we learn from Dien Cassius, felt that he would be robbed of his glory if his illustrious a ptive did not grace his triumph; but the enclantress who had captivated Julius Casar and subjugated Mark Anthony soix-d the occasion to attempt another conquest. She throw herself at his feet; she drew from her bosom the letters of the departed Ciesar and kissed them, excliming, in broken se-ents, "If you would know how your father loved me read those letters! Oh! Clesar, why did I not die with thee!—but in these I see thee once more!" and in the midst of her terrs she tried to smile on Octavina; but the impassible Octavius witnessed her simulated grief with the frigid coldness of a magistrate taking down a deposition. The unbuly woman, however, was no longer able to play the coquette; her

blandishments were unsuccessful; and sho finally destroyed herself, leaving the new Emperor of Rome to drag in triumph not her person but her statue.

The vanquished Egyptian, who thus, by dying, deleated her conqueror, is represented as a great queen, a rival of the fabled Semiramis, an older sister of Zenobia and Isabel and Maria, Theresa and Catherine. But queen cannot justly be considered great, unless they possess those manly qualities which have distinguished great kings and made them leaders of men.

Cleopatra was too essentially a woman to be ranked with the masculine havines to whom she has been compared. If for twenty yours she retained her throne and upheld the independence of Egypt, she did it a dely by means of feminine artifices, that is, by intrigue, by coquetry, by gracefulness, by that very weakness which in woman is a grace. She did not know how to reign except by becoming the mistress first of Casar and then of Anthony. It was the Roman sword that kept her on the throne of the Lagides, and when through her own lack of steadfistness that sword was broken, the throne, as a matter of course, crumbled away. Of ambition, her only queenly virtue, she had so little that, if circumstances had not raised her to a prominent position, she would simply have exercised the proregatives of the royalty she inherited.

Knowing that she had neither force of character, nor genius, nor strength of will, she relied for the accomplishment of her designs on the efforts of her lovers, and hercelf defeated those efforts by yielding at the critical moment to perhaps an over powering desire to take part in some festive entertainment. Her life was made up of voluptuousness and ostentation, and, therefore, it was only when she saw her layer killed, his beauty marred, his riches lest, and his throne shattered, that she exhibited at the moment

of death a course sho had nover shown before. No, Cleopatra was not a great queen. But for her intrigue with Anthony

she would have been forgotten as soon as Arsince or Berenice. If she had obtained immortal renown it is only because she is the heroine of the most dramatic love story of antiquity. - Henry Honssaye, in La Lecture, Paris,