

Bayard Taylor brought Lanier under the notice of the Commission, and as they were anxious to secure hearty participation by the Southern States, he was asked to write the poem. He accepted the task, and the Cantata was the result of his work. It was somewhat unusual in style and character, that is to say it was original and charmingly so. A part of the vision which Columbia sees, is the coming of the "Mayflower" The wind which filled her sails, resounded vainly to the farewell sighs of the emigrants. The waves opposed their landing as we see by the words "No it shall not be." Then from Jamestown, Plymouth and Albany, came the discouraging shrieks of Winter, Fever, Hunger and Vengeance. Then came religious, political and social struggles, wars with the Indians and with the French, and the wars of the Revolution and that of Secession. Now Columbia's ear catches a word of hope and she breaks out into a Psalm of Praise, that she has become a great united land, and she appeals to the good angel to say how long this shall continue :

"Now praise to God's oft-granted grace
Now praise to man's undaunted face
Despite the land, despite the sea,
I was, I am: and I shall be
How long, Good Angel, O how long?
Sing me from Heaven a man's own song !"

The reply is worthy of an angel:

"Long as thine Art shall love true love,
Long as thy Science truth shall know,
Long as thine Eagle harms no Dove,
Long as thy Law by law shall grow.
Long as thy God is God above,
Thy brother every man below,
So long, dear Land of all my love,
Thy name shall shine, thy fame shall glow !"

The angel's song is finer than Whittier's closing lines