

POEM OF REMEMBRANCE FOR A GIRL OR A BOY OF
THESE STATES.

First published in 1856.

You just maturing youth ! You male or female !
Remember the organic compact of These States,
Remember the pledge of the Old Thirteen thenceforward to the
rights, life, liberty, equality of man,
Remember what was promulged by the founders, ratified by The
States, signed in black and white by the Commissioners,
and read by Washington at the head of the army,
Remember the purposes of the founders,—Remember Washing-
ton ;
Remember the copious humanity streaming from every direction
toward America ;
Remember the hospitality that belongs to nations and men ;
(Cursed be nation, woman, man, without hospitality !)
Remember, government is to subserve individuals,
Not any, not the President, is to have one jot more than you or
me,
Not any habitan of America is to have one jot less than you or
me.

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Anticipate when the thirty or fifty millions, are to become the
hundred, or two hundred millions, of equal freemen and
freewomen, amicably joined.

Recall ages—One age is but a part—ages are but a part ;

The eternal equilibrium of things is great, and the eternal overthrow of things
is great,
And there is another paradox.

Great is Life, real and mystical, wherever and whoever,
Great is Death—sure as Life holds all parts together, Death holds all parts
together."

1855 closes poem with "Sure as the stars return again after they merge in
the light, death is great as life." 1856 '60 omit above line and add :

"Death has just as much purport as Life has.
Do you enjoy what Life confers? you shall enjoy what Death confers.
I do not understand the realities of Death, but I know they are great ;
I do not understand the least reality of Life—how then can I understand the
realities of Death?"

¹ Line 1 added in 1860.