

GATHERED LEAVES.

APOSTROPH.

First published in 1860.

O MATER ! O fils !
 O brood continental !
 O flowers of the prairies !
 O space boundless ! O hum of mighty products !
 O you teeming cities ! O so invincible, turbulent, proud !
 O race of the future ! O women !
 O fathers ! O you men of passion and the storm !
 O native power only ! O beauty !
 O yourself ! O God ! O divine average !
 O you bearded roughs ! O bards ! O all those slumberers ! 10
 O arouse ! the dawn-bird's throat sounds shrill ! Do you not
 hear the cock crowing ?
 O, as I walk'd the beach, I heard the mournful notes foreboding
 a tempest—the low, oft-repeated shriek of the diver, the
 long-lived loon ;
 O I heard, and yet hear, angry thunder ;—O you sailors ! O
 ships ! make quick preparation !
 O from his masterful sweep, the warning cry of the eagle !
 (Give way there, all ! It is useless ! Give up your spoils ;)
 O sarcasms ! Propositions ! (O if the whole world should prove
 indeed a sham, a sell !)
 O I believe there is nothing real but America and freedom !
 O to sternly reject all except Democracy !
 O emperor ! O who dare confront you and me ?
 O to promulgate our own ! O to build for that which builds for
 mankind ! 20
 O feuillage ! O North ! O the slope drained by the Mexican
 sea !
 O all, all inseparable—ages, ages, ages !
 O a curse on him that would dissever this Union for any reason
 whatever !
 O climates, labors ! O good and evil ! O death !
 O you strong with iron and wood ! O Personality !