

Let the daub'd portraits of heroes supersede heroes! 60
 Let the manhood of man never take steps after itself!
 Let it take steps after eunuchs, and after consumptive and gentle persons!
 Let the white person again tread the black person under his heel! (Say! which is trodden under heel, after all?)
 Let the reflections of the things of the world be studied in mirrors! let the things themselves still continue unstudied!
 Let a man seek pleasure everywhere except in himself!¹
 Let a woman seek happiness everywhere except in herself!²
 (What³ real happiness have you had one single hour through your whole life?)
 Let the limited years of life do nothing for the limitless years of death! (What⁴ do you suppose death will do, then?)



SOLID, IRONICAL, ROLLING ORB.

First published in "Drum-Taps," 1865.

SOLID, ironical, rolling orb!
 Master of all, and matter of fact!—at last I accept your terms;
 Bringing to practical, vulgar tests, of all my ideal dreams,
 And of me, as lover and hero.



BATHED IN WAR'S PERFUME.

First published in "Drum-Taps," 1865.

BATHED in war's perfume—delicate flag!
 (Should the days needing armies, needing fleets, come again,)

O to hear you call the sailors and the soldiers! flag like a beautiful woman!

O to hear the tramp, tramp, of a million answering men! O the ships they arm with joy!

O to see you leap and beckon from the tall masts of ships!

O to see you peering down on the sailors on the decks!

Flag like the eyes of women.

¹ See note at line 8.

² See note at line 8.

³ 1856 '60 read "(Say! What") etc.

⁴ 1856 '60 read "(Say! What") etc.