

MANUSCRIPTS: Two fair copies, variant, about 1861 and 1865. The earlier was sent to Samuel Bowles, without address or signature (A 678).

- A Title divine - is mine!  
 The Wife - without the Sign!  
 Acute Degree - conferred on me -  
 Empress of Calvary!  
 Royal - all but the Crown!  
 Betrothed - without the swoon  
 God sends us Women -  
 When you - hold - Garnet to Garnet -  
 Gold - to Gold -  
 Born - Bridalled - Shrouded -  
 In a Day -  
 "My Husband" - women say -  
 Stroking the Melody -  
 Is *this* - the way?

Division 2 the | 3 conferred | 6 the | 8 hold - Garnet | 10  
 Bridalled - Shrouded | Bridalled - || - Shrouded 12 women |

At the end of the poem ED added a message:

*Here's* - what I had to "tell you" - You will tell no other? Honor -  
 is it's own pawn -

*Emendation in letter prose* Here's] Heres

About 1865 she sent a copy to Susan Dickinson, signed "Emily"  
 (H 361).

- B Title divine, is mine.  
 The Wife without the Sign -  
 Acute Degree conferred on me -  
 Empress of Calvary -  
 Royal, all but the Crown -  
 Betrothed, without the Swoon  
 God gives us Women -  
 When You hold Garnet to Garnet -  
 Gold - to Gold -  
 Born - Bridalled - Shrouded -  
 In a Day -  
 Tri Victory -  
 "My Husband" - Women say

Stroking the Melody -  
 Is this the way -

15

Division 2 without | 3 Degree | 5 the | 6 without | 8 hold ||  
 10 Bridalled - | 13 Husband" - |

One line is variant, and another has been added:

7 sends] gives after 11] Tri Victory -

PUBLICATION: LL (1924), 49-50, from the copy to Susan Dickinson (B), in twenty-one lines; also CP (1924), 176-77, and later collections. Bingham, *Emily Dickinson's Home* (1955), 373, from the copy to Bowles (A). *Poems* (1955), 758 (A principal, B); CP (1960), 487 (A), made composite with the additional line from B ("Tri Victory"). *Letters* (1958), 394 (A). (J1072)

B 8 You] two LL24 CP24 P30 P37

## 195 Victory comes late

MANUSCRIPTS: Two fair copies, variant, about 1861 and 1863. One constitutes an entire letter to Samuel Bowles about late 1861 (Y-BRBL; = Hooker). It begins with the salutation "Dear Mr Bowles" and is signed "Emily."

- A Victory comes late,  
 And is held low to freezing lips  
 Too rapt with frost  
 To mind it!  
 How sweet it would have tasted!  
 Just a drop!  
 Was God so economical?  
 His table's spread too high  
 Except we dine on tiptoe!  
 Crumbs fit such little mouths -  
 Cherries - suit Robins -  
 The Eagle's golden breakfast - dazzles them!  
 God keep his vow to "Sparrows"  
 Who of little love -  
 Know how to starve!

Division 2 to | 5 would | 7 economical] econom - | ical 8 spread |  
 9 tiptoe! || 10 such | 12 golden | breakfast - | 13 vow |

The creatures chuckled on the Roofs -  
And whistled in the air -  
And shook their fists -  
And gnashed their teeth -  
And swung their frenzied hair -

The morning lit - the Birds arose -  
The Monster's faded eyes  
Turned slowly to his native coast -  
And peace - was Paradise!

Division 1 mashed | 2 and | 3 spectre's | 4 Earth | 5 on | 9  
frenzied |

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1891), 138, with stanza 2 as a quatrain. *Poems*  
(1955), 142; *CP* (1960), 93. *MB* (1981), 170, in facsimile. (J198)

A Title A Tempest P91

225 *I'm "wife" - I've finished that*

MANUSCRIPT: About spring 1861, in Fascicle 9 (H 83).

A I'm "wife" - I've finished that -  
That other state -  
I'm Czar - I'm "Woman" now -  
It's safer so -

How odd the Girl's life looks  
Behind this soft Eclipse -  
I think that Earth feels so  
To folks in Heaven - now -

This being comfort - then  
That other kind - was pain -  
But Why compare?  
I'm "Wife"! Stop there!

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1890), 63. *Poems* (1955), 142-43; *CP* (1960),  
94. *MB* (1981), 171, in facsimile. (J199)

A Title Apocalypse P90 7 feels] seems P90 CP24 P30 P37 8 folks]  
those P90 CP24 P30 P37

MANUSCRIPTS: Two fair copies, about spring 1861. One in pencil  
signed "Emily" was sent to Samuel Bowles (A 662).

A I stole them from a Bee -  
Because - Thee -  
Sweet plea -  
He pardoned me -

Division 1 from |

The copy in Fascicle 9 (H 83) was made about the same time. It differs  
in the final punctuation.

B I stole them from a Bee -  
Because - Thee -  
Sweet plea -  
He pardoned me!

F9.22

PUBLICATION: *Letters* (1894), 211, from the Bowles copy (A); also *LL*  
(1924), 245; and *Letters* (1931), 200. *Poems* (1955), 143 (A summarized,  
B principal), the two copies said to be identical in text and form; *CP*  
(1960), 94 (B). *MB* (1981), 171 (B), in facsimile. (J200)

227 *Two swimmers wrestled on the spar*

MANUSCRIPTS: Two fair copies, about spring 1861. One in pencil (A  
692), not signed, was sent to Samuel Bowles, headed:

I cant explain it, Mr Bowles -

A Two swimmers wrestled on the spar  
Until the morning sun -  
When One turned, smiling, to the land -  
Oh God! the other One!  
The stray ships - passing, spied a face  
Upon the waters borne,  
With eyes, in death, still begging - raised,  
And hands - beseeching - thrown!

5

Division 1 wrestled | 3 smiling, | 5 passing, | 7 still |

409 *The soul selects her own society*

MANUSCRIPTS: Two (one in part), variant, about 1862 and 1864. A copy of the entire poem is in Fascicle 20 (H 65), about autumn 1862.

A The Soul selects her own Society - F20.14  
Then - shuts the Door -  
To her divine Majority -  
Present no more -

Unmoved - she notes the Chariots - pausing - 5  
At her low Gate -  
Unmoved - an Emperor be kneeling  
Upon her Mat -

I've known her - from an ample nation -  
Choose One - 10  
Then - close the Valves of her attention -  
Like Stone -

3 To] On 4 Present] obtrude 8] On [her] Rush mat  
11 Valves] lids -

Division 9 ample | 11 of |

About early 1864 ED made a copy of the first stanza, but did not adopt the corresponding alternatives (H B163).

B The Soul selects her own Society  
Then shuts the Door  
To her divine Majority  
Present no more -

Division 1 selects | 2 the | 3 divine |

ED set down these lines in ink on a leaf of notepaper as if for a recipient, but perhaps retained them because they are upside down to the notepaper. Later in 1864 she used the other side to make a pencil copy (right side up) of "Love reckons by itself alone" that served as her record of the poem. The manuscript, carrying both poems, passed into Susan Dickinson's possession after ED's death when Lavinia Dickinson took manuscripts to her for editing.

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1890), 26, from the fascicle copy (A), with the alternatives for lines 3 and 4 adopted. *Poems* (1955), 225 (A principal, B); CP (1960), 143 (A). MB (1981), 450 (A), in facsimile. (J303)

A Title Exclusion P90 5 Chariots] chariot's P90 CP24 P30 P37  
is P90 CP24 P30 P37

410 *How sick to wait in any place but thine*

MANUSCRIPT: About autumn 1862, in Fascicle 20 (H 66).

A How sick - to wait - in any place - but thine - F20  
I knew last night - when some one tried to twine -  
Thinking - perhaps - that I looked tired - or alone -  
Or breaking - almost - with unspoken pain -

And I turned - ducal -  
That right - was thine -  
One port - suffices - for a Brig like mine -

Our's be the tossing - wild though the sea -  
Rather than a mooring - unshared by thee.  
Our's be the Cargo - *unladen* - here -  
Rather than the "spicy isles" -  
And thou - not there -

Division 1 any | 2 when | 3 that | 4 with | 7 a | 8 wild |  
9 mooring - |

PUBLICATION: BM (1945), 158, as five quatrains, from a transcript A (A T1140). *Poems* (1955), 293; CP (1960), 175. MB (1981), 451 facsimile. (J368)

411 *Mine by the right of the white election!*

MANUSCRIPT: About autumn 1862, in Fascicle 20 (H 66). The recording of the alternatives in pencil as well as ink may indicate that ED revised the poem after it was entered into the fascicle, though it may only indicate an interruption in her use of ink. Revision is usually in the text itself, while these alternatives are at the end of the poem, with those in pencil retraced in ink to make them look regular.

A Mine - by the Right of the White Election! F20.16  
Mine - by the Royal Seal!  
Mine - by the sign in the Scarlet prison -  
Bars - cannot conceal!

Mine - here - in Vision - and in Veto!  
Mine - by the Grave's Repeal -  
Titled - Confirmed -  
Delirious Charter!  
Mine - long as Ages steal!

5

(1) *in pencil, retraced in ink; alternative symbols in the text in pencil, not retraced in ink* 8] Good affidavit - 9 long as] while

(2) *in ink; alternative symbols in the text in ink* 1] marked for an alternative, none given 4 Bars] Bolts

Division 1 of | 3 in | 5 and |

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1890), 43, as two quatrains, with the alternative for line 9 adopted. *Poems* (1955), 405-6; *CP* (1960), 258. *MB* (1981), 452, in facsimile. (J528)

A Title Mine P90 alt 9 while] while the P90 CP24 P30 P37

#### 412 *She lay as if at play*

MANUSCRIPT: About autumn 1862, in Fascicle 20 (H 66).

A She lay as if at play  
Her life had leaped away -  
Intending to return -  
But not so soon -

F20.17

Her merry Arms, half dropt -  
As if for lull of sport -  
An instant had forgot  
The Trick to start -

5

Her dancing Eyes - ajar -  
As if their Owner were  
Still sparkling through  
For fun - at you -

10

Her Morning at the door -  
Devising, I am sure -  
To force her sleep -  
So light - so deep -

15

PUBLICATION: *UP* (1935), 129. *Poems* (1955), 294; *CP* (1960), 175. *MB* (1981), 453, in facsimile. (J369)

#### 413 *Heaven is so far of the mind*

MANUSCRIPT: About autumn 1862, in Fascicle 20 (H 66).

A Heaven is so far of the Mind  
That were the Mind dissolved -  
The Site - of it - by Architect  
Could not again be proved -

F20.18

'Tis Vast - as our Capacity -  
As fair - as our idea -  
To Him of adequate desire  
No further 'tis, than Here -

5

Division 1 the | 7 adequate |

PUBLICATION: *FP* (1929), 108. *Poems* (1955), 294; *CP* (1960), 176. *MB* (1981), 454, in facsimile. (J370)

#### 414 *Inconceivably solemn!*

MANUSCRIPT: About autumn 1862, in Fascicle 14 (H 48).

A Inconceivably solemn!  
Things so gay  
Pierce - by the very Press  
Of Imagery -

FI4.10

Their far Parades - order on the eye  
With a mute Pomp -  
A pleading Pageantry -

5

Flags, are a brave sight -  
But no true Eye  
Ever went by One -  
Steadily -

10

Music's triumphant -  
But the fine Ear  
Winces with delight  
Are Drums too near -

15

Each heavier than the last  
A further afternoon to fail  
As Flower at fall of Frost -

PUBLICATION: *SH* (1914), 83, from the transcript. *Poems* (1955), 1136, from the transcript; also *CP* (1960), 681. (J1667)

[A] 5 slow] short *SH*14 *CP*24 *P*30 *P*37

1711 *He went by sleep that drowsy route*

MANUSCRIPT: Lost, transcribed by Susan Dickinson (H ST13c).

[A] He went by sleep that drowsy route  
To the surmising Inn -  
At daybreak to begin his race  
Or ever to remain -

Emendation 3 daybreak] day break

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1955), 1133-34, from the transcript; also *CP* (1960), 679. (J1662)

1712 *Witchcraft has not a pedigree*

MANUSCRIPT: Lost, transcribed by Susan Dickinson (H ST13d).

[A] Witchcraft has not a pedigree  
'Tis early as our Breath  
And mourners meet it going out  
The moment of our death -

Emendation 2 'Tis] T'is

PUBLICATION: *SH* (1914), 12, from the transcript. *Poems* (1955), 1154, from the transcript; also *CP* (1960), 694. (J1708)

1713 *With sweetness unabated*

MANUSCRIPT: Lost, transcribed by Susan Dickinson (H ST13e-14a).

[A] With sweetness unabated  
Informed the hour had come

With no remiss of triumph  
The autumn started home -  
Her home to be with Nature  
As competition done  
By influential kinsmen  
Invited to return  
In supplements of Purple  
An adequate repast  
The heavenly reviewing  
Her residue be past -

5

10

3 triumph] *the m over another letter, perhaps* <p> 11  
reviewing] *the g made from another letter, perhaps w*

Division 10 repast ||

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1955), 1154-55, from the transcript; also *CP* (1960), 695. (J1709)

1714 *In snow thou comest*

MANUSCRIPT: Lost, transcribed by Susan Dickinson (H ST14b).

[A] In snow thou comest  
Thou shalt go with the resuming ground  
The sweet derision of the crow  
And Glee's advancing sound  
  
In fear thou comest  
Thou shalt go at such a gait of joy  
That men anew embark to live  
Upon the depth of thee -

5

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1955), 1137, from the transcript; also *CP* (1960), 682. (J1669)

1715 *A word made flesh is seldom*

MANUSCRIPT: Lost, transcribed by Susan Dickinson (H ST14c-d).

[A] A word made Flesh is seldom  
And tremblingly partook  
Nor then perhaps reported



But have I not mistook  
Each one of us has tasted  
With ecstasies of stealth  
The very food debated  
To our specific strength -

A word that breathes distinctly  
Has not the power to die  
Cohesive as the Spirit  
It may expire if He -

"Made Flesh and dwelt among us"  
Could condescension be  
Like this consent of Language  
This loved Philology

*Division* 1 seldom ||  
*Emendation* 13 us"] us

The poem is preceded on the transcript by five lines—Susan transcribed them as verse—that are related to the poem, though separated from it by a drawn line. Without the holograph, it is not possible to determine the exact relationship.

The import of that Paragraph  
"The word made Flesh"  
Had he the faintest intimation  
Who broached it yesterday!  
"Made Flesh and dwelt among us"

*Emendation* 5 us"] us

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1955), 1129, from the transcript, without the introductory lines; also *CP* (1960), 675-76. (J1651)

# 1716 *That she forgot me was the least*

MANUSCRIPT: Lost, transcribed by Susan Dickinson (H ST15b).

[A] That she forgot me was the least  
I felt it second pain  
That I was worthy to forget  
Was most I thought upon

Faithful was all that I could boast  
But Constancy became  
To her, by her innominate  
A something like a shame

PUBLICATION: *SH* (1914), 140, from the transcript. *Poems* (1955), 1144, from the transcript; also *CP* (1960), 687. (J1683)

# 1717 *Guest am I to have*

MANUSCRIPT: Lost, transcribed by Susan Dickinson (H ST16a).

[A] Guest am I to have  
Light my northern room  
Why to cordiality so averse to come  
Other friends adjourn  
Other bonds decay  
Why avoid so narrowly  
My fidelity -

*Emendation* 7 fidelity] fidelity

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1955), 1133, from the transcript; also *CP* (1960), 679. (J1661)

# 1718 *Rather arid delight*

MANUSCRIPT: Lost, transcribed by Susan Dickinson (H ST16b).

[A] Rather arid delight  
If Contentment accrue  
Make an abstemious ecstasy  
Not so good as joy -  
But Rapture's Expense  
Must not be incurred  
With a tomorrow knocking  
And the Rent unpaid -

*Emendation* 7 tomorrow] to-morrow

PUBLICATION: *Poems* (1955), 1142, from the transcript; also *CP* (1960), 686. (J1679)