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The Question

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Ye gods! no meteor earthward bound,
   As fast did ever drop;
But still I cannot reach the ground
   And yet I do not stop.
At last I see a chasm deep,
   Black is that yawning pit;
My soul cannot the body keep,
   Ere I shall come to it.
I close my eyes; a prayer is said.
   And peace with Him I make;
And then, behold, I am not dead
   I find I am awake.
The fire is low, the shadows dim
   Awake, I sit and think
The Beauty fair—the Gray-beard grim,
   And then that yawning brink.
My dream is o'er, I heave a sigh,
   Yet glad it did not last,
The hour is late, my bed is nigh
   Another day has passed.

The Question.
By A Senior.
It is not what we were,
   But what we might have been,
Not what we are
   That in the nature of things is paramount.
For "what we are," is "what we will have been",
The present is the future's ripened fruit,
Which, soon as mellow'd, drops into the past,
Shrunken and shapeless, spectre-like and vague.

Anonymous.

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