

## When I heard the Learn'd Astronomer

WHEN I heard the learn'd astronomer;  
When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me;  
When I was shown the charts and the diagrams, to add, divide, and measure them;  
When I, sitting, heard the astronomer, where he lectured with much applause in the lecture-room,  
How soon, unaccountable, I became tired and sick;  
Till rising and gliding out, I wander'd off by myself,  
In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,  
Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.

5

## I Hear America Singing

I HEAR America singing, the varied carols I hear;  
Those of mechanics—each one singing his, as it should be, blithe and strong;  
The carpenter singing his, as he measures his plank or beam,  
The mason singing his, as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work;  
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat—the deckhand singing on the steamboat deck;  
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench—the hatter singing as he stands;  
The wood-cutter's song—the ploughboy's, on his way in the morning, or at the noon intermission, or at sundown;  
The delicious singing of the mother—or of the young wife at work—or of the girl sewing or washing—Each singing what belongs to her, and to none else;  
The day what belongs to the day—At night, the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,  
Singing, with open mouths, their strong melodious [songs](#).

5