

THREE SONGS.

I.

Life and Death.

IF I had chosen, my tears had all been dews;
 I would have drawn a bird's or blossom's breath,
 Nor' outmoaned yonder dove. I did not choose, —
 And here is Life for me, and there is Death.

Ay, here is Life. Bloom for me, violet;
 Whisper me, Love, all things that are not true;
 Sing, nightingale and lark, till I forget, —
 For here is Life, and I have need of you.

So, there is Death. 'Fade, violet, from the land;
 Cease from your singing, nightingale and lark;
 Forsake me, Love, for I without your hand
 Can find my way more surely to the dark.

II.

Engaged Too Long.

WHY do I grieve with summer here?
 I want the flower that died last year;
 I want the old drops of the dew,
 And my old love, sir, — and not you.

Younger than you, nor quite so wise,
 Was he who had your hair and eyes, —
 Who said, " I love you " first, you see;
 This you repeat, and weary me.

III.

Turned Away.

It may have been. Who knows? Who knows?
 It was too dark for me to see.
 The wind that spared this very rose
 Its few last leaves could hardly be
 Sadder of voice than he.

A foreign prince here in disguise
 Who asked a shelter from the rain
 (The country that he came from lies
 Above the clouds): he asked in vain,
 And will not come again.

If I had known that it was He
 Who had not where to lay his head;
 "But my Lord Christ, it cannot be, —
 My guest-room has too white a bed
 For wayside dust," I had said.

Sallie M. B. Piatt.

LIMITED SOVEREIGNTY IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE last state elections in Massachusetts were chiefly of local interest, but the vote which decided them, if carefully analyzed, possesses a national importance. There has been much rejoicing in Massachusetts and elsewhere over the defeat of General Butler. But if the event was fortunate, the manner of its accomplishment is a subject for the most serious reflection. It was generally anticipated that the bulk of the respectable democrats would adhere to their party nominee, and that the republican party, single-handed, would be able to crush Butler. These expectations were not realized. The respectable democrats, with comparatively few exceptions, voted for the republican candidate, and without their votes Mr. Talbot would probably not have obtained a plurality. The significance of this fact is sufficiently obvious. The wealth, the intelligence, the conservatism, the decency, of the State were arrayed on one side, without regard to party. On the other, demanding the suffrages of the people for the office of governor, appeared a man whose name has become a synonym for everything that is bad in American politics. His immediate and most zealous supporters were unknown, or known only for evil. He had plenty of money, but beyond this nothing personally "to back his suit at all, but the plain devil and dissembling looks." His whole career was known to the people who were to vote for him. Every evil act, every inconsistency, every meanness, of which he had ever been guilty was dragged into light

and spread before the public, day after day, by a bitterly hostile press. As the returns show, the struggle became at the polls a simple contest between honesty and dishonesty; between all the best elements in the State and an artful, able, and unscrupulous demagogue. In that contest dishonesty and the demagogue were defeated, but they received in round numbers one hundred and ten thousand votes out of two hundred and sixty thousand. Of this vote, probably a very small proportion only was cast by mere political adventurers, or by men of ruined fortunes and broken reputations, who followed General Butler, as they would anybody else, with perfect skepticism and cynicism as to all principles, and solely with a view to their own material welfare. A portion of the vote was undoubtedly due to that general discontent caused by hard times, which is ready to try any change in the hope of relief. Yet even of this discontented vote a large part must have been merely thoughtless and ignorant, and not intelligently convinced that there was any real help to be found in General Butler. The great majority of those who voted for Butler did so simply because they were very ignorant. Any other hypothesis requires the admission that a great body of citizens not only knowingly and willfully supported dishonesty in finance, but that they cared nothing about personal character or morality on the part of their candidate. This supposition no man of patriotism or good sense wishes to accept. The fact is that these voters