

May 26th 1865

Weather dull and heavy Ship Daniel Webster
Takes her anchor and proceeds to sea bound
to Davis Straits on a whaling voyage
On board of said craft I sit & wait
and myself anticipating a long dreary voyage
But as has been this life to me
whilst through its many changes I have ever
been hopeful that some day I should rest
from ocean's wild turmoil as of old

I wandered once how wild and free
O'er meadows long and
Where the butterfly so merrily
O'er the waving grass and flowers flew
Flashed daintily and slow

I wandered once along the brook
With fishing rod and line
And jested when the wild trout took
The fly - the ambush of my hook
And baited that trout as mine.

I wandered once in autumn sea
Through the majestic grove
And nature lent her smilest cheer
Whilst arm in arm with one most dear
I sought life's charm to prove

I wandered once from place to place
In steamboat and in car
Till weary of a useless chase
Which brought me nothing in the end
And as I wandered far

I wandered o'er this world. How vain
But hopeful all the while
O'er miles of sea and rugged main
I tried me onward still the same
As fancy lures the child

I wandered through those lengthiest years
How cheerless and alone
Hunted by those phantom fears
That fed upon a fount of tears
Which gathered there unknown

I wandered back where from afar
My first young hope arose
And yet beheld that little star
Though left & times receding car
On memories still repose

Though time has placed her changes there
I lingered to behold
Some one of old which might declare
I was not dreaming in despair
In the land I loved of old

I wandered then where ocean roars
Nor tempest's wildest moan
Was on my ear Nor mast less shores
Could haunt nor startle me no more
And I was not alone

Now here behold the meadows bloom
Around my cottage door
Each midnight claims its noon
Like dances from the silver moon
More glorious than of yore

But now again the surges make
That half forgotten wave
And bitter still the heart must ache
Since hope seems willing to forsake
The whither I go