Walt Whitman (1819–1892).  Leaves of Grass.  1900.

[180](http://www.bartleby.com/142/1018.html#180). **When I heard the Learn’d Astronomer**

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| 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; | *5* |
| 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. |   |