

HALLUCINATION

Sleep, O blindfolded angel perched
O'er the piles of smoldering souls
Whilst throbbing, tireless stars doth shine
'Gainst the tribunal profane of

Mammon, & Moloch, & Maya

Alas darling *Petrus Romanus** !
Eternal & untimely Rome !
In all thine unparalleled grandeur
Of contagion—annihilation—

Staunch sister of God's joyful tears,
Acid agony blankets the 'sphere
The nations—ivory shafts of light
Through tender clouds defiance-pierced

Thy twain & starred teats stand at odds—
West heart-sick & swell'd; east sagging
A pale rose by the dewdrop pulled
All pilgrimage ceased, *two is one*

F̄inis.

*According to the "Prophecy of the Popes," attributed to the 12th century Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland, Saint Malachy, "*Petrus Romanus*" is the name of the final Roman Catholic pope whose pontificate will coincide with the destruction of Rome and the persecution of the church. The prophecy states:

*'In persecutione extrema S.R.E. sedebit.
Petrus Romanus, qui pascet oves in multis tribulationibus, quibus transactis civitas septicollis diruetur, &
judex tremendus judicabit populum suum. Finis.'*

["In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church, there will sit.
Peter the Roman, who will pasture his sheep in many tribulations, and when these things are finished, the city
of seven hills will be destroyed, and the dreadful judge will judge his people. The End."]