

## VEGETABLE CLASSIC

To H. G.

It is my view that Spinach  
may be remarked upon for aggressiveness;  
one may well regard Tomatoes as UNCOUTH BUT  
HONEST;  
that Lettuce is an indifferent diurnal matter;  
Asparagus not to be sneered at; Beets and Carrots  
perambulating hand in hand — but of the Onion  
that eminent vegetable! — let it here be spoken of  
with reverence, of its Protean and ever succulent manners  
of charm.

And then these various herbs and plants  
(ranged upon the table) fell to a great row and  
quarrelling;  
the Onions-Beans-Tomatoes, etc. joining arms in loud  
controversy  
with the Lettuce-Beets-Spinach faction, the latter crying  
out:

"It is true, that our master is a foul carnivorous beast,  
that from his mouth at night comes the stench of the  
flesh he has torn with his teeth and consumed!

It is of little import to him, whether we are canned or  
fresh from the earth!

His wife is a vegetarian at heart, but she fears him . . ."