

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH and MATTHEW ARNOLD
PRAY

Sherry Gamble

“Here are your waters and your watering place.
Drink and be whole again beyond confusion.”

—Robert Frost, in “Directive”

a sea of faith
a barren land
a thankless race
beached on a strand

Oh Proteus, woo thy lady in the moon anew
that she may tug the tide until
our arid land
our shards of faith
are bathed again
with life-giving dew, with foam, with fog which
clouds the mind but leaves the sense refreshed

shock us with waves, with floods, with cold wet slaps
salted, seeded with belief
dash our doubt on the reef of reason
and let us be whole
beyond confusion