



*Day is Done*  
Off the Coast of Provincetown, Massachusetts  
Photo by Dan Hardison

## Just Once

*Stillman J. Elwell*

Just once in the year do the geese fly south,  
And once does the first snow fall,  
Just once do the buds burst forth in spring,  
And once does the corn grow tall!

Just once in the day does the purple East  
Light up with the glow of dawn,  
And once do the deepening shadows fall,  
At dusk, when the sun is gone.

Then how can a person be tired of Life  
Or bored in a world like ours?  
Where once is the season of crimson leaves  
And once is the time of flowers.

For so it is planned in the life of man,  
His story is quickly told,  
Just once he's a child at his mother's knee,  
And once he is gray and old.

Then give me the wisdom, good Lord, to know  
The miracles shown to me,  
That I may watch any passing day -  
Yet never again may see!