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From "Some San Francisco Poems (1969-1971)": The Translucent Mechanics

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11 Interview, p. 166.
12 This in Which (New Directions/San Francisco Review, 1965) 20. Copyright 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 by George Oppen. Succeeding page references, unless otherwise noted, are to this volume. All quotations are by permission of New Directions Publishing Corporation and the San Francisco Review.
13 Interview, p. 163.

14 Recall the Hegelian idea of Sense-certainty (footnote 3, above).
15 Interview, p. 172.
16 Of Being Numerous (New Directions/

16 Of Being Numerous (New Directions/ San Francisco Review, 1968). Copyright 1967, 1968 by George Oppen. References are to section numbers. All quotations are by permission of New Directions Publishing Corporation and the San Francisco Review.

from some san francisco poems (1969-1971)

The Translucent Mechanics

Combed thru the piers the wind
Moves thru the clever city
Not in the doors but the hinges
Finds the secret of motion
As tho the hollow ships moved in their voices, murmurs
Flaws
In the wind
Fear fear
At the lumber mastheads

And shouting fetched a message out of the sea again

Say angel say powers

Obscurely 'things And the self'

Prosody

Sings

In the stones

to entrust

To a poetry of statement

At close quarters

91 Criticism

A living mind 'and that one's own'

what then what spirit

Of the bent seas

Archangel

of the tide brimming

in the moon-streak

comes in whose absence

earth crumbles

O withering seas Of the doorstep and local winds unveil

The face of art

'Carpenter, plunge and drip in the sea Art's face' We know that face

More blinding than the sea a haunted house a limited

Consensus unwinding

Its powers Toward the thread's end

In the record of great blows shocks
Ravishment devastation the wood splintered

The keyboard gone in the rank grass swept her hand Over the strings and the thing rang out

Over the rocks and the ocean Not my poem Mr Steinway's

Poem Not mine A 'marvelous' object Is not the marvel of things

forcing the new
Tongue twisting

The new mouth But it rang