

This verse that in acknowledgment I bring  
Goes back to the beginning of the end  
Of what had been for centuries the trend;  
A turning point in modern history.  
Colonial had been the thing to be  
As long as the great issue was to see  
What country'd be the one to dominate  
By character, by tongue, by native trait,  
The new world Christopher Columbus found.  
The French, the Spanish, and the Dutch were downed  
And counted out. Heroic deeds were done.  
Elizabeth the First and England won.  
Now came on a new order of the ages  
That in the Latin of our founding sages  
(Is it not written on the dollar bill  
We carry in our purse and pocket still?)  
God nodded His approval of as good.  
So much those heroes knew and understood -  
I mean the great four, Washington,  
John Adams, Jefferson, and Madison -  
So much they knew as consecrated seers  
They must have seen ahead what now appears  
They would bring empires down about our ears  
And by the example of our Declaration  
Make everybody want to be a nation.  
And this is no aristocratic joke  
At the expense of negligible folk.  
We see how seriously the races swarm  
In their attempts at sovereignty and form.  
They are our wards we think to some extent  
For the time being and with their consent,  
To teach them how Democracy is meant.  
"New order of the ages" did we say?