

Stephen Knauth

THE NIGHT WHITMAN DIED

Heralded, the several angels wheeled eastward across
America, on
toward the black Atlantic, and what

convenience! (sea mist being
a primary vehicle
of upward transmigration)

And tho' fully invisible, they flew as one--
not for safety
or soothing

but for the plain joys of angelhood.
This is the story of the first North American
sighting.
1892. A grocer saw it

and wept. From Camden
to the sea
those fleecy heads flamed up like summer days!