

JUDITH BAUMEL

Nike and Clover: A Study In Perspective

After Augustus St. Gaudens

1.
Grand Army Testicles.
That's what it would look like
if you'd been trampled underfoot amid
the Georgia pine cones and spurs
on Sherman's way to the sea. It's what you see
from within the plaza: Grand Equine Fervor.
And the problem of distance. Conversely, from
Stanford White's Metropolitan Club,
Victory's vacant stare
would surely confirm the good
commercial outcome of the war
and how far they came from hooded grief.

2.
From afar, the slack-kneed
posture of the boy whose pose
Adams draped and approved,
is a figure of devastation and silence,
still, a comment on his life, speech, insight
or lack thereof. Closer along the path
approaching the blackening shadow
through Rock Creek Cemetery,
you enter the wide interior highway of the self.