After Dwight William Tryon’s “Winter” (1893)

The ancient mountains to the west
transform into a calm, almost-frozen ocean
just out of reach.

Dusk changes into dawn. Thin, yellow
light is the same without clouds,
without garnet washes and purple smudges.

The snow in the foreground reveals
colors other than dazzling white: blue
from an earlier sky; browns from
half-buried bushes, from earth and
stone; green scuffs; and yellow straw
from fall’s grass and flowers.

The snow in the background turns
into the beach at low tide
with its sheen of salt water.

Only trees, bushes, and stone walls
in the middle resist the transformation.
They put up obstacles, keeping ocean
from overtaking earth.

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The Pangolin Review – Issue 12