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Tomorrow's Living Room

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ONE ON THE HEELS OF THE OTHER

Croquet had cost him the family fortune
and much else besides. His thought now
was to grow flowers and sullen,
one on the heels of the other.
That his backyard had double-crossed him
in serious, uncompromising ways
seemed someone else's memory
as the season drew to a close—why not overlook
those few missed wickets, the untapped stakes?
Still, he kept towing the gargoyle statuary home.
They leered at the flamingos, coughed their drinks
into bird baths, and slept as fish are thought to,
eyes open. They dropped the whole neighborhood
into a new set of actuarial tables. His thought now
was to leave them to everything,
beyond which he hoped to journey
and report, midwinter, on the sights.