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THE  
MINISTRY OF SONG.

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THE  
MINISTRY OF SONG.

BY  
FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL

*TWENTY-THIRD THOUSAND.*

NEW YORK:  
E. P. DUTTON & COMPANY.  
1879.



To my Father's Memory.

	PAGE
Misunderstood . . . . .	62
Sunbeams in the Wood . . . . .	65
The Star Shower . . . . .	67
Treasure Trove . . . . .	70
Coming Summer . . . . .	72
September 1868 . . . . .	75
Early Faith . . . . .	77
Our Father . . . . .	80
Disappointment . . . . .	86
The Song Chalice . . . . .	90
Silent in Love . . . . .	91
Light and Shade . . . . .	92
No Thorn without a Rose . . . . .	95
Yesterday, To-day, and for Ever . . . . .	98
Christ's Recall . . . . .	100
Faith's Question . . . . .	102
'I did this for thee! What hast thou done for Me?' . . . . .	105
Isaiah xxxiii. 17 . . . . .	107
God the Provider . . . . .	109
Wait Patiently for Him . . . . .	111
This Same Jesus . . . . .	113
Mary's Birthday . . . . .	115
Daily Strength . . . . .	118
The Right Way . . . . .	119
Thy Will be Done . . . . .	122
'The Things which are Behind' . . . . .	125
'Now I see' . . . . .	126

	PAGE
Everlasting Love . . . . .	127
'Master, say on !' . . . . .	129
Remote Results . . . . .	131
On the Last Leaf . . . . .	133
How should they know me? . . . . .	137
Making Poetry . . . . .	140
The Cascade . . . . .	143
Constance de V — . . . . .	147
Fairy Homes . . . . .	163
More Music . . . . .	165
Travelling Thoughts . . . . .	166
New Year's Wishes . . . . .	170
Bonnie Wee Eric . . . . .	171
My Sweet Woodruff . . . . .	174
Our Gem Wreath . . . . .	177
My Name . . . . .	187
Faith and Reason . . . . .	192
Lynton . . . . .	195
A Birthday Greeting to my Father . . . . .	198
A Lull in Life . . . . .	199
Adoration . . . . .	203





THE  
MINISTRY OF SONG.

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*PRELUDE.*

A MID the broken waters of our ever-rest-  
less thought,  
Oh be my verse an answering gleam from  
higher radiance caught ;  
That where through dark o'erarching boughs  
of sorrow, doubt, and sin,  
The glorious Star of Bethlehem upon the flood  
looks in,  
Its tiny trembling ray may bid some downcast  
vision turn  
To that enkindling Light, for which all earthly  
shadows yearn.

Oh be my verse a hidden stream, which silently  
may flow  
Where drooping leaf and thirsty flower in  
lonely valleys grow ;  
And often by its shady course to pilgrim hearts  
be brought  
The quiet and refreshment of an upward-point-  
ing thought ;  
Till, blending with the broad bright stream of  
sanctified endeavour,  
God's glory be its ocean home, the end it  
seeketh ever.



### *THE MINISTRY OF SONG.*

I N God's great field of labour  
All work is not the same ;  
He hath a service for each one  
Who loves His holy name.  
And you, to whom the secrets  
Of all sweet sounds are known,  
Rise up ! for He hath called you  
To a mission of your own.



And, rightly to fulfil it,  
His grace can make you strong,  
Who to your charge hath given  
The Ministry of Song.

Sing to the little children,  
And they will listen well ;  
Sing grand and holy music,  
For they can feel its spell.  
Tell them the tale of Jephthah ;  
Then sing them what he said,—  
'Deeper and deeper still,' and watch  
How the little cheek grows red,  
And the little breath comes quicker :  
They will ne'er forget the tale,  
Which the song has fastened surely,  
As with a golden nail.

I remember, late one evening,  
How the music stopped, for, hark!  
Charlie's nursery door was open,  
He was calling in the dark,—  
'Oh no ! I am not frightened,  
And I do not want a light ;  
But I cannot sleep for thinking  
Of the song you sang last night.

Something about a "valley,"  
And "make rough places plain,"  
And "Comfort ye ;" so beautiful !  
Oh, sing it me again !'

Sing at the cottage bedside ;  
They have no music there,  
And the voice of praise is silent  
After the voice of prayer.  
Sing of the gentle Saviour  
In the simplest hymns you know,  
And the pain-dimmed eye will brighten  
As the soothing verses flow  
Better than loudest plaudits  
The murmured thanks of such,  
For the King will stoop to crown them  
With His gracious 'Inasmuch.'

Sing, where the full-toned organ  
Resounds through aisle and nave,  
And the choral praise ascendeth  
In concord sweet and grave.  
Sing, where the village voices  
Fall harshly on your ear ;  
And, while more earnestly you join,  
Less discord you will hear.

The noblest and the humblest  
Alike are 'common praise,'  
And not for human ear alone  
The psalm and hymn we raise.

Sing in the deepening twilight,  
When the shadow of eve is nigh,  
And her purple and golden pinions  
Fold o'er the western sky.  
Sing in the silver silence,  
While the first moonbeams fall ;  
So shall your power be greater  
Over the hearts of all.  
Sing till you bear them with you  
Into a holy calm,  
And the sacred tones have scattered  
Manna, and myrrh, and balm.

Sing ! that your song may gladden ;  
Sing like the happy rills,  
Leaping in sparkling blessing  
Fresh from the breezy hills.  
Sing ! that your song may silence  
The folly and the jest,  
And the 'idle word' be banished  
As an unwelcome guest.

Sing ! that your song may echo  
After the strain is past,  
A link of the love-wrought cable  
That holds some vessel fast.

Sing to the tired and anxious ;  
It is yours to fling a ray,  
Passing indeed, but cheering,  
Across the rugged way.  
Sing to God's holy servants,  
Weary with loving toil,  
Spent with their faithful labour  
On oft ungrateful soil.  
The chalice of your music  
All reverently bear,  
For with the blessèd angels  
Such ministry you share.

When you long to bear the Message  
Home to some troubled breast,  
Then sing with loving fervour,  
'Come unto Him, and rest.'  
Or would you whisper comfort,  
Where words bring no relief,  
Sing how 'He was despisèd,  
Acquainted with our grief.'

And, aided by His blessing,  
The song may win its way  
Where speech had no admittance,  
And change the night to day.

Sing, when His mighty mercies  
And marvellous love you feel,  
And the deep joy of gratitude  
Ssprings freshly as you kneel ;  
When words, like morning starlight,  
Melt powerless,—rise and sing !  
And bring your sweetest music  
To Him, your gracious King.  
Pour out your song before Him  
To whom our best is due ;  
Remember, He who hears your prayer  
Will hear your praises too.

Sing on in grateful gladness !  
Rejoice in this good thing  
Which the Lord thy God hath given thee,  
The happy power to sing.  
But yield to Him, the Sovereign,  
To whom all gifts belong,  
In fullest consecration,  
Your Ministry of Song,

Until His mercy grant you  
That resurrection voice,  
Whose only ministry shall be,  
To praise Him and rejoice.

—o—

*OUR HIDDEN LEAVES.*

**O**H the hidden leaves of Life !  
Closely folded in the heart ;  
Leaves where Memory's golden finger,  
Slowly pointing, loves to linger ;  
Leaves that bid the old tears start.

Leaves where Hope would read the future,  
Sibylline, and charged with fate :  
Leaves which calm Submission closeth,  
While her tearless eye repositeth  
On the legend, ' Trust, and wait ! '

Leaves which grave Experience ponders  
Soundings for her pilot-charts ;  
Leaves which God Himself is storing,  
Records which we read, adoring  
Him who writes on human hearts.

All our own, our treasured secrets,  
Indestructible archives !  
None can copy, none can steal them,  
Death itself shall not reveal them,  
Sacred manuscripts of lives.

Some are filled with fairy pictures,  
Half imagined and half seen ;  
Radiant faces, fretted towers,  
Sunset colours, starry flowers,  
Wondrous arabesques between.

Some are traced with liquid sunbeams,  
Some with fire, and some with tears ;  
Some with crimson dyes are glowing,  
From a smitten life-rock flowing  
Through the wilderness of years.

Some are crossed with later writing,  
Palimpsests of earliest days ;  
Old remembrance faintly gleaming  
Through the thinking and the dreaming  
Outlines dim in noontide haze.

One lies open, all unwritten,  
To the glance of careless sight ;

Yet it bears a shining story,  
Traced in phosphorescent glory,  
Only legible by night.

One is dark with hieroglyphics  
Of some dynasty of grief :  
Only God, and just one other,  
Dearest friend, or truest brother,  
Ever read that hidden leaf.

Many a leaf is undeciphered,  
Writ in languages unknown ;  
O'er the strange inscription bending,  
(Every clue in darkness ending,)   
Finding no ' Rosetta Stone,'

Still we study, always failing !  
God can read it, we must wait ;  
Wait, until He teach the mystery,  
Then the wisdom-woven history  
Faith shall read, and Love translate.

Leaflets now unpaged and scattered  
Time's great library receives ;  
When eternity shall bind them,  
Golden volumes we shall find them,  
God's light falling on the leaves.



*THREEFOLD PRAISE.*

HAYDN—MENDELSSOHN—HANDEL.

‘We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life ; but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.’

PART I.

‘We bless Thee for our creation.’

*Haydn's ‘Creation.’*

WHAT is the first and simplest praise,  
The universal debt,  
Which yet the thoughtless heart of man  
So quickly may forget?  
‘We bless Thee for creation!’  
So taught the noble band  
Who left a sound and holy form,  
For ages yet to stand,  
Rich legacy of praise and prayer,  
Laid up through ages past,  
Strong witness for the truth of God :  
Oh, may we hold it fast !

‘We bless Thee for creation !’  
So are we blithely taught

By Haydn's joyous spirit ;  
Such was the praise he brought.  
A praise all morning sunshine,  
And sparklets of the spring,  
O'er which the long life-shadows  
No chastening softness fling.

A praise of early freshness,  
Of carol and of trill,  
Re-echoing all the music  
Of valley and of rill.  
A praise that we are sharing  
With every singing breeze,  
With nightingales and linnets,  
With waterfalls and trees ;  
With anthems of the flowers.  
Too delicate and sweet  
For all their fairy minstrelsy  
Our mortal ears to greet.

A mighty song of blessing  
Archangels too uplift,  
For their own bright existence,  
A grand and glorious gift.  
But such their full life-chalice,  
So sparkling and so pure,

---

And such their vivid sense of joy,  
Sweet, solid, and secure,  
We cannot write the harmonies  
To such a song of bliss,  
We only catch the melody,  
And sing, content with this.

We are but little children,  
And earth a broken toy ;  
We do not know the treasures  
In our Father's house of joy.  
Thanksgivings for creation  
We ignorantly raise ;  
We know not yet the thousandth part  
Of that for which we praise.

Yet, praise Him for creation !  
Nor cease the happy song,  
But this our Hallelujah  
Through all our life prolong ;  
'T will mingle with the chorus  
Before the heavenly throne,  
Where what it truly is TO BE  
Shall first be fully known.

## PART II.

' . . . preservation, and all the blessings of this life.'

*Mendelssohn's 'Elijah.'*

O Felix ! happy in thy varied store  
Of harmonies undreamt before,  
How different was the gift  
Of praise 'twas thine to pour,  
Whether in stately calm, or tempest strong and  
swift !

Mark the day,  
In mourning robe of grey,  
Of shrouded mountain and of storm-swept  
vale,  
And purple pall spread o'er the distance pale,  
While thunderous masses wildly drift  
In lurid gloom and grandeur : then a swift  
And dazzling ray bursts through a sudden  
rift ;  
The dark waves glitter as the storms subside,  
And all is light and glory at the eventide.

O sunlight of thanksgiving ! Who that knows  
Its bright forth-breaking after dreariest days,

Would change the after-thought of woes  
For memory's loveliest light that glows,  
If so he must forego one note of that sweet  
praise?

For not the song  
Which knows no minor cadence, sad and  
long;  
And not the tide  
Whose emerald and silver pride  
Was never dashed in wild and writhing fray,  
Where grim and giant rocks hurl back the  
spray;  
And not the crystal atmosphere,  
That carves each outline sharp and clear  
Upon a sapphire sky : not these, not these,  
Nor aught existing but to charm and please,  
Without acknowledging life's mystery,  
And all the mighty reign  
Of yearning and of pain  
That fills its half-read history,  
Fit music can supply  
To lift the wandering heart on high  
To that Preserving Love, which rules all  
change,  
And gives 'all blessings of this life,' so dream-  
like and so strange.

And his was praise  
Deeper and truer, such as those may raise  
Who know both shade and sunlight, and  
whose life  
Hath learnt victorious strife  
Of courage and of trust and hope still dear,  
With passion and with grief, with danger and  
with fear.

---

Upriseth now a cry,  
Plaintive and piercing, to the brazen sky :  
Help, Lord ! the harvest days are gone ;  
Help, Lord ! for other help is none ;  
The infant children cry for bread,  
And no man breaketh it. The suckling's  
tongue for thirst  
Now cleaveth to his mouth. Our land is  
cursed ;  
Our wasted Zion mourns, in vain her hands  
are spread.

A mother's tale of grief,  
Of sudden blight upon the chief,  
The *only* flower of love that cheered her  
widowed need :  
O loneliest ! O desolate indeed !

Were it not mockery to whisper here  
A word of hope and cheer?

A mountain brow, an awe-struck crowd,  
The prayer-sent flame, the prayer-sent  
cloud,  
A mighty faith, a more than kingly power,  
Changed for depression's darkest hour,  
For one lone shadow in the desert sought,  
A fainting frame, a spirit overwrought,  
A sense of labour vain, and strength all spent  
for nought.

Death hovering near,  
With visible terror-spear  
Of famine, or a murder-stained sword,  
A stricken land forsaken of her Lord ;  
While bowed with doubled fear,  
The faithful few appear ;  
O sorrows manifold outpoured !  
Is blessing built upon such dark founda-  
tion ;  
And can a temple rising from such woe,  
Rising upon such mournful crypts below,  
Be filled with light and joy and sounding  
adoration?

O strange mosaic ! wondrously inlaid  
Are all its depths of shade,  
With beauteous stones of promise, marbles  
fair  
Of trust and calm, and flashing brightly,  
there  
The precious gems of praise are set, and  
shine  
Resplendent with a light that almost seems  
Divine.

Thanks be to God !  
The thirsty land He laveth,  
The perishing He saveth ;  
The floods lift up their voices,  
The answering earth rejoices.  
Thanks be to Him, and never - ending  
laud,  
For this new token of His bounteous love,  
Who reigns in might the waterfloods above :  
The gathering waters rush along ;  
And leaps the exultant shout, one cataract of  
song,  
Thanks be to God !

Thus joyously we sing ;  
Nor is this all the praise we bring.



We need not wait for earthquake, storm,  
and fire

To lift our praises higher ;

Nor wait for heaven-dawn ere we join the  
hymn

Of throne-surrounding cherubim ;

For even on earth their anthem hath begun,

To *Him*, the Mighty and the Holy One.

We know the still small Voice in many a  
word

Of guidance, and command, and promise  
heard ;

And, knowing it, we bow before His feet,

With love and awe the seraph-strain repeat,

Holy, Holy, Holy ! God the Lord !

His glory fills the earth, His name be all-adored.

O Lord, our Lord ! how excellent Thy name  
Throughout this universal frame !

Therefore Thy children rest

Beneath the shadow of Thy wings,

A shelter safe and blest ;

And tune their often tremulous strings

Thy love to praise, Thy glory to proclaim,

The Merciful, the Gracious One, eternally The  
Same.

## PART III.

‘ . . . but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.’

*Handel's ‘ Messiah ’*

Hush ! for a master harp is tuned again,  
In truest unison with choirs above,  
For prelude to a loftier, sweeter strain,  
The praise of God's inestimable love ;  
Who sent redemption to a world of woe,  
That all a Father's heart His banished ones  
might know.

Hush ! while on silvery wing of holiest song  
Floats forth the old, dear story of our peace,  
His coming, the Desire of Ages long,  
To wear our chains, and win our glad  
release.

Our wondering joy, to hear such tidings blest,  
Is crowned with ‘ Come to Him, and He will  
give you rest.’

Rest, by His sorrow ! Bruisèd for our sin,  
Behold the Lamb of God ! His death our  
life.

Now lift your heads, ye gates ! He entereth in,  
Christ risen indeed, and Conqueror in the  
strife.

Thanks, thanks to Him who won, and Him  
who gave  
Such victory of love, such triumph o'er the  
grave.

Hark ! ' Hallelujah ! ' O sublimest strain !  
Is it prophetic echo of the day  
When He, our Saviour and our King, shall  
reign,  
And all the earth shall own His righteous  
sway ?  
Lift heart and voice, and swell the mighty  
chords,  
While hallelujahs peal, to Him, the Lord of  
lords !

' Worthy of all adoration,  
Is the Lamb that once was slain,'  
Cry, in raptured exultation,  
His redeemed from every nation ;  
Angel myriads join the strain,  
Sounding from their sinless strings  
Glory to the King of kings :

Harping, with their harps of gold,  
Praise which never can be told.

Hallelujahs full and swelling  
Rise around His throne of might,  
All our highest laud excelling,  
Holy and Immortal, dwelling  
In the unapproachèd light,  
He is worthy to receive  
All that heaven and earth can give ;  
Blessing, honour, glory, might,  
All are His by glorious right.

As the sound of many waters  
Let the full Amen arise !  
HALLELUJAH ! Ceasing never,  
Sounding through the great FOR EVER,  
Linking all its harmonies ;  
Through eternities of bliss,  
Lord, our rapture shall be this ;  
And our endless life shall be  
One AMEN of praise to Thee.

*NOT YET.*

JOHN xiii. 7.

NOT yet thou knowest what I do,  
O feeble child of earth,  
Whose life is but to angel view  
The morning of thy birth !  
The smallest leaf, the simplest flower,  
The wild bee's honey-cell,  
Have lessons of My love and power  
Too hard for thee to spell.

Thou knowest not how I uphold  
The little thou dost scan ;  
And how much less canst thou unfold  
My universal plan,  
Where all thy mind can grasp of space  
Is but a grain of sand ;—  
The time thy boldest thought can trace,  
One ripple on the strand !

Not yet thou knowest what I do  
In this wild, warring world,

Whose prince doth still triumphant view  
Confusion's flag unfurled ;  
Nor how each proud and daring thought  
Is subject to My will,  
Each strong and secret purpose brought  
My counsel to fulfil.

Not yet thou knowest how I bid  
Each passing hour entwine  
Its grief or joy, its hope or fear,  
In one great love-design ;  
Nor how I lead thee through the night,  
By many a various way,  
Still upward to unclouded light,  
And onward to the day.

Not yet thou knowest what I do  
Within thine own weak breast,  
To mould thee to My image true,  
And fit thee for My rest.  
But yield thee to My loving skill ;  
The veiled work of grace,  
From day to day progressing still,  
It is not thine to trace.

Yes, walk by faith and not by sight,  
Fast clinging to My hand ;

Content to feel My love and might,  
Not yet to understand.  
A little while thy course pursue,  
Till grace to glory grow ;  
Then what I am, and what I do,  
Hereafter thou shalt know.

*THANKSGIVING.*

**T**HANKS be to God ! to whom earth owes  
Sunshine and breeze,  
The heath-clad hill, the vale's repose,  
Streamlet and seas,  
The snowdrop and the summer rose,  
The many-voicèd trees.

Thanks for the darkness that reveals  
Night's starry dower ;  
And for the sable cloud that heals  
Each fevered flower ;  
And for the rushing storm that peals  
Our weakness and Thy power.

Thanks for the sweetly-lingering might  
    In music's tone ;  
For paths of knowledge, whose calm light  
    Is all Thine own ;  
For thoughts that at the Infinite  
    Fold their bright wings alone.

Yet thanks that silence oft may flow  
    In dewlike store ;  
Thanks for the mysteries that show  
    How small our lore ;  
Thanks that we here so little know,  
    And trust Thee all the more !

Thanks for the gladness that entwines  
    Our path below ;  
Each sunrise that incarnadines  
    The cold, still snow ;  
Thanks for the light of love which shines  
    With brightest earthly glow.


Thanks for the sickness and the grief  
    Which none may flee ;  
For loved ones standing now around  
    The crystal sea ;  
And for the weariness of heart  
    Which only rests in Thee.



Thanks for Thine own thrice-blessèd Word,  
And Sabbath rest ;  
Thanks for the hope of glory stored  
In mansions blest ;  
Thanks for the Spirit's comfort poured  
Into the trembling breast.

Thanks, more than thanks, to Him ascend,  
Who died to win  
Our life, and every trophy rend  
From Death and Sin ;  
Till, when the thanks of Earth shall end,  
The thanks of Heaven begin.

NOTE.—It may be well to say, that these verses were in print before the writer either saw or heard of the beautiful little poem by Adelaide Procter on the same theme.



*LIFE-CRYSTALS.*

THE world is full of crystals. Swift, or  
slow,  
Or dark, or bright their varying formation ;  
From pure calm heights of fair untrodden  
snow  
To fire-wrought depths of earliest creation.  
And life is full of crystals ; forming still  
In myriad-shaped results from good and seem-  
ing ill.

Yes ! forming everywhere ; in busiest street,  
In noisiest throng. Oh how it would astound  
us,  
The strange soul-chemistry of some we meet  
In slight and passing talk ! For all around us,  
Deep inner silence broods o'er gems to be.  
Now, in three visioned hearts trace out the work  
with me !

A heart that wonderingly received the flow  
Of marvels and of mysteries of being,  
Of sympathies and tensions, joy and woe ;  
Each earnestly from baser substance freeing :

A great life-mixture, full, and deep, and strong :  
A sudden touch, and lo! it crystallized in song.

Then forth it flashed among the souls of men  
Its own prismatic radiance, brightly sealing  
A several rainbow for each several ken ;  
The secrets of the distant stars revealing ;  
Reflecting many a heart's clear rays unknown,  
And, freely shedding light, it analysed their  
own.

A heart from which all joy had ebbd away,  
And grief poured in a flood of burning anguish,  
Then sealed the molten glow ; till, day by day,  
The fires without, within, begin to languish :  
Then 'afterward' came coolness ; all was well,  
And from the broken crust a shining crystal fell.

A mourner found, and fastened on her breast  
The soft-hued gem, the prized by mourners  
only ;  
With sense of treasure gained she sought her  
rest,  
No longer wandering in the twilight lonely ;  
The sorrow-crystal glittering in the dark,  
While faith and hope shone out to greet its starry  
spark.

A heart where emptiness seemed emptier made  
By colourless remains of tasteless pleasure ;  
ONE came, and pitying the hollow shade,  
Poured in His own strong love in fullest  
measure ;

Then shadowed it with silent falling night,  
And stilled it with the solemn Presence of His  
might.

A little while, then found the Master there  
Love-crystals sparkling in the joyous morning ;  
He stooped to gaze, and smiled to own them  
fair,

A treasured choice for His own rich adorning ;  
Then set them in His diadem above,  
To mingle evermore with His own light and  
love.



*NOT YOUR OWN.*

‘NOT your own!’ but His ye are,  
Who hath paid a price untold  
For your life, exceeding far  
All earth’s store of gems and gold.  
With the precious blood of Christ,  
Ransom treasure all unpriced,  
Full redemption is procured,  
Full salvation is assured.

‘Not your own!’ but His by right,  
His peculiar treasure now,  
Fair and precious in His sight,  
Purchased jewels for His brow.  
He will keep what thus He sought,  
Safely guard the dearly bought,  
Cherish that which He did choose,  
Always love and never lose.

‘Not your own!’ but His, the King,  
His, the Lord of earth and sky,  
His, to whom archangels bring  
Homage deep and praises high.

What can royal birth bestow?  
Or the proudest titles show?  
Can such dignity be known  
As the glorious name, 'His own!'

'Not your own!' To Him ye owe  
All your life and all your love;  
Live, that ye His praise may show,  
Who is yet all praise above.  
Every day and every hour,  
Every gift and every power,  
Consecrate to Him alone,  
Who hath claimed you for His own.

Teach us, Master, how to give  
All we have and are to Thee;  
Grant us, Saviour, while we live,  
Wholly, only, Thine to be.  
Henceforth be our calling high  
Thee to serve and glorify;  
Ours no longer, but Thine own,  
Thine for ever, Thine alone!

*WOUNDED*

ONLY a look and a motion that nobody  
saw or heard,  
Past in a moment and over, with never the  
sound of a word ;  
Streams of converse around me smoothly and  
cheerily flow,  
But a terrible stab has been given, a silent and  
staggering blow.

Guesses the hand that gave it hardly a tithe of  
the smart,  
Nothing at all of the anguish that fiercely leapt  
up in my heart,  
Scorching and scathing its peace, while a  
tremulous nerve to the brain  
Flashed up a telegram sudden, a message of  
quivering pain.

They must be merry without me, for how can I  
sing to-night ?  
They will only think I am tired, and thought-  
fully shade the light ;

Finger and voice would fail while the wound is  
open and sore ;  
Bleeding away the strength I had gathered for  
days before.

Only a look and a motion ! Yes, but we little  
know  
How from each dwarf-like 'only' a giant of  
power may grow ;  
The thundering avalanche crushes, loosened by  
only a breath,  
And only a colourless drop may be laden with  
sudden death.

Only a word of command, but it loses or wins  
the field ;  
Only a stroke of the pen, but a heart is broken  
or healed ;  
Only a step may sever, pole-wide, future and  
past ;  
Only a touch may rivet links which for life shall  
last.

Only a look and a motion ! Why was the wound  
so deep ?  
Were it no echo of sorrow, hushed for a while  
to sleep,



Were it no shadow of fear, far o'er the future  
    thrown,  
Slight were the suffering now, if it bore on the  
    present alone.

Ah ! I would smile it away, but 't is all too  
    fresh and too keen ;  
Perhaps I may some day recall it as if it had  
    never been ;  
Now I can only be still, and endure where I  
    cannot cope,  
Praying for meekness and patience, praying for  
    faith and hope.

Is it an answer already that words to my mind  
    are brought,  
Floating like shining lilies on waters of gloomiest  
    thought ?  
Simple and short is the sentence, but oh ! what  
    it comprehends !  
*' Those with which I was wounded, in the house  
    of My friends.'*

Floating still on my heart, while I listen again  
    and again,  
Stilling the anxious throbbing, soothing the icy  
    pain,

Proving its sacred mission healing and balm to  
bring.

'Coming?' Yes, if you want me ! Yes, I  
am ready to sing.

—o—

*WHOSE I AM.*

JESUS, Master, whose I am,  
Purchased Thine alone to be,  
By Thy blood, O spotless Lamb,  
Shed so willingly for me ;  
Let my heart be all Thine own,  
Let me live to Thee alone.

Other lords have long held sway ;  
Now, Thy name alone to bear,  
Thy dear voice alone obey,  
Is my daily, hourly prayer.  
Whom have I in heaven but Thee ?  
Nothing else my joy can be.

Jesus, Master ! I am Thine ;  
Keep me faithful, keep me near ;

Let Thy presence in me shine  
All my homeward way to cheer.  
Jesus ! at Thy feet I fall,  
Oh, be Thou my All-in-all.

*WHOM I SERVE.*

JESUS, Master, whom I serve,  
Though so feebly and so ill,  
Strengthen hand and heart and nerve  
All Thy bidding to fulfil ;  
Open Thou mine eyes to see  
All the work Thou hast for me.

Lord, Thou needest not, I know,  
Service such as I can bring ;  
Yet I long to prove and show  
Full allegiance to my King.  
Thou an honour<sup>1</sup> art to me,  
Let me be a praise to Thee.

<sup>1</sup> See marginal reading of 1 Pet. ii. 7.

Jesus, Master ! wilt Thou use  
One who owes Thee more than all ?  
As Thou wilt ! I would not choose,  
Only let me hear Thy call.  
Jesus ! let me always be  
In Thy service glad and free.

—o—

*PEACE.*

**I**S this the Peace of God, this strange, sweet  
calm ?  
The weary day is at its zenith still,  
Yet 't is as if beside some cool, clear rill,  
Through shadowy stillness rose an evening  
psalm,  
And all the noise of life were hushed away,  
And tranquil gladness reigned with gently  
soothing sway.

It was not so just now. I turned aside  
Withaching head, and heart most sorely bowed ;  
Around me cares and griefs in crushing crowd,  
While inly rose the sense, in swelling tide,

Of weakness, insufficiency, and sin,  
And fear, and gloom, and doubt, in mighty  
flood rolled in.

That rushing flood I had no strength to  
meet,  
Nor power to flee : my present, future, past,  
My self, my sorrow, and my sin I cast  
In utter helplessness at Jesu's feet ;  
Then bent me to the storm, if such His will.  
He saw the winds and waves, and whispered,  
'Peace, be still !'

And there was calm ! O Saviour, I have  
proved  
That Thou to help and save art *really* near :  
How else this quiet rest from grief, and fear,  
And all distress ? The cross is not removed,  
I must go forth to bear it as before,  
But, leaning on Thine arm, I dread its weight  
no more.

Is it indeed Thy Peace ? I have not tried  
To analyse my faith, dissect my trust,  
Or measure if belief be full and just,  
And therefore claim Thy Peace. But Thou  
hast died,

I know that this is true, and true for me,  
And, knowing it, I come, and cast my all on  
Thee.

It is not that I feel less weak, but Thou  
Wilt be my strength ; it is not that I see  
Less sin, but more of pardoning love with  
Thee,

And all-sufficient grace. Enough! And now  
All fluttering thought is stilled, I only rest,  
And feel that Thou art near, and know that  
I am blest.



*GOD'S MESSAGE.*

TO HIM THAT IS FAR OFF

PEACE, peace !

To him that is far away.

Turn, O wanderer ! why wilt thou die,  
When the peace is made that shall bring thee  
nigh?

Listen, O rebel ! the heralds proclaim  
The King's own peace through a Saviour's  
name ;  
Then yield thee to-day.

Peace, peace !  
The word of the Lord to thee.  
Peace, for thy passion and restless pride,  
For thy endless cravings all unsupplied,  
Peace for thy weary and sin-worn breast ;  
He knows the need who has promised rest,  
And the gift is free.

Peace, peace !  
Through Him who for all hath died !  
Wider the terms than thy deepest guilt,  
Or in vain were the blood of our Surety spilt :  
Even *because* thou art far away  
To thee is the message of peace to-day,  
Peace through the Crucified.


AND TO HIM THAT IS NEAR.

PEACE, peace !  
Yea, peace to him that is near.  
The crown is set on the Victor's brow,  
For thy warfare is accomplished now ;

And for thee eternal peace is made  
By the Lord on whom thy sins were laid :  
Then why shouldst thou fear ?

Peace, peace !  
Wrought by the Spirit of Might.  
In thy deepest sorrow and sorest strife,  
In the changes and chances of mortal life,  
It is thine, beloved ! Christ's own bequest,  
Which vainly the Tempter shall strive to wrest ;  
It is now thy right.

Peace, peace !  
Look for its bright increase ;  
Deepening, widening, year by year,  
Like a sunlit river, strong, calm, and clear ;  
Lean on His love through this earthly vale,  
For His word and His work shall never fail,  
And 'He is our Peace.'





*'A GREAT MYSTERY.'*

THERE is a hush in earth and sky,  
The ear is free to list aright  
In darkness, veiling from the eye  
The many-coloured spells of light.

Not heralded by fire and storm,  
In shadowy outline dimly seen,  
Comes through the gloom a glorious  
Form,  
The once despisèd Nazarene.

Through waiting silence, voiceless shade,  
A still, small Voice so clearly floats,  
A listening lifetime were o'erpaid  
By one sweet echo of such notes.

'Fear not, belovèd ! thou art Mine,  
For I have given My life for thee ;  
By name I call thee, rise and shine,  
Be praise and glory unto Me.

'In Me all spotless and complete,  
And in My comeliness most fair

Art thou ; to Me thy voice is sweet,  
Prevailing in thy feeblest prayer.

‘ Thy life is hid in God with Me,  
I stoop to dwell within thy breast ;  
My joy for ever thou shalt be,  
And in My love for thee I rest.

‘ O Prince’s daughter, whom I see  
In bridal garments, pure as light,  
Betrothed for ever unto Me,  
On thee My own new name I write.’

Lo ! ‘neath the stars’ uncertain ray  
In flowing mantle glistening fair,  
One, lowly bending, turns away  
From that sweet voice in cold despair.

Is it Humility, who sees  
Herself unworthy of such grace,  
Who dares not hope her Lord to please,  
Who dares not look upon His face ?

Nay, where that mantle fleeting gleams,  
’T is Unbelief who turns aside,  
Who rather rests in self-spun dreams,  
Than trust the love of Him who died

Faith casts away the fair disguise,  
She will not doubt her Master's voice,  
And droop when He hath bid her rise,  
Or mourn when He hath said, 'Rejoice!

Her stained and soiled robes she leaves,  
And Christ's own shining raiment takes ;  
What His love gives, her love receives,  
And meek and trustful answer makes :

' Behold the handmaid of the Lord !  
Thou callest, and I come to Thee :  
According to Thy faithful word,  
O Master, be it unto me !

' Thy love I cannot comprehend,  
I only know Thy word is true,  
And that thou lovest to the end  
Each whom to Thee the Father drew.

' Oh ! take the heart I could not give  
Without Thy strength-bestowing call ;  
In Thee, and for Thee, let me live,  
For I am nothing, Thou art all.'

*BE NOT WEARY.*

YES ! He knows the way is dreary,  
Knows the weakness of our frame,  
Knows that hand and heart are weary ;  
He, 'in all points,' felt the same.  
He is near to help and bless ;  
Be not weary, onward press.

Look to Him who once was willing  
All His glory to resign,  
That, for thee the law fulfilling,  
All His merit might be thine.  
Strive to follow day by day  
Where His footsteps mark the way.

Look to Him, the Lord of Glory,  
Tasting death to win thy life ;  
Gazing on ' that wondrous story,'  
Canst thou falter in the strife ?  
Is it not new life to know  
That the Lord hath loved thee so ?

Look to Him who ever liveth,  
Interceding for His own :

Seek, yea, claim the grace He giveth  
    Freely from His priestly throne.  
Will He not thy strength renew  
With His Spirit's quickening dew?

Look to Him, and faith shall brighten,  
    Hope shall soar, and love shall burn ;  
Peace once more thy heart shall lighten ;  
    Rise ! He calleth thee, return !  
Be not weary on thy way,  
Jesus is thy strength and stay.



*THE GREAT TEACHER.*

I LOVE to feel that I am taught,  
And, as a little child,  
To note the lessons I have learnt  
    In passing through the wild.  
For I am sure God teaches me,  
And His own gracious hand  
Each varying page before me spreads,  
By love and wisdom planned.

I often think I cannot spell  
The lesson I must learn,  
And then, in weariness and doubt,  
I pray the page may turn ;  
But time goes on, and soon I find  
I was learning all the while ;  
And words which seemed most dimly  
traced  
Shine out with rainbow smile.

Or sometimes strangely I forget,  
And, learning o'er and o'er,  
A lesson all with tear-drops wet,  
Which I had learnt before.  
He chides me not, but waits awhile,  
Then wipes my heavy eyes :  
Oh what a Teacher is our God,  
So patient and so wise !

Dark silent hours of study fall,  
And I can scarcely see ;  
Then one beside me whispers low  
What is so hard to me.  
'T is easier then ! I am so glad  
I am not taught alone ;  
It is such help to overhear  
A lesson like my own.


Sometimes the Master gives to me  
A strange new alphabet ;  
I wonder what its use will be,  
Or why it need be set.  
And then I find this tongue alone  
Some stranger ear can reach,  
One whom He may commission me  
For Him to train or teach.

If others sadly bring to me  
A lesson hard and new,  
I often find that helping them  
Has made me learn it too.  
Or, had I learnt it long before,  
My toil is overpaid,  
If so one tearful eye may see  
One lesson plainer made.

We do not see our Teacher's face,  
We do not hear His voice ;  
And yet we know that He is near,  
We feel it, and rejoice.  
There is a music round our hearts,  
Set in no mortal key ;  
There is a Presence with our souls,  
We know that it is He.

His loving teaching cannot fail ;  
And we shall know at last  
Each task that seemed so hard and strange,  
When learning time is past.  
Oh ! may we learn to love Him more,  
By every opening page,  
By every lesson He shall mark  
With daily ripening age.

And then, to 'know as we are known'  
Shall be our glorious prize,  
To see the Teacher who hath been  
So patient and so wise.  
O joy untold ! Yet not alone  
Shall ours the gladness be :  
The travail of His soul in us  
Our Saviour-God shall see.





*AUNTIE'S LESSONS.*

THEY said their texts, and their hymns  
they sang,  
On that sunny Sabbath-day ;  
And yet there was time ere the church-bell  
rang,  
So I bid them trot away,  
And leave me to rest and read alone,  
Where the ash-tree's shade o'er the lawn was  
thrown.

But oh ! 't was a cry and a pleading sore,  
' O Auntie ! we will not tease,  
But tell us one Sunday story more ;  
We will sit so still on the grassy floor ;  
Tell us the one you told before  
Of little black Mumu, please,  
Whom, deaf and dumb, and sick and lone,  
The good ship brought to Sierra Leone.'

Willie begged loud, and Francie low,  
And Alice, who could resist her ?

Certainly not myself, and so  
The story was just beginning, when lo !  
    To the rescue came my sister.  
'I will tell you a story to-day ;  
Aunt Fanny has all her own lessons to say !'

Wonderful notion, and not at all clear !  
    Alfred looked quite astounded.  
Who in the world *my* lessons could hear ?  
They guessed at every one far and near,  
    'T was a mystery unbounded.  
They settled at last that it must be  
Grandpapa Havergal over the sea.

Then merry eyes grew grave and wise,  
    On tiptoe Alice trod ;  
She had a better thought than they,  
And whispered low, ' Does Auntie say  
    Her lessons all to God ? '  
How little the import deep she knew  
Of those baby-words, so sweet and true !

Little she knew what they enfold !—  
    A treasure of happy thought ;  
A tiny casket of virgin gold,  
    With jewels of comfort fraught.

Great men's wisdom may pass away,  
Dear Alice's words in my heart will stay.

—o—

R E S T.

'Thou hast made us for Thyself, and the heart never  
resteth till it findeth rest in Thee.'—*St. Augustine.*

MADE for Thyself, O God !  
Made for Thy love, Thy service, Thy delight ;  
Made to show forth Thy wisdom, grace, and  
    might ;  
Made for Thy praise, whom veiled archangels  
    laud ;  
Oh strange and glorious thought, that we may be  
    A joy to Thee !

Yet the heart turns away  
From this grand destiny of bliss, and deems  
'T was made for its poor self, for passing  
    dreams,  
Chasing illusions melting day by day ;  
Till *for ourselves* we read on this world's best,  
    'This is not rest !'

Nor can the vain toil cease,  
Till in the shadowy maze of life we meet  
One who can guide our aching, wayward feet  
To find Himself, our Way, our Life, our Peace.  
In Him the long unrest is soothed and stilled ;  
Our hearts are filled.

O rest, so true, so sweet !  
(Would it were shared by all the weary world !)  
'Neath shadowing banner of His love unfurled,  
We bend to kiss the Master's piercèd feet ;  
Then lean our love upon His loving breast,  
And know God's rest.



*ONE QUESTION, MANY ANSWERS.*

'WHAT wouldst thou be ?'  
The question hath wakened wild thoughts in me,  
And a thousand responses, like ghosts from their  
    graves,  
Arise from my soul's unexplored deep caves,  
The echoes of every varying mood  
Of a wayward spirit all unsubdued ;

The voices which thrill through my inmost  
breast

May tell me of gladness, but not of rest.

What wouldst thou be?

'T is well that the answer is not for me.

‘What wouldst thou be?’

An eagle soaring rejoicingly.

One who may rise on the lightning's wing,

Till our wide, wide world seem a tiny thing ;

Who may stand on the confines of boundless  
space,

And the giant form of the universe trace,

While its full grand harmonies swell around,

And grasp it all with mind profound.

Such would I be,

Only stayed by infinity.

‘What wouldst thou be?’

A bright incarnation of melody.

One whose soul is a fairy lute,

Waking such tones as bid all be mute,

Breathing such notes as may silence woe,

Pouring such strains as make joy o'erflow,

Speaking in music the heart's deep emotion,

Soothing and sweet as the shell of the ocean.

Such would I be,  
Like a fountain of music, all pure and free.

‘What wouldst thou be?’  
A living blossom of poesy.  
A soul of mingled power and light,  
Evoking images rare and bright,  
Fair and pure as an angel’s dream ;  
Touching all with a heavenly gleam ;  
And royally claiming from poet-throne  
Earth’s treasure of beauty as all mine own.

Such would I be—  
My childhood’s dream in reality !

‘What wouldst thou be?’  
A wondrous magnet to all I see.  
A spirit whose power may touch and bind  
With unconscious influence every mind ;  
Whose presence brings, like some fabled wand,  
The love which a monarch may not command .  
As the spring awakens from cold repose  
The bloomless brier, the sweet wild rose.

Such would I be,  
With the love of all to encircle me !

‘What wouldst thou be?’  
A wavelet just rising from life’s wide sea.

I would I were once again a child,  
Like a laughing floweret on mountains wild ;  
In the fairy realms of fancy dwelling,  
The golden moments for sunbeams selling ;  
Ever counting on bright to-morrows,  
And knowing nought of unspoken sorrows.

Such would I be,  
A sparkling cascade of untiring glee.

‘What wouldst thou be?’

A blessing to each one surrounding me ;  
A chalice of dew to the weary heart,  
A sunbeam of joy bidding sorrow depart,  
To the storm-tossed vessel a beacon light,  
A nightingale song in the darkest night,  
A beckoning hand to a far-off goal,  
An angel of love to each friendless soul :

Such would I be.  
Oh that *such* happiness were for me !

‘What wouldst thou be?’

With these alone were no rest for me.  
I would be my Saviour’s loving child,  
With a heart set free from its passions wild.  
Rejoicing in Him and His own sweet ways ;  
An echo of heaven’s unceasing praise,

---

A mirror here of His light and love,  
And a polished gem in His crown above.  
Such would I be,  
Thine, O Saviour, and one with Thee !



### CONTENTS.

“ WHAT wouldst thou be ? ”  
A wavelet just rising from life's wide sea.  
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Like a laughing floweret on mountains wild ;  
In the fairy realms of fancy dwelling,  
The golden moments for sunbeams selling ;  
Ever counting on bright to-morrows,  
And knowing nought of unspoken sorrows :  
Such would I be,  
A sparkling cascade of untiring glee.’

1860.

. . . . .  
Not so, not so !  
For longings change as the full years flow.  
When I had but taken a step or two  
From the fairy regions still in view ;



While their playful breezes fanned me still  
At every pause on the steeper hill,  
And the blossoms showered from every shoot,  
Showered and fell, and yet no fruit,—

It was grief and pain  
That I never could be a child again.

Not so, not so !  
Back to my life-dawn I would not go.  
A little is lost, but more is won,  
As the sterner work of the day is done.  
We forget that the troubles of childish days  
Were once gigantic in morning haze.  
There is less of fancy, but more of truth,  
For we lose the mists with the dew of youth ;  
And a rose is born  
On many a spray which seemed only thorn.

Not so, not so !  
While the years of childhood glided slow,  
There was all to receive and nothing to give :  
Is it not better for others to live ?  
And happier far than merriest games  
Is the joy of our new and nobler aims :  
*Then* fair fresh flowers, *now* lasting gems ;  
*Then* wreaths for a day, but *now* diadems,

For ever to shine,  
Bright in the radiance of Love Divine.

Not so, not so !  
I would not again be a child, I know !  
But were it not pleasant again to stand  
On the border-line of that fairy land,—  
Feeling so buoyant and blithe and strong,  
Fearing no slip as we bound along,  
Halting at will in the sunshine to bask,  
Deeming the journey an easy task,  
While Courage and Hope  
Smooth with 'Come, see, and conquer' each  
emerald slope ?

Not so, not so !  
Less leaping flame, but a deeper glow !  
There is more of sorrow, but more of joy,  
Less glittering ore, but less alloy ;  
There is more of pain, but more of balm,  
And less of pleasure, but more of calm ;  
Many a hope all spent and dead,  
But higher and brighter hopes instead ;  
Less risked, more won ;  
Less planned and dreamed, but perhaps more  
done.

Not so, not so !

Not in stature and learning alone we grow.  
Though we no more look from year to year  
For power of mind more strong and clear,  
Though the table-land of life we tread,  
No widening view before us spread,  
No sunlit summits to lure ambition,  
But only the path of a daily mission,  
    We would not turn  
Where the will-o'-the-wisps of our young dreams  
    burn.

Then be it so !

For in better things we yet may grow.  
Onward and upward still our way,  
With the joy of progress from day to day ;  
Nearer and nearer every year  
To the visions and hopes most true and dear ;  
Children still of a Father's love,  
Children still of a home above !

Thus we look back,  
Without a sigh, o'er the lengthening track.

1867.

*MISUNDERSTOOD.*

‘**P**EOPLE do not understand me,  
Their ideas are not like mine ;  
All advances seem to land me  
Still outside their guarded shrine.’

So you turn from simple joyance,  
Losing many a mutual good,  
Weary with the chill annoyance  
So to be misunderstood.

Let me try to lift the curtain  
Hiding other hearts from view ;  
You complain, but are you certain  
That the fault is not with you ?

In the sunny summer hours,  
Sitting in your quiet room,  
Can you wonder if the flowers  
Breathe for you no sweet perfume ?

True, you see them bright and pearly  
With the jewelry of morn ;

But their fragrance, fresh and early,  
Is not through your window borne.

You must go to them, and stooping,  
Cull the blossoms where they live ;  
On your bosom gently drooping,  
All their treasure they will give.

Who would guess what fragrance lingers  
In verbenas's pale green show !  
Press the leaflet in your fingers,  
All its sweetness you will know.

Few the harps Æolian, sending  
Unsought music on the wind :  
Else must love and skill be blending  
Music's full response to find.

• But my key-note,' are you thinking.  
' Will not modulate to theirs ? '  
Seek ! and subtle chords enlinking,  
Soon shall blend the differing airs.

Fairly sought, some point of contact  
There must be with every mind ;  
And, perchance, the closest compact  
Where we least expect we find.

Perhaps the heart you meet so coldly  
Burns with deepest lava-glow ;  
Wisely pierce the crust, and boldly,  
And a fervid stream shall flow.

Dialects of love are many,  
Though the language be but one ;  
Study all you can, or any,  
While life's precious school-hours run.

Closed the heart-door of thy brother,  
All its treasure long concealed ?  
One key fails, then try another,  
Soon the rusty lock shall yield.

Few have not some hidden trial,  
And could sympathise with thine ;  
Do not take it as denial  
That you see no outward sign.

Silence is no certain token  
That no secret grief is there ;  
Sorrow which is never spoken  
Is the heaviest load to bear.

Seldom can the heart be lonely,  
If it seek a lonelier still,

Self-forgetting, seeking only  
Emptier cups of love to fill.

'T will not be a fruitless labour,  
Overcome this ill with good ;  
*Try to understand your neighbour,*  
*And you will be understood.*

—o—

*SUNBEAMS IN THE WOOD.*

MARK ye not the sunbeams glancing  
Through the cool green shade,  
On the waving fern-leaves dancing,  
In the quiet glade?

See you how they change and quiver  
Where the broad oaks rise,  
Rippling like a golden river  
From their fountain skies?

On the grey old timber resting  
Like a sleeping dove,  
Like a fairy grandchild nesting  
In an old man's love.

On the dusty pathway tracing  
Arabesques with golden style ;  
Light and shadow interlacing,  
Like a tearful smile.

Many a hidden leaf revealing,  
Many an unseen flower ;  
Like a maiden lightly stealing  
Past each secret bower.

Oh ! how beautiful they make it  
Everywhere they fall ;  
Sunbeams ! why will ye forsake it  
At pale Evening's call ?

In the arching thickets linger,  
In the woodland aisle,  
Gilding them with trembling finger,  
Yet a little while.

Then, your last calm radiance pouring,  
Bid the earth good-night ;  
Like a sainted spirit soaring  
To a home of light.



*THE STAR SHOWER.*

NOVEMBER 14, 1866.

O H ! to raise a mighty shout,  
And bid the sleepers all come out !  
No dreamer's fancy, fair and high,  
Could image forth a grander sky.  
And oh for eyes of swifter power  
To follow fast the starry shower !  
Oh for a sweep of vision clear  
To grasp at once a hemisphere !

The solemn old chorale of Night,  
With fullest chords of awful might,  
Re-echoes still in stately march  
Throughout the glowing heavenly arch :  
But harmonies all new and rare  
Are intermingling everywhere,  
Fantastic, fitful, fresh, and free ;  
A sparkling wealth of melody,  
A carol of sublimest glee,  
Is bursting from the starry chorus,  
In dazzling exultation o'er us.

O wondrous sight ! so swift, so bright,  
Like sudden thrills of strange delight ;  
As if the stars were all at play,  
And kept ecstatic holiday ;  
As if it were a jubilee  
Of glad millenniums fully told,  
Or universal sympathy  
With some new-dawning age of gold.

Flashing from the lordly lion,  
Flaming under bright Procyon,  
From the farthest east up-ranging,  
Past the blessed orb<sup>1</sup> unchanging ;  
Ursa's brilliance far out-gleaming,  
From the very zenith streaming ;  
Rushing, as in joy delirious,  
To the pure white ray of Sirius ;  
Past Orion's belted splendour,  
Past Capella, clear and tender ;  
Lightening dusky Polar regions,  
Brightening pale encircling legions ;  
Lines of fiery glitter tracing,  
Parting, meeting, interlacing ;

<sup>1</sup> ' That admirable Polar Star, which is a *blessing* to astronomers.'—*Professor Airy's Popular Lectures on Astronomy.*

Paling every constellation  
With their radiant revelation !  
All we heard of meteor glory  
Is a true and sober story ;  
Who will not for life remember  
This night grandeur of November ?

---

'T is over now, the once-seen, dream-like sight !  
With gradual hand the clear and breezy dawn  
Hath o'er the marvels of the meteor night  
A veil of light impenetrable drawn.  
And earth is sweeping on through starless space.  
Nor may we once look back, the shining field  
to trace.

Ere next the glittering stranger-throng we meet,  
How many a star of life will seek the west !  
Our century's dying pulse will faintly beat ;  
The toilers of to-day will be at rest ;  
And little ones, who now but laugh and play,  
Will weary in the heat and burden of the day.

Oh, is there nothing beautiful and glad  
But bears a message of decay and change ?  
So be it ! Though we call it stern and sad,  
Viewed by the torch of Love, it is not strange.

'T is mercy that in Nature's *every* strain  
Deep warning tones peal out, in solemn sweet  
refrain.

And have not all created things a voice  
For those who listen farther,—whispers low  
To bid the children of the light rejoice  
In burning hopes they yet but dimly know?  
What will it be, all earthly darkness o'er,  
To shine as stars of God for ever—evermore !

—o—

*TREASURE TROVE.*

I PLAYED with the whispering rushes,  
By a river of reverie,  
Flowing so quietly onward  
Into an unknown sea.

And I watched the dreamy current,  
Till to my feet it brought,  
Glistening among the pebbles,  
The pearl of a fair new thought.

New ! yet many another,  
    Leaning over the stream,  
May have welcomed its sudden shining,  
    And gazed on its gentle gleam.

Long it must have been lying,  
    Yet it is new to me.  
Oh the treasures around us,  
    If we could only see !

I have broken the smooth dark water  
    Into ripples and circles bright,  
Lifting my pearl from the pebbles,  
    Bearing away its light.

I am so glad to have found it !  
    I shall treasure it safely a while,  
It will brighten the niche that is darkest  
    In my spirit's loneliest aisle.

And then, it may be, a dear one  
    Will wear it, a long, long time,  
Fastened firm on her bosom,  
    In a setting of silver rhyme.

*COMING SUMMER.*

WHAT will the summer bring?  
Sunshine and flowers,  
Brightness and melody,  
Golden-voiced hours ;  
Rose-gleaming mornings  
Vocal with praise ;  
Crimson-flushed evenings,  
Nightingale lays.

What may the summer bring ?  
Gladness and mirth,  
Laughter and song,  
For the children of earth ;  
Smiles for the old man,  
Joy for the strong,  
Glee for the little ones  
All the day long.

What will the summer bring ?  
Coolness and shade,  
Eloquent stillness  
In thicket and glade ;

Whispering breezes,  
Fragrance oppressed ;  
Lingering twilight  
Soothing to rest.

What may the summer bring ?  
Freshness and calm  
To the care-worn and troubled,  
Beauty and balm.  
O toil-weary spirit,  
Rest thee anew,  
For the heat of the world-race  
Summer hath dew !

What will the summer bring ?  
Sultry noon hours,  
Lurid horizons,  
Frowning cloud-towers !  
Loud-crashing thunders,  
Tempest and hail,  
Death-bearing lightnings,  
It brings without fail.

What may the summer bring ?  
Dimness and woe,  
Blackness of sorrow  
Its bright days may know ;

Flowers may be wormwood,  
Verdure a pall,  
The shadow of death  
On the fairest may fall.

Is it not ever so?  
Where shall we find  
Light that may cast  
No shadow behind?  
Calm that no tempest  
May darkly await?  
Joy that no sorrow  
May swiftly abate?

Will the story of summer  
Be written in light,  
Or traced in the darkness  
Of storm-cloud and night?  
We know not—we *would* not know;  
Why should we quail?  
Summer, we welcome thee!  
Summer, all hail!



*SEPTEMBER 1868.*

**A**N April burst of beauty,  
And a May like the Mays of old,  
And a glow of summer gladness  
While June her long days told ;  
And a hush of golden silence  
All through the bright July,  
Without one peal of thunder,  
Or a storm-wreath in the sky ;  
And a fiery reign of August,  
Till the moon was on the wane ;  
And then short clouded evenings,  
And a long and chilling rain.  
I thought the summer was over,  
And the whole year's glory spent,  
And that nothing but fog and drizzle  
Could be for Autumn meant ;—  
Nothing but dead leaves, falling  
Wet on the dark, damp mould,  
Less and less of the sunshine,  
More and more of the cold.  
  
But oh ! the golden day-time ;  
And oh ! the silver nights :

And the scarlet touch on the fir trunks  
Of the calm, grand sunset lights ;  
And the morning's bright revealings,  
Lifting the pearly mist,  
Like a bridal veil, from the valley  
That the sun hath claimed and kissed ;  
And oh ! the noontide shadows  
Longer and longer now,  
On the river margin resting,  
Like the tress on a thoughtful brow.  
Rich fruitage bends the branches  
With amber, and rose, and gold,  
O'er the purple and crimson asters,  
And geraniums gay and bold.  
The day is warm and glowing,  
But the night is cool and sweet,  
And we fear no smiting arrows  
Of fierce and fatal heat.  
The leaves are only dropping,  
Like flakes of a sunset cloud,  
And the robin's song is clearer  
Than Spring's own minstrel-crowd.  
A soft new robe of greenness  
Decks every sunny mead,  
And we own that bright September  
Is beautiful indeed.

Is thy life-summer passing?  
Think not thy joys are o'er!  
Thou hast not seen what Autumn  
For thee may have in store.  
Calmer than breezy April,  
Cooler than August blaze,  
The fairest time of all may be  
September's golden days.  
Press on, though Summer waneth,  
And falter not, nor fear,  
For God can make the Autumn  
The glory of the year.

*EARLY FAITH.*

WHOM hear we tell of all the joy which  
loving Faith can bring,  
The ever-widening glories reached on her  
strong seraph wing?  
Is it not oftenest they who long have wrestled  
with temptation,  
Or passed through fiery baptisms of mighty  
tribulation?

Perhaps, in life's great tapestry, the darkest  
    scenes are where  
The golden threads of Faith glance forth most  
    radiant and fair ;  
And gazing on the coming years, which un-  
    known griefs may bring,  
We hail the lamp which o'er them all shall  
    heavenly lustre fling.

Thank God ! there is at eventide a gleam of  
    ruby light,  
A star of love amid the gloom of sorrow's  
    lingering night,  
An ivy-wreath upon the tomb, a haven in the  
    blast,  
A staff for weary, trembling ones, when youth  
    and health are past.

But shall we seek the diamonds in the lone  
    and dusky mine,  
When 'mid the sunny sands of *youth* they wait  
    to flash and shine ?  
Neglect the fountain of Christ's joy till woe-  
    streams darkly flow,  
Nor seek a Father's smile until the world's  
    cold frown we know ?

Nay ! be our faith the rosy crown on morn's  
unwrinkled brow,  
The sparkling dewdrop on the grass, the  
blossom on the bough ;  
The gleam of pearly light within the snowy-  
bosomed shell ;  
An added power of loveliness in beauty's every  
spell.

Oh, let it be the sunlight of the pleasant  
summer hours,  
That calls to pure and radiant birth un-  
numbered fragrant flowers ;  
That bathes in golden joyance every anthem-  
murmuring tree,  
And spreads a robe of glory o'er the silver-  
crested sea.

Oh, let it be the key-note of the symphony of  
gladness,  
Which wots not of the broken lyre, the re-  
quiem of sadness :  
For they who melodies of heaven in hours of  
brightness know,  
Will modulate sweet harmony from earth's  
discordant woe.

*OUR FATHER.*

‘ **O**H that I loved the Father  
With depth of conscious love,  
As stedfast, bright, and burning,  
As seraphim above !  
But how can I be deeming  
Myself a loving child,  
When here, and there, and everywhere,  
My thoughts are wandering wild ?

‘ It is my chief desire  
To know Him more and more,  
To follow Him more fully  
Than I have done before :  
My eyes are dim with longing  
To see the Lord above ;  
But oh ! I fear from year to year,  
I do not truly love.

‘ For when I try to follow  
The mazes of my soul,  
I find no settled fire of love  
Illumining the whole ;

'T is all uncertain twilight,  
No clear and vivid glow :  
Would I could bring to God my King  
The perfect love I owe !'

The gift is great and holy,  
'T will not be sought in vain ;  
But look up for a moment  
From present doubt and pain,  
And calmly tell me *how* you love  
The dearest ones below ?  
'This love,' say you, 'is deep and true !'  
But tell me how you know ?

How do you love your father ?  
'Oh, in a thousand ways !  
I think there's no one like him,  
So worthy of my praise.  
I tell him all my troubles,  
And ask him what to do ;  
I know that he will give to me  
His counsel kind and true.

'Then every little service  
Of hand, or pen, or voice,  
Becomes, if he has asked it,  
The service of my choice

And from my own desires  
'T is not so hard to part,  
If once I know I follow so  
His wiser will and heart.

'I know the flush of pleasure  
That o'er my spirit came,  
When far from home with strangers,  
They caught my father's name ;  
And for his sake the greeting  
Was mutual and sweet,  
For if they knew my father too,  
How glad we were to meet !

'And when I heard them praising  
His music and his skill,  
His words of holy teaching,  
Life-preaching, holier still,  
How eagerly I listened  
To every word that fell !  
'T was joy to hear that name so dear  
Both known and loved so well.

'Once I was ill and suffering  
Upon a foreign shore,  
And longed to see my father,  
As I never longed before.



He came : his arm around me ;  
I leant upon his breast ;  
I did not long to feel more strong,  
So sweet that childlike rest.

‘The thought of home is pleasant,  
Yet I should hardly care  
To leave my present fair abode,  
Unless I knew him there.  
All other love and pleasure  
Can never crown the place,  
A home to me it cannot be  
Without my father’s face.’

This is no fancy drawing,  
But every line is true,  
And you have traced as strong a love  
As ever daughter knew.  
But though its fond expression  
Is rather lived than told,  
You do not say from day to day,  
‘I fear my love is cold!’

You do not think about it;  
’T is never in your thought—  
‘I wonder if I love him  
As deeply as I ought?’

I know his approbation  
Outweighs all other meed,  
That his employ is always joy,  
But do I love indeed ?'

Now let your own words teach you  
The higher, holier claim  
Of Him, who condescends to bear  
A Father's gracious name.  
No mystic inspiration,  
No throbbings forced and wild  
He asks, but just the loving trust  
Of a glad and grateful child.

The rare and precious moments  
Of realizing thrill  
Are but love's blissful blossom,  
To brighten, not to fill  
The storehouse and the garner  
With ripe and pleasant fruit ;  
And not alone by these is shown  
The true and holy root.

What if your own dear father  
Were summoned to his rest !  
One lives, by whom that bitterest grief  
Could well be soothed and blessed.

Like balm upon your sharpest woe  
His still small voice would fall ;  
His touch would heal, you could not feel  
That you had lost your all.

But what if He, the Lord of life,  
Could ever pass away !  
What if *His* name were blotted out,  
And you could know to-day  
There was *no* heavenly Father,  
No Saviour dear and true,  
No throne of grace, no resting-place,  
No living God for you !

We need not dwell in horror  
On what can never be,  
Such endless desolation,  
Such undreamt misery.  
Our reason could not bear it,  
And all the love of earth,  
In fullest bliss, compared with this,  
Were nothing, *nothing* worth.

Then bring your poor affection,  
And try it by this test ;  
The hidden depth is fathomed,  
You see you love Him *best* !

'T is but a feeble echo  
Of His great love to you,  
Yet in His ear each note is dear,  
Its harmony is true.

It is an uncut jewel,  
All earth-encrusted now,  
But He will make it glorious,  
And set it on His brow :  
'Tis but a tiny glimmer,  
Lit from the light above,  
But it shall blaze through endless days,  
A star of perfect love.



*DISAPPOINTMENT.*

OUR yet unfinished story  
Is tending all to this :  
To God the greatest glory,  
To us the greatest bliss.

If all things work together  
For ends so grand and blest,

---

What need to wonder whether  
Each in itself is best !

If some things were omitted  
Or altered as we would,  
The whole might be unfitted  
To work for perfect good.

Our plans may be disjointed,  
But we may calmly rest ;  
What God has once appointed  
Is better than our best.

We cannot see before us,  
But our all-seeing Friend  
Is always watching o'er us,  
And knows the very end.

What though we seem to stumble ?  
He will not let us fall ;  
And learning to be humble  
Is not lost time at all.

What though we fondly reckoned  
A smoother way to go  
Than where His hand has beckoned ?  
It will be better so.

What only seemed a barrier  
A stepping-stone shall be ;  
Our God is no long tarrier,  
A present help is He.

And when amid our blindness  
His disappointments fall,  
We trust His loving-kindness  
Whose wisdom sends them all.

They are the purple fringes  
That hide His glorious feet ;  
They are the fire-wrought hinges  
Where truth and mercy meet ;

By them the golden portal  
Of Providence shall ope,  
And lift to praise immortal  
The songs of faith and hope.

From broken alabaster  
Was deathless fragrance shed,  
The spikenard flowed the faster  
Upon the Saviour's head.

No shattered box of ointment  
We ever need regret,

---

For out of disappointment  
Flow sweetest odours yet.

The discord that involveth  
Some startling change of key,  
The Master's hand resolveth  
In richest harmony.

We hush our children's laughter,  
When sunset hues grow pale ;  
Then, in the silence after,  
They hear the nightingale.

We mourned the lamp declining,  
That glimmered at our side ;—  
The glorious starlight shining  
Has proved a surer guide.

Then tremble not and shrink not  
When Disappointment nears ;  
Be trustful still, and think not  
To realize all fears.

While we are meekly kneeling,  
We shall behold her rise,  
Our Father's love revealing,  
An angel in disguise.

*THE SONG CHALICE.*

‘**Y**OU bear the chalice.’ Is it so, my friend?  
Have I indeed a chalice of sweet song,  
With underflow of harmony made strong  
New calm of strength through throbbing veins  
to send?  
I did not form or fill,—I do but spend  
That which the Master poured into my  
soul,  
His dewdrops caught in a poor earthen  
bowl,  
That service so with praise might meekly blend.  
May He who taught the morning stars to sing,  
Aye keep my chalice cool, and pure, and  
sweet,  
And grant me so with loving hand to bring  
Refreshment to His weary ones,—to meet  
Their thirst with water from God’s music-  
spring;  
And, bearing thus, to pour it at His feet.



*SILENT IN LOVE.*

‘HE WILL REST<sup>1</sup> IN HIS LOVE.’

LOVE culminates in bliss when it doth  
reach

A white, unflickering, fear-consuming  
glow ;

And, knowing it is known as it doth know,  
Needs no assuring word or soothing speech.

It craves but silent nearness, so to rest,

No sound, no movement, love not heard  
but felt,

Longer and longer still, till time should  
melt,

A snow-flake on the eternal ocean's breast.

Have moments of this silence starred thy  
past,

Made memory a glory-haunted place,

Taught all the joy that mortal ken can trace ?

By greater light 't is but a shadow cast ;—  
So shall the Lord thy God rejoice o'er thee,  
And in His love will rest, and silent be.

<sup>1</sup> Marginal reading—‘*be silent.*’

*LIGHT AND SHADE.*

**L**IGHT ! emblem of all good and joy !  
Shade ! emblem of all ill !  
And yet in this strange mingled life,  
We need the shadow still.  
A lamp with softly shaded light,  
To soothe and spare the tender sight,  
Will only throw  
A brighter glow  
Upon our books and work below.

We could not bear unchanging day,  
However fair its light ;  
Ere long the wearied eye would hail,  
As boon untold, the evening pale,  
The solace of the night.  
And who would prize our summer glow  
If winter gloom we did not know ?  
Or rightly praise  
The glad spring rays  
Who never saw our rainy days ?

How grateful in Arabian plain  
Of white and sparkling sand,

The shadow of a mighty rock  
Across the weary land !  
And where the tropic glories rise,  
Responsive to the fiery skies,  
We could not dare  
To meet the glare,  
Or blindness were our bitter share.

Where is the soul so meek and pure,  
Who through his earthly days  
Life's fullest sunshine could endure,  
In clear and cloudless blaze !  
The sympathetic eye would dim,  
And others pine unmarked by him,  
Were no chill shade  
Around him laid,  
And light of joy could never fade.

He, who the light-commanding word  
Erst spake, and formed the eye,  
Knows what that wondrous eye can bear,  
And tempers with providing care,  
By cloud and night, all hurtful glare,  
By shadows ever nigh.  
So in all wise and loving ways  
He blends the shadows of our days,

To win our sight  
From scenes of night,  
To seek the 'True and Only Light.'

We need some shadow o'er our bliss,  
Lest we forget the Giver :  
So, often in our deepest joy  
There comes a solemn quiver ;  
We could not tell from whence it came,  
The subtle cause we cannot name ;  
Its twilight fall  
May well recall  
Calm thought of Him who gave us all.

There are who all undazzled tread  
Awhile the sunniest plain ;  
But they have sought the blessèd shade  
By one great Rock of Ages made,  
A sure, safe rest to gain.  
Unshaded light of earth soon blinds  
To light of heaven sincerest minds :  
O envy not  
A cloudless lot !  
We ask indeed we know not what.

So is it here, so is it now !  
Not always will it be !

There is a land that needs no shade,  
A morn will rise which cannot fade,  
And we, like flame-robed angels made,  
That glory soon may see.  
No cloud upon its radiant joy,  
No shadow o'er its bright employ,  
No sleep, no night,  
But perfect sight,  
The Lord our Everlasting Light.

*NO THORN WITHOUT A ROSE.*

'THERE is no rose without a thorn !'  
Who has not found this true,  
And known that griefs of gladness born  
Our footsteps still pursue ?

That in the grandest harmony  
The strangest discords rise ;  
The brightest bow we only trace  
Upon the darkest skies !

No thornless rose ! So, more and more,  
Our pleasant hopes are laid  
Where waves this sable legend o'er  
A still sepulchral shade.

But Faith and Love, with angel-might,  
Break up life's dismal tomb,  
Transmuting into golden light  
The words of leaden gloom.

Reversing all this funeral pall,  
White raiment they disclose ;  
Their happy song floats full and long,  
'No thorn without a rose !'

'No shadow, but its sister light  
Not far away must burn !  
No weary night, but morning bright  
Shall follow in its turn.

'No chilly snow, but safe below  
A million buds are sleeping ;  
No wintry days, but fair spring rays  
Are swiftly onward sweeping.

'With fiercest glare of summer air  
Comes fullest leafy shade ;

And ruddy fruit bends every shoot,  
Because the blossoms fade.

'No note of sorrow but shall melt  
In sweetest chord unguessed ;  
No labour all too pressing felt,  
But ends in quiet rest.

'No sigh but from the harps above  
Soft echoing tones shall win ;  
No heart-wound but the Lord of Love  
Shall pour His comfort in.

'No withered hope, while loving best  
'Thy Father's chosen way ;  
No anxious care, for He will bear  
Thy burdens every day.

'Thy claim to rest on Jesu's breast  
All weariness shall be,  
And pain thy portal to His heart  
Of boundless sympathy.

'No conflict, but the King's own hand  
Shall end the glorious strife ;  
No death, but leads thee to the land  
Of everlasting life.'

Sweet seraph voices, Faith and Love !  
 Sing on within our hearts  
 This strain of music from above,  
 Till we have learnt our parts :

Until we see your alchemy  
 On all that years disclose,  
 And, taught by you, still find it true,  
 'No thorn without a rose !'

—o—

*YESTERDAY, TO-DAY, AND  
 FOR EVER.*

A GREEK ACROSTIC, THRICE TRIPLED.

As<sup>1</sup>.

A H ! the weary cares and fears,  
 E arnest yearnings through the years !  
 I s it not a vale of tears ?

A h ! the love we gladly greet  
 E ver now is incomplete ;  
 I f the melody be sweet,

<sup>1</sup> For ever.



A nd the harmony be true,  
E arlier loss is more in view,  
I ll forebodings shadow through.

---

A fter wintry frost and rime,  
E ven now, the heavenly chime  
I s a pledge of summer time.

A nchorage within the veil,  
E ver steadfast, cannot fail,  
I f the wildest storms assail.

A ngel songs of love are clearer.  
E arth is brighter, death is dearer,  
I f the heavenly home be nearer.

---

A ll in perfect union brought,  
E very link which *God* has wrought  
I n the chains of loving thought :

A ll our dear ones, far asunder,  
E ach shall join the anthem-thunder  
I n our future joy and wonder.

A ll shall come where nought shall  
sever,  
E ndless meeting, parting never,  
I n God's house to dwell for ever.

*CHRIST'S RECALL.*

## RETURN !

O wanderer from my side !  
Soon droops each blossom of the darkening  
    wild,  
Soon melts each meteor which thy steps be-  
    guiled,  
Soon is the cistern dry which thou hast hewn,  
And thou wilt weep in bitterness full soon.  
Return ! ere gathering night shall shroud the  
    way  
Thy footsteps yet may tread, in this accepted  
    day.

## Return !

O erring, yet beloved !  
I wait to bind thy bleeding feet, for keen  
And rankling are the thorns where thou hast  
    been ;  
I wait to give thee pardon, love, and rest ;  
Is not My joy to see thee safe and blest ?  
Return ! I wait to hear once more thy voice,  
To welcome thee anew, and bid thy heart re-  
    joice.

Return !

O fallen, yet not lost !

Canst thou forget the life for thee laid down,  
The taunts, the scourging, and the thorny  
crown ?

When o'er thee first My spotless robe I spread,  
And poured the oil of joy upon thy head,  
How did thy wakening heart within thee burn !  
Canst thou remember all, and wilt thou not  
return ?

Return !

O chosen of My love !

Fear not to meet thy beckoning Saviour's  
view ;

Long ere I called thee by thy name, I knew  
That very treacherously thou wouldst deal ;  
Now I have seen thy ways, yet I will heal.  
Return ! Wilt thou yet linger far from Me ?  
My wrath is turned away, I have redeemed  
thee.

*FAITH'S QUESTION.*

TO whom, O Saviour, shall we go  
For life, and joy, and light?  
No help, no comfort from below,  
No lasting gladness we may know,  
No hope may bless our sight.  
Our souls are weary and athirst,  
But earth is iron-bound and cursed,  
And nothing she may yield can stay  
The restless yearnings day by day;  
Yet, without *Thee*, Redeemer blest,  
We *would* not, if we *could*, find rest.

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go?  
We gaze around in vain.  
Though pleasure's fairy lute be strung,  
And mirth's enchaining lay be sung,  
We dare not trust the strain.  
The touch of sorrow or of sin  
Hath saddened all, without, within;  
What here we fondly love and prize,  
However beauteous be its guise,  
Has passed, is passing, or may pass,  
Like frost-fringe on the autumn grass.

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go?  
Our spirits dimly wait  
In the dungeon of our mortal frame ;  
And only one of direful name  
Can force its sin-barred gate.  
Our loved ones can but greet us through  
The prison grate, from which we view  
All outward things. They enter not :  
Thou, Thou alone, canst cheer our lot.  
O Christ, we long for Thee to dwell  
Within our solitary cell !

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go?  
Unless Thy voice we hear,  
All tuneless falls the sweetest song,  
And lonely seems the busiest throng  
Unless we feel Thee near.  
We dare not think what earth would be,  
Thou Heaven-Creator, but for Thee ;  
A howling chaos, wild and dark—  
One flood of horror, while no ark,  
Upborne above the gloom-piled wave,  
From one great death-abyss might save.

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go?  
The Tempter's power is great ;

E'en in our hearts is evil bound,  
And, lurking stealthily around,  
Still for our souls doth wait.  
Thou tempted One, whose suffering heart  
In all our sorrows bore a part,  
Whose life-blood only could atone,  
Too weak are we to stand alone ;  
And nothing but Thy shield of light  
Can guard us in the dreaded fight.

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go ?  
The night of death draws near ;  
Its shadow must be passed alone,  
No friend can with our souls go down  
The untried way to cheer.  
Thou hast the words of endless life ;  
Thou givest victory in the strife ;  
Thou only art the changeless Friend,  
On whom for aye we may depend :  
In life, in death, alike we flee,  
O Saviour of the world, to THEE.

*'I DID THIS FOR THEE! WHAT HAST  
THOU DONE FOR ME?'*

*(Motto placed under a Picture of our Saviour in the  
study of a German divine.)*

I GAVE My life for thee,	Gal. ii. 20.
My precious blood I shed,	1 Pet. i. 19.
That thou might'st ransomed be,	Eph. i. 7.
And quickened from the dead.	Eph. ii. 1.
I gave My life for thee ;	Tit. ii. 14.
What hast thou given for Me ?	John xxi. 15-17

I spent long years for thee	1 Tim. i. 15.
In weariness and woe,	Isa. liii. 3.
That an eternity	John xvii. 24.
Of joy thou mightest know.	John xvi. 22.
I spent long years for thee ;	John i. 10, 11.
Hast thou spent <i>one</i> for Me ?	1 Pet. iv. 2.

My Father's home of light,	John xvii. 5.
My rainbow-circled throne,	Rev. iv. 3.
I left, for earthly night,	Phil. ii. 7.
For wanderings sad and lone.	Matt. vii. 20.
I left it all for thee ;	2 Cor. viii. 9.
Hast thou left aught for Me ?	Luke x. 29.

I suffered much for thee,	Isa. liii. 5.
More than thy tongue may tell,	Matt. xxvi. 39
Of bitterest agony,	Luke xxii. 44.
To rescue thee from hell.	Rom. v. 9.
I suffered much for thee ;	1 Pet. ii. 21-24.
What canst thou bear for Me ?	Rom. viii. 17, 18
And I have brought to thee,	John iv. 10, 14.
Down from My home above,	John iii. 13.
Salvation full and free,	Rev. xxi. 6.
My pardon and My love.	Acts v. 31.
Great gifts I brought to thee ;	Ps. lxxviii. 18
What hast thou brought to Me ?	Rom. xii. 1.
Oh, let thy life be given,	Rom. vi. 13.
Thy years for Him be spent,	2 Cor. v. 15.
World-fetters all be riven,	Phil. iii. 8.
And joy with suffering blent ;	1 Pet. iv. 13-16.
I gave Myself for thee :	Eph. v. 2.
Give thou <i>thyself</i> to Me !	Prov. xxiii. 25



ISAIAH XXXIII. 17.

*THINE* eyes shall see ! Yes, thine, who,  
blind erewhile,  
Now trembling towards the new-found light  
dost flee,  
Leave doubting, and look up with trustful  
smile—

*Thine* eyes shall see !

*Thine eyes* shall see ! Not in some dream  
Elysian,  
Not in thy fancy, glowing though it be,  
Not e'en in faith, but in unveilèd vision,  
*Thine eyes* shall see !

*Thine eyes shall* see ! Not on thyself depend  
God's promises, the faithful, firm, and free ;  
Ere they shall fail, earth, heaven itself, must  
end :

*Thine eyes shall* see !

*Thine eyes shall see* ! Not in a swift glance  
cast,  
Gleaning one ray to brighten memory,  
But while a glad eternity shall last,  
*Thine eyes shall see* !

Thine eyes shall see *the* King ! The very same  
Whose love shone forth upon the curseful  
tree,  
Who bore thy guilt, who calleth thee by name ;  
Thine eyes shall see !

Thine eyes shall see the *King!* the mighty  
One,  
The many-crowned, the Light-enrobed ;  
and He  
Shall bid thee share the kingdom He hath  
won,  
Thine eyes shall see !

And *in His beauty!* Stay thee, mortal song,  
The 'altogether lovely' One must be  
Unspeakable in glory,—yet ere long  
Thine eyes shall see !

Yes ! though the land be 'very far' away,  
A step, a moment, ends the toil for thee ;  
Then, changing grief for gladness, night for  
day,  
Thine eyes shall see !

*GOD THE PROVIDER.*

‘ My God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.’

WHO shall tell our untold need,  
Deeply felt, though scarcely known !  
Who the hungering soul can feed,  
Guard, and guide, but God alone ?  
Blessèd promise ! while we see  
Earthly friends must powerless be,  
Earthly fountains quickly dry :  
‘ *God*’ shall all your need supply.

He hath said it ! so we know  
Nothing less can we receive.  
Oh that thankful love may glow  
While we restfully believe,—  
Ask not *how*, but trust Him still ;  
Ask not *when*, but wait His will :  
Simply on His word rely,  
God ‘ *shall*’ all your need supply.

Through the whole of life’s long way,  
Outward, inward need we trace ;

Need arising day by day,  
Patience, wisdom, strength, and grace.  
Needing Jesus most of all,  
Full of need, on Him we call ;  
Then how gracious His reply,  
God shall '*all*' your need supply !

Great our need, but greater far  
Is our Father's loving power ;  
He upholds each mighty star,  
He unfolds each tiny flower.  
He who numbers every hair,  
Earnest of His faithful care,  
Gave His Son for us to die ;  
God shall all '*your*' need supply.

Yet we often vainly plead  
For a fancied good denied,  
What we deemed a pressing need  
Still remaining unsupplied.  
Yet from dangers all concealed,  
Thus our wisest Friend doth shield ;  
No *good* thing will He deny,  
God shall all your '*need*' supply.

Can we count redemption's treasure,  
Scan the glory of God's love ?

Such shall be the boundless measure  
Of His blessings from above.  
All we ask or think, and more,  
He will give in bounteous store,  
He can fill and satisfy,  
God shall all your need '*supply.*'<sup>1</sup>

One the channel, deep and broad,  
From the Fountain of the Throne,  
Christ the Saviour, Son of God,  
Blessings flow through Him alone.  
He, the Faithful and the True,  
Brings us mercies ever new :  
Till we reach His home on high,  
'*God shall all your need supply.*'



*WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM.*

GOD doth not bid thee wait  
To disappoint at last ;

<sup>1</sup> The Greek word is much stronger than the English,—πληρώσει—'will supply to the full,' 'fill up,' 'satisfy.'

A golden promise, fair and great,  
In precept-mould is cast.  
Soon shall the morning gild  
The dark horizon-rim,  
Thy heart's desire shall be fulfilled,  
' *Wait* patiently for Him.'

The weary waiting times  
Are but the muffled peals  
Low preluding celestial chimes,  
That hail His chariot-wheels.  
Trust Him to tune thy voice  
To blend with seraphim ;  
His 'Wait' shall issue in 'Rejoice !'  
' *Wait* *patiently* for Him.'

He doth not bid thee wait,  
Like drift-wood on the wave,  
For fickle chance or fixèd fate  
To ruin or to save.  
Thine eyes shall surely see,  
No distant hope or dim,  
The Lord thy God arise for thee :  
' *Wait* *patiently* *for Him.*'

*THIS SAME JESUS.*

ACTS I. II.

THIS same Jesus ! ' Oh ! how sweetly  
Fall those words upon the ear,  
Like a swell of far off music,  
In a nightwatch still and drear !

He who healed the hopeless leper,  
He who dried the widow's tear ;  
He who changed to health and gladness  
Helpless suffering, trembling fear ;

He who wandered, poor and homeless,  
By the stormy Galilee ;  
He who on the night-robed mountain  
Bent in prayer the wearied knee ;

He who spake as none had spoken,  
Angel-wisdom far above,  
All-forgiving, ne'er upbraiding,  
Full of tenderness and love ;

He who gently called the weary,  
' Come and I will give you rest ! '

He who loved the little children,  
Took them in His arms and blest ;

He, the lonely Man of Sorrows,  
'Neath our sin-curse bending low ;  
By His faithless friends forsaken  
In the darkest hours of woe ;—

'This *same* Jesus !' When the vision  
Of that last and awful day  
Bursts upon the prostrate spirit,  
Like a midnight lightning ray ;

When, else dimly apprehended,  
All its terrors seem revealed,  
Trumpet-knell and fiery heavens,  
And the books of doom unsealed ;

*Then*, we lift our hearts adoring  
'This same Jesus,' loved and known,  
Him, our own most gracious Saviour,  
Seated on the great white Throne ;

He Himself, and 'not another,'  
He for whom our heart-love yearned  
Through long years of twilight waiting,  
To His ransomed ones returned !



For this word, O Lord, we bless Thee,  
Bless our Master's changeless name ;  
Yesterday, to-day, for ever,  
Jesus Christ is still the Same.

—o—

*MARY'S BIRTHDAY.*

SHE is at rest,  
In God's own presence blest,  
Whom, while with us, this day we loved to  
greet ;  
Her birthdays o'er,  
She counts the years no more ;  
Time's footfall is not heard along the golden  
street.

When we would raise  
A hymn of birthday praise,  
The music of our hearts is faint and low ;  
Fear, doubt, and sin  
Make dissonance within ;  
And pure soul-melody no child of earth may  
know.

That strange 'new song,'  
Amid a white-robed throng,  
Is gushing from her harp in living tone ;  
Her seraph voice,  
Tuned only to rejoice,  
Floats upward to the emerald-archèd throne.<sup>1</sup>

No passing cloud  
Her loveliness may shroud,  
The beauty of her youth may never fade ;  
No line of care  
Her sealèd brow may wear,  
The joy-gleam of her eye no dimness e'er may  
shade.

No stain is there  
Upon the robes they wear,  
Within the gates of pearl which she hath  
passed ;  
Like woven light,  
All beautiful and bright,  
Eternity upon those robes no shade may cast.

No sin-born thought  
May in that home be wrought,  
To trouble the clear fountain of her heart ;

<sup>1</sup> Rev. iv. 3.

No tear, no sigh,  
No pain, no death, be nigh  
Where she hath entered in, no more to 'know  
in part.'

Her faith is sight,  
Her hope is full delight,  
The shadowy veil of time is rent in twain :  
Her untold bliss—  
What thought can follow this !  
To her to live was Christ, to die indeed is gain.

Her eyes have seen  
The King, no veil between,  
In blood-dipped vesture gloriously arrayed :  
No earth-breathed haze  
Can dim that rapturous gaze ;  
She sees Him face to face on whom her guilt  
was laid.

A little while,  
And they whose loving smile  
Had melted 'neath the touch of lonely woe,  
Shall reach her home,  
Beyond the star-built dome ;  
Her anthem they shall swell, her joy they too  
shall know.

*DAILY STRENGTH.*

‘**A**S thy day thy strength shall be !’  
This should be enough for thee ;  
He who knows thy frame will spare  
Burdens more than thou canst bear.

When thy days are veiled in night,  
Christ shall give thee heavenly light ;  
Seem they wearisome and long,  
Yet in Him thou shalt be strong.

Cold and wintry though they prove,  
Thine the sunshine of His love ;  
Or, with fervid heat oppressed,  
In His shadow thou shalt rest.

When thy days on earth are past,  
Christ shall call thee home at last,  
His redeeming love to praise,  
Who hath strengthened all thy days

*THE RIGHT WAY.*

LORD, is it still the right way, though I  
cannot see Thy face,  
Though I do not feel Thy presence and Thine  
all-sustaining grace?  
Can even this be leading through the bleak  
and sunless wild  
To the City of Thy holy rest, the mansions  
undefiled?

Lord, is it still the right way? A while ago I  
passed  
Where every step seemed thornier and harder  
than the last;  
Where bitterest disappointment and inly aching  
sorrow  
Carved day by day a weary cross, renewed  
with every morrow.

The heaviest end of that strange cross I knew  
was laid on Thee;  
So I could still press on, secure of Thy deep  
sympathy.

Our upward path may well be steep, else how  
were patience tried?

I knew it was the right way, for it led me to  
Thy side.

But now I wait alone amid dim shadows dank  
and chill ;

All moves and changes round me, but I seem  
standing still ;

Or every feeble footstep I urge towards the  
light

Seems but to lead me farther into the silent  
night.

I cannot hear Thy voice, Lord ! dost Thou  
still hear my cry ?

I cling to Thine assurance that Thou art ever  
nigh ;

I know that Thou art faithful ; I trust, but  
cannot see

That it is still the right way by which Thou  
ledest me.

I think I could go forward with brave and  
joyful heart,

Though every step should pierce me with un-  
known fiery smart,

---

If only I might see Thee, if I might gaze  
above  
On all the cloudless glory of the sunshine of  
Thy love.

Is it really leading onwards? When the  
shadows flee away,  
Shall I find this path has brought me more  
near to perfect day?  
Or am I left to wander thus that I may stretch  
my hand  
To some still wearier traveller in this same  
shadow-land?

Is this thy chosen training for some future task  
unknown?  
Is it that I may learn to rest upon Thy word  
alone?  
Whate'er it be, oh ! leave me not, fulfil Thou  
every hour  
The purpose of Thy goodness, and the work  
of faith with power.

I lay my prayer before Thee, and, trusting in  
Thy word,  
Though all is silence in my heart, I know that  
Thou hast heard.

To that blest City lead me, Lord (still choos-  
ing all my way),  
Where faith melts into vision as the starlight  
into day.

—o—

*THY WILL BE DONE.*

‘Understanding *what* the will of the Lord is.’—  
EPH. v. 17.

WITH quivering heart and trembling will  
The word hath passed thy lips,  
Within the shadow, cold and still,  
Of some fair joy’s eclipse.  
‘Thy will be done!’ Thy God hath heard,  
And He will crown that faith-framed word.

Thy prayer shall be fulfilled : but how?  
His thoughts are not as thine ;  
While thou wouldst only weep and bow,  
He saith, ‘ Arise and shine !’  
Thy thoughts were all of grief and night,  
But His of boundless joy and light.



Thy Father reigns supreme above :  
The glory of His name  
Is Grace and Wisdom, Truth and Love,  
His will must be the same.  
And thou hast asked all joys in one,  
In whispering forth, 'Thy will be done.'

His will—each soul to sanctify  
Redeeming might hath won ;<sup>1</sup>  
His will—that thou shouldst never die,  
Believing on His Son ;<sup>2</sup>  
His will—that thou, through earthly strife,  
Shouldst rise to everlasting life.<sup>3</sup>

That one unchanging song of praise  
Should from our hearts arise ;<sup>4</sup>  
That we should know His wondrous ways,  
Though hidden from the wise ;<sup>5</sup>  
That we, so sinful and so base,  
Should know the glory of His grace.<sup>6</sup>

His will—to grant the yearning prayer  
For dear ones far away,<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Thess. iv. 3.<sup>2</sup> John vi. 40.<sup>3</sup> John vi. 39.<sup>4</sup> 1 Thess. v. 18.<sup>5</sup> Matt. xi. 25, 26.<sup>6</sup> Eph. i. 5, 6, 11, 12.<sup>7</sup> 1 John v. 14-16.

That they His grace and love may share,  
And tread His pleasant way ;  
That in the Father and the Son  
All perfect we may be in one.<sup>1</sup>

His will—the little flock to bring  
Into His royal fold,  
To reign for ever with their King,<sup>2</sup>  
His beauty to behold.<sup>3</sup>  
Sin's fell dominion crushed for aye,  
Sorrow and sighing fled away.

This thou hast asked ! And shall the prayer  
Float upward on a sigh ?  
No song were sweet enough to bear  
Such glad desires on high !  
But God thy Father shall fulfil,  
In thee and for thee, all His will.

<sup>1</sup> John xvii. 23, 24.    <sup>2</sup> Luke xii. 32.    <sup>3</sup> Isa. xxxiii. 17.



*'THE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND.'*

**L**EAVE behind earth's empty pleasure,  
Fleeting hope and changeful love ;  
Leave its soon-corroding treasure :  
There are better things above.

Leave, oh, leave thy fond aspirings,  
Bid thy restless heart be still ;  
Cease, oh cease, thy vain desirings,  
Only seek thy Father's will.

Leave behind thy faithless sorrow,  
And thine every anxious care ;  
He who only knows the morrow  
Can for thee its burden bear.

Leave behind the doubting spirit,  
And thy crushing load of sin ;  
By thy mighty Saviour's merit,  
Life eternal thou shalt win.

Leave the darkness gathering o'er thee,  
Leave the shadow-land behind ;  
Realms of glory lie before thee ;  
Enter in, and welcome find.

## 'NOW I SEE.'

JOHN IX. 25.

'NOW I see !' But not the parting  
Of the melting earth and sky,  
Not a vision dread and startling,  
Forcing one despairing cry.  
But I see the solemn saying,  
All have sinned, and all must die ;  
Holy precepts disobeying,  
Guilty all the world must lie.  
Bending, silenced, to the dust,  
Now I see that God is just.

'Now I see !' But not the glory,  
Not the face of Him I love,  
Not the full and burning story  
Of the mysteries above.  
But I see what God hath spoken,  
How His well-belovèd Son  
Kept the laws which man hath broken,  
Died for sins which man hath done ;  
Dying, rising, throned above !  
'Now I see' that God is Love.

*EVERLASTING LOVE.*

'Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, *therefore* with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.' 'No man can come to Me except the Father which hath sent Me draw him.'

'GOD'S everlasting love ! What wouldst thou more ?'

O true and tender friend, well hast thou spoken.  
My heart was restless, weary, sad, and sore,  
And longed and listened for some heaven-sent  
token :

And, like a child that knows not why it cried,  
'Mid God's full promises it moaned, 'Unsatisfied !'

Yet there it stands. O love surpassing thought,  
So bright, so grand, so clear, so true, so  
glorious ;

Love infinite, love tender, love unsought,  
Love changeless, love rejoicing, love victorious !  
And this great love for us in boundless store :  
God's everlasting love ! What would we more ?

Yes, one thing more ! To know it ours indeed,  
To add the conscious joy of full possession.  
O tender grace that stoops to every need !  
This everlasting love hath found expression  
In loving-kindness, which hath gently drawn  
The heart that else astray too willingly had  
gone.

From no less fountain such a stream could  
flow,  
No other root could yield so fair a flower :  
Had He not loved, He had not drawn us so ;  
Had He not drawn, we had nor will nor power  
To rise, to come ;—the Saviour had passed by  
Where we in blindness sat without one care or  
cry.

We thirst for *God*, our treasure *is* above ;  
Earth has no gift our one desire to meet,  
And that desire is pledge of His own love.  
Sweet question ; with no answer ! oh *how*  
sweet !  
My heart in chiming gladness o'er and o'er  
Sings on ;—‘ God’s everlasting love ! What  
wouldst thou more ? ’

*'MASTER, SAY ON!'*

**M**ASTER, speak ! Thy servant heareth,  
Waiting for Thy gracious word,  
Longing for Thy voice that cheereth ;  
Master ! let it now be heard.  
I am listening, Lord, for Thee ;  
What hast Thou to say to me ?

Master, speak in love and power :  
Crown the mercies of the day,  
In this quiet evening hour  
Of the moonrise o'er the bay,  
With the music of Thy voice ;  
Speak ! and bid Thy child rejoice.

Often through my heart is pealing  
Many another voice than Thine,  
Many an unwilling echo stealing  
From the walls of this Thy shrine :  
Let Thy longed-for accents fall ;  
Master, speak ! and silence all.

Master, speak ! I do not doubt Thee,  
Though so tearfully I plead ;

Saviour, Shepherd ! Oh, without Thee  
Life would be a blank indeed !  
But I long for fuller light,  
Deeper love, and clearer sight.

Resting on the 'faithful saying,'  
Trusting what Thy gospel saith,  
On Thy written promise staying  
All my hope in life and death,  
Yet I long for something more  
From Thy love's exhaustless store.

Speak to me by name, O Master,  
Let me *know* it is to me ;  
Speak, that I may follow faster,  
With a step more firm and free,  
Where the Shepherd leads the flock,  
In the shadow of the Rock.

Master, speak ! I kneel before Thee,  
Listening, longing, waiting still ;  
Oh, how long shall I implore Thee  
This petition to fulfil !  
Hast Thou not one word for me ?  
Must my prayer unanswered be ?



Master, speak ! Though least and lowest,  
Let me not unheard depart ;  
Master, speak ! for oh, Thou knowest  
All the yearning of my heart,  
Knowest all its truest need ;  
Speak ! and make me blest indeed.

Master, speak ! and make me ready,  
When Thy voice is truly heard,  
With obedience glad and steady  
Still to follow every word.  
I am listening, Lord, for Thee ;  
Master, speak, oh, speak to me !

—o—

*REMOTE RESULTS.*

WHERE are the countless crystals,  
So perfect and so bright,  
That robed in softest ermine  
The winter day and night ?  
Not lost ! for, life to many a root,  
They rise again in flower and fruit.

Where are the mighty forests,  
And giant ferns of old,  
That in primeval silence  
Strange leaf and frond unrolled?  
Not lost ! for now they shine and blaze,  
The light and warmth of Christmas days.

Where are our early lessons,  
The teachings of our youth,  
The countless words forgotten  
Of knowledge and of truth?  
Not lost ! for they are living still,  
As power to think, and do, and will.

Where is the seed we scatter,  
With weak and trembling hand,  
Beside the gloomy waters,  
Or on the arid land?  
Not lost ! for after many days  
Our prayer and toil shall turn to praise.

Where are the days of sorrow,  
And lonely hours of pain,  
When work is interrupted,  
Or planned and willed in vain?  
Not lost ! it is the thorniest shoot  
That bears the Master's pleasant fruit.

Where, where are all God's lessons,  
His teachings dark or bright?  
Not lost ! but only hidden,  
Till, in eternal light,  
We see, while at His feet we fall,  
The reasons and results of all.

—o—

*ON THE LAST LEAF.<sup>1</sup>*

FINISHED at last !

Yet for five years past  
My book on the dusty shelf hath lain,  
And I hardly thought that ever again  
My thoughts would follow the pleasant chime  
Of musical measure and ringing rhyme.

I remember well when I laid it by,  
Closed with a sort of requiem sigh.  
Spring in her beauty had swept along,  
And left my spirit all full of song :

<sup>1</sup> Written at the close of a manuscript volume.

The wakening depths of my heart were stirred,  
Voices within and without I heard,

Whispering me

That I might be

A messenger of peace and pleasure ;

That in my careless minstrelsy

Lay something of poetic treasure,

Which, wrought with care, I yet some day

At all my loved ones' feet might lay.

Perhaps 't was a vain and foolish dream,  
A fancy-lit, illusive gleam !

And yet I cannot quite believe

That such bright impulse could deceive.

I felt I had so much to say,

Such pleasant thoughts from day to day,

Sang, lark-like, with each morning ray,

Or murmured low in twilight grey,

Like distant curfew pealing.

And then, for each, fair Fancy brought

A robe of language ready wrought,

The smile of every wingèd thought

Half veiling, half revealing.

And I only waited, with longing gaze,

For the golden leisure of summer days,

Which I thought to crown with happiest lays.

God thought not so ! Ah no, He knew  
There was other work for me to do,  
There were other lessons for me to learn :  
Another voice fell, low and stern,  
    Upon the too reluctant ear.  
Before the solemn voice of Pain  
My visions fled, nor came again,  
With all their glad and lovely train,  
    My summer-tide to cheer.

Well is it when, at high command  
Of wisest Love, she takes her stand  
    At the heart's busy portal,  
And warns away each noisy guest  
Whose presence chases calm and rest,  
Our powers, the brightest and the best,  
    Proclaiming weak and mortal.  
That so the way may be more clear  
    For Him, the Prince of Peace, to come,  
That which is left all void and drear  
    To make His palace and His home.

And so the song of my heart was hushed,  
    And the chiming thoughts were stilled :  
Summer flew by, but the hope was crushed,  
Swiftly onward my life-tide rushed,  
    But my book remained unfilled.

For an aching head and a weary frame,  
Poetry is but an empty name.  
Yet I am sure it was better so,  
I *trusted* then, and now I *know*.

For ever, I think, the gift is fled  
Which once I fancied mine :  
So be it ! A 'name' is not for me ;  
Loving and loved I would rather be,  
With power to cheer and sympathize,  
Bearing new light for tear-dimmed eyes ;  
But I do not care to shine.

So if aught I write may tend to this,  
My fairest hope of earthly bliss,  
Content with humblest rhyme I'll be  
And, striving less and trusting more,  
All simple, earnest thoughts outpour,  
Such as my God may give to me.

*HOW SHOULD THEY KNOW ME ?*

THERE are those who deem they know me  
well,

And smile as I tell them 'nay !'  
Who think they may clearly and carelessly tell  
Each living drop in my heart's deep well,  
And lightly enter its inmost cell ;  
But little (how little !) know they !

How should they know me ? My soul is a maze  
Where I wander alone, alone ;  
Never a footfall there was heard,  
Never a mortal hand hath stirred  
The silence-curtain that hangs between  
Outer and inner, nor eye hath seen  
What is only and ever my own.

They have entered indeed the vestibule,  
For its gate is opened wide,  
High as the roof, and I welcome all  
Who will visit my warm reception-hall,  
And utter a long and loving call  
To some who are yet outside.

I would lead each guest to a place of rest ;  
    All should be calm and bright ;  
Then a lulling flow of melody,  
And a crystal draught of sympathy,  
And odorous blossoms of kindly thought,  
With golden fruit of deed, be brought  
    From the chambers out of sight.

Some I would take with a cordial hand,  
    And lead them round the walls ;  
Showing them many a storied screen,  
Many a portrait, many a scene,  
Deep-cut carving, and outlined scroll ;  
Passing quickly where shadows roll,  
    Slowly where sunshine falls.

They do not know and they cannot see  
    That strong-hinged, low-arched door,  
Though I am passing in and out,  
From gloom within to light without,  
Or from gloom without to light within ;  
None can ever an entrance win,  
    None ! for evermore.

It is a weird and wondrous realm,  
    Where I often hold my breath



At the unseen things which there I see,  
At the mighty shapes which beckon to me,  
At the visions of woe and ecstasy,  
At the greetings of life and death.

They rise, they pass, they melt away,  
In an ever-changing train ;  
I cannot hold them or tell their stay,  
Or measure the time of their fleeting sway ;  
As grim as night, and as fair as day,  
They vanish and come again.

I wander on through the strange domain,  
Marvelling ever and aye ;  
Marvelling how around my feet  
All the opposites seem to meet,  
The dark, the light, the chill, the glow,  
The storm, the calm, the fire, the snow,  
How can it be ? I do not know.  
Then how, oh how, can they ?

What am I, and how ? If reply there be,  
In unsearchable chaos 't is cast.  
Though the soaring spirit of restless man  
Might the boundary line of the universe scan,  
And measure and map its measureless plan,  
The gift of self-knowledge were last !

*MAKING POETRY.*

LITTLE one, what are you doing,  
Sitting on the window-seat?  
Laughing to yourself, and writing,  
Some right merry thought inditing,  
Balancing with swinging feet.

'T is some poetry I 'm making,  
Though I never tried before :  
Four whole lines ! I 'll read them to you.  
Do you think them funny, do you ?  
Shall I try to make some more ?

' I should like to be a poet,  
Writing verses every day ;  
Then to you I 'd always bring them,  
You should make a tune and sing them ;  
'T would be pleasanter than play.'

Think you, darling, nought is needed  
But the paper and the ink,  
And a pen to trace so lightly,  
While the eye is beaming brightly,  
All the pretty things we think ?

There's a secret,—can you trust me?  
Do not ask me what it is!  
Perhaps some day you too will know it,  
If you live to be a poet,  
All its agony and bliss.

Poetry is not a trifle,  
Lightly thought and lightly made;  
Not a fair and scentless flower,  
Gaily cultured for an hour,  
Then as gaily left to fade.

'T is not stringing rhymes together  
In a pleasant true accord;  
Not the music of the metre,  
Not the happy fancies, sweeter  
Than a flower-bell, honey-stored.

'T is the essence of existence,  
Rarely rising to the light;  
And the songs that echo longest,  
Deepest, fullest, truest, strongest,  
With your life-blood you will write.

*With your life-blood.* None will know it,  
You will never tell them how.

Smile ! and they will never guess it :  
Laugh ! and you will not confess it  
By your paler cheek and brow.

There must be the tightest tension  
Ere the tone be full and true ;  
Shallow lakelets of emotion  
Are not like the spirit-ocean,  
Which reflects the purest blue.

Every lesson you shall utter,  
If the charge indeed be yours,  
First is gained by earnest learning,  
Carved in letters deep and burning  
On a heart that long endures.

Day by day that wondrous tablet  
Your life-poem shall receive,  
By the hand of Joy or Sorrow ;  
But the pen can never borrow  
Half the records that they leave.

You will only give a transcript  
Of a life-line here and there,  
Only just a spray-wreath springing  
From the hidden depths, and flinging  
Broken rainbows on the air.

Still, if you but copy truly,  
'T will be poetry indeed,  
Echoing many a heart's vibration,  
Rather love than admiration  
Earning as your priceless meed.

Will you seek it? Will you brave it?  
'T is a strange and solemn thing,  
Learning long, before your teaching,  
Listening long, before your preaching,  
Suffering before you sing.

*THE CASCADE.*

WHO saith that Poetry is not in thee,  
Thou wild cascade, bright, beautiful,  
and free?

Who saith that thine own sunny gleaming  
waters

Are not among 'sweet Poesie's' fair daughters?  
No Poetry in thee? then tell, oh tell,  
Where is the home where she delights to  
dwell?

But what is Poetry? Some aerial sprite,  
Clothed in a dazzling robe of wavy light,  
Whose magic touch unlocks the gates of joy  
In dreamland to some vision-haunted boy?  
Or is she but a breath from Eden-bowers,  
Charged with the fragrance of their shining  
    flowers,  
Which, passing o'er the harp-strings of the  
    soul,  
Awakes new melody, whose echoes roll  
In waves of spirit-music through the heart,  
Till tears and smiles in mingling sweetness  
    start?  
It may be so, but still she seems to me  
Most like a God-sent sunlight, rich and free,  
Bathing the tiniest leaf in molten gold,  
Bidding each flower some secret charm unfold,  
Weaving a veil of loveliness for earth,  
Calling all fairy forms to wondrous birth.

Our sweet soul-Artist ! Many a fair surprise  
Her colour-treasures bring to waiting eyes ;  
Her pictures, sudden seen, oft seem to dwell  
Like pearls within the rugged ocean shell,  
They tell of something purer and more fair  
Than earth can boast, and gleam forth every-  
    where,

Star-glimpses through the trees, or flashes  
bright  
Of meteor glory in a northern night.

Our sweet soul-Harpist ! linking winds with  
sighs,  
And blending both with spirit-melodies,  
And adding chords that come we know not  
whence,  
Dream-echoes mingling with the wakeful sense.  
O strange, O beautiful ! though all unknown,  
The music-fount of every lovely tone,  
The colour-fount of every lovely thought,  
By this bright ministrant so freely brought,  
Save that we own their true and soothing  
might  
One of His perfect gifts, whose names are  
Love and Light.

Oh ! she is often where we least surmise,  
And scorns the dimness of our heavy eyes ;  
We catch the ruby sparkles of her wing,  
And she is gone like dewdrops of the spring ;  
Again, to glad us with her smile she stays,  
And shows her brightness to our loving gaze.

No cave so dark but she may gain its porch,  
And gild the shadows with her quenchless  
torch ;

No dell so silent but her pealing voice  
Can bid a leafy orchestra rejoice ;

No waste so lonely but she there may hold  
Her gorgeous court in splendour all untold.  
And where those waters murmur as they leap,  
A song of gentleness, and calm, and sleep,  
Within the sounding music of their tone  
I hear a voice, and know it is her own.

And where the fair, fond sunbeams blithely  
play

Amid the hazy wreaths of dancing spray,  
A form of fairy grace shines forth to me,  
I hail the vision, for I know 't is she.  
She loves that changeful, yet unchanging foam,  
Within its arching bowers she finds a home,  
And reads beneath its roof of fleeting snow  
The secrets of the shadowy depth below.  
Then who shall say that she is not in thee,  
Thou wild cascade, bright, beautiful, and free !





*CONSTANCE DE V—.*

An episode in the early life of Charles Maurice,  
Prince de Talleyrand.

YE maidens of Old England !  
The joyous and the free,  
The loving and the loved of all,  
Wherever ye may be ;  
Who wander through the ferny dell,  
And o'er the breezy hill,  
And glide along the woodland path  
All at your own sweet will ;  
Who know the many joys of home,  
The song, the smile, the mirth,  
The happy things which God has given  
To brighten this our earth :  
Comes there a sigh, a longing thought,  
In lonely musing hours ?  
Deem ye there is a fairer realm,  
A purer faith than ours ?  
O cast away the yearning dream,  
And listen, while I tell  
Of one who knew no other home  
Than her own convent cell.

## I.

The rain comes down relentlessly,  
The sky is robed in grey,  
Oh, Paris is a dreary place  
On such a dreary day !  
But dreariest of the darkening streets,  
Where the loud rain doth fall,  
Is that where looms the convent tower,  
Where frowns the convent wall.

## II.

A boyish step is passing  
Beneath the dripping eaves,  
With monkish lore beladen,  
With musty Latin leaves.  
Ah, Charles Maurice, the young abbé,  
Thou art of princely birth !  
For thee shall dawn a brighter day,  
A strange high part be thine to play,  
With wondrous tact to guide and sway  
The great ones of the earth !

## III.

But the still-increasing torrents  
Will spoil the ancient tomes,

And woe betide Charles Maurice  
From the wrath of cowlèd gnomes !  
So he seeks a low-bent archway  
Within the grim old wall,  
Where never the laughing footstep  
Of a sunbeam dares to fall.

## IV.

Anon he wraps the volumes  
In the folds of his hooded gown ;  
Then starts to hear, though he knows no  
fear,  
A sound which tells him life is near—  
That he is not alone.  
He turns—the passage is dark as night,  
He listens—but all is still,  
Save the raindrops in monotonous march,  
And the ceaseless drip from the mouldering  
arch,  
On the stone so damp and chill.

## V.

' *Qui vive ?* ' he cries right gaily,  
Through the cavernous entry's gloom ;  
But a low, faint cry is the sole reply,  
As the voice of one who is come to lie  
On the brink of a yawning tomb.

Oh, where is the true-hearted lad,  
Who at the call of sorrow  
But in his thoughtlessness is glad  
To help the weak and cheer the sad,  
And promise a brighter morrow?

## VI.

The cry was one of weakness—  
Of weariness unblest ;  
And a pulse of gentle sympathy  
Makes music in his breast.  
Through the dark way he gropeth  
To the iron-studded door,  
Behind whose oaken grimness  
Some dwell in cloistral dimness  
Who may pass out no more.

## VII.

There, in the glimmering darkness,  
He deems he can descry  
A small and sable-robed form  
On the cold doorstep lie.  
The form is that of maidenhood ;  
And, in that boyish heart,

It wakes a helpful tenderness,  
Like that which, hidden, yet doth bless  
Through a loved brother's fond caress,  
Ere childhood's hours depart.

## VIII.

'What is it?' said Charles Maurice,  
In a softly-pitying tone ;  
'What dost thou fear? why art thou here?  
And why that weary moan?'  
Then, lifting her with gentle arm,  
He bore her where the light  
Fell on a girlish face so fair,  
It seemed a seraph light to wear,  
But for the sorrow mantling there,  
And the glance of wild affright.

## IX.

Why should I paint her beauty?  
Have ye not often tried  
To tell of rosy lip and cheek,  
Of starlit eyes that shine and speak,  
Of cloudlike locks that vainly seek  
The snowy brow to hide?

And feel ye not, when all is said  
That words can ever say,  
The fount of beauty still is sealed—  
The loveliness is not revealed  
To those who list the lay.

## X.

Oh, words can never satisfy—  
They are too hard and real ;  
The subtle charm they cannot show  
By which the Beautiful we know,  
The Beautiful we feel.  
Perchance they speak the form, the mind,  
And draw the likeness well ;  
But at the closed entrance gate  
All reverently they bend and wait  
Where, 'neath the marble-arching dome,  
In crystal-windowed palace-home,  
The soul itself doth dwell.

## XI.

And who may tell how lovely  
The gentle Constance seemed,  
When through such clouds of sorrow  
Her meteor beauty gleamed !

What wonder that all speechless,  
As in a trance of gladness,  
The young abbé stood wonderingly,  
Before such radiant sadness?

## XII.

For the look of hopeless terror  
Was softened as she raised  
Those orbs of strange, quick brightness,  
And on Charles Maurice gazed.  
She saw the pledge of kindness  
Traced on that high fair brow ;  
' Oh, no ! thou never wilt betray,  
But aid thou canst not ; say, oh say,  
Am I not lost ? There is no way  
Of safe return, I know.'

## XIII.

Then the trembling hands she folded  
Over the burning cheek,  
A wild and woe-born sobbing  
Forbade the lips to speak ;  
Till quiet words of sympathy,  
So softly breathed and low,  
And the touch of that young hand on hers,  
Soon bade her story flow.

## XIV.

‘I was a very little child,  
Not old enough to know,  
Perhaps kind looks had on me smiled,  
But I forget them now,  
When I was brought to live so coldly here,  
Where all goes on the same through weary  
month and year.

## XV.

‘I did not know how lovely all  
The world without must be ;  
The sunbeams on the convent wall  
Were quite enough for me ;  
But others came who knew, and then they  
told  
Of all that I had dreamt, but never might  
behold.

## XVI.

‘They told me of the mountains tall,  
Where they might freely roam ;  
They told me of the waterfall,  
With music in its foam ;



They told me of wide fields and opening  
flowers,  
Of sloping mossy banks and glowing autumn  
bowers.

## XVII.

‘Of other things they told me, too,  
More beautiful to them,  
Of gleaming halls where sparklets flew  
From many a radiant gem ;  
And then they told of mirth, and dance, and  
song.  
Would I had never heard, that I might never  
long !

## XVIII.

‘They said the sky was just as blue  
Above the convent towers,  
As where the arching forests threw  
A shade o’er summer flowers ;  
But I grew weary of that dazzling sky,  
And longed to wander forth, e’en if it were  
to die.

## XIX.

‘ I did not want to change my lot,  
I knew it might not be ;  
I only longed to have one spot  
All bright with memory.  
To gaze just once upon the world I tried,  
And then I would return to be Heaven’s lonely  
bride.

## XX.

‘ But, oh, I heard no sounds of mirth,  
No beauty I could see ;  
I could not find the lovely earth,  
It was not made for me.  
And now my punishment indeed is sore,  
My only home hath closed on me its iron  
door.’

## XXI.

Yes ! in her fevered restlessness  
She left her unwatched cell,  
When all around were summoned  
By the deep-voiced matin-bell.  
And in the damp-stoned cloisters  
To rest awhile she thought,

Where cold, fresh air might round her  
    play,  
The burning fever pass away,  
And coolness of the early day  
    To her hot brow be brought.

## XXII.

Strange carelessness ! no massy bar  
    Across the gate was thrown !  
She deemed that world of beauty  
    near ;  
She gazed around in haste and fear,  
Oh, none were there to see and hear -  
    The timid bird has flown !  
But the rain came down relentlessly,  
    The sky was robed in grey ;  
All dreary seemed the narrow street,  
And nothing bright or fair might meet  
Her of the white and trembling feet ;  
No loveliness is there to greet  
    That wandering star to-day.

## XXIII.

Then, bowed with shame and weakness,  
    And disappointed hope,

She only reached the heavy door  
To find it firmly closed once more ;  
Ah, who shall help, and who restore,  
And who that door shall ope ?  
The strong young arm of Charles Maurice  
Tries once and yet again,  
But the weighty portal baffles him :  
Ah ! is it all in vain ?

## XXIV.

But Constance darts one upward glance  
Of blent despair and trust ;  
There is no bolt, for daylight gleams  
Between the scarcely-meeting beams :  
Some unknown obstacle there seems,  
And conquer it he must.  
He strains his utmost strength, the sweat  
Is beading on his brow ;  
It creaks—it yields ! O Constance, smile,  
The door is open now !

## XXV.

From her cheek the flush hath faded,  
As fades the evening glow,

In pristine whiteness leaving  
The rosy Alpine snow.  
And like a breeze of twilight  
The aspen-leaves among,  
A whisper falls upon his ear  
From quivering lip and tongue :

## XXVI.

‘ Farewell ! Oh, thou hast saved me ! ’  
And the hand so white and cold,  
With lingering clasp of gratitude,  
Her wordless thanks hath told.  
One moment on that small, fair hand  
His youthful lips are pressed ;  
There is a reverence in his eye,  
For grief and beauty both are nigh ;  
She passes like a spirit by,  
To seek her cheerless rest.

## XXVII.

They are parted, like the dewdrops  
That linger in the smile  
Of a storm-begotten rainbow,  
But for a little while :  
Then one in lonely dimness  
To earth may soon descend ;

And one with the bright sky above,  
Though all unseen, may blend.

## XXVIII.

The young abbé hath paused in vain  
To hear her footstep pass ;  
'T was lighter than the noiseless fall  
Of rose-leaf on the grass.  
No sound is heard but the pattering rain,  
And he slowly turns away,  
With the brown old books beneath his gown,  
To meet his abbot's gathering frown,  
For loitering on the way.

## XXIX.

Think you he conned the loveless lore  
Without a thoughtful sigh  
For the loveliness in sorrow,  
Which passed so trance-like by ?  
Among the missal borders  
Was no such angel-face ;  
And such, once seen, fade not away ;  
Their image shines without decay,  
When on the canvas of the heart,  
With untaught skill, yet mystic art,  
Each line of light we trace.

## XXX.

The wing of Time seems broken now,  
So tardy is his flight ;  
He deems by day that she is dead,  
He dreams she lives, by night.  
Till quick anxiety hath found  
A messenger to bear  
The tidings that he strove to frame,  
From woven hope and fear.

## XXXI.

What wonder that he heard not  
Her footfall on the stone !  
She sank beneath the cloister wall,  
Unheeded and alone ;  
And ere Charles Maurice stood again  
Beneath the open sky,  
For ever on the things of earth  
She closed her weary eye.

## XXXII.

Constance, the beautiful, hath left  
Her dismal convent cell ;  
She hath not known one hope fulfilled,  
One granted joy, one longing stilled.

For her the melody of life  
Was but one chord of inward strife,  
Was but one ruthless knell.  
Her heart bedimmed with sameness,  
Her only wish denied,  
Oh, what a mockery it were  
Her lot should such a title bear,  
‘Heaven’s own appointed bride!’

## XXXIII.

Why should her early spring-time  
Be quenched in wintry gloom?  
Was it not merciful and wise  
To call her spirit to the skies  
From such a living tomb?  
How might that gentle maiden  
Have scattered joy around,  
And made the earth a brighter place,  
For all her radiance and grace!  
But now, unsorrored and unknown,  
Her only memory is a stone  
Within the convent bound.



*FAIRY HOMES.*

I'VE found at last the hiding-place  
Where the fairy people dwell,  
And to win the secrets of their race  
I hold the long-sought spell.

With the woodland fairies I can talk,  
I can list their silvery lays ;  
Oh ! pleasant in a lonely walk  
Is the company of fays.

No fabled fancy 't is to me,  
For in every floweret's bell  
Is a tiny chamber, where I see  
A gentle fairy dwell.

And at my bidding forth they come,  
To soothe me or to cheer,  
And to tell me tales of fairydom  
With voices soft and clear.

Full many a beauteous lesson, too,  
Their rosy lips can teach ;

Great men would wonder if they knew  
How well the fairies preach !

When thoughts of sorrow sadden me,  
They seem to sympathize,  
And gaze upon me lovingly,  
With tender earnest eyes ;

But when a tide of joyous glee  
Is bringing song and smile,  
Then brightly they look up to me,  
And laugh with me awhile.

Oh ! lovely are the floweret homes  
Of these sweet summer fays ;  
God's thoughts of beauty taking form:  
To gladden mortal gaze.



*MORE MUSIC.*

OH for a burst of song,  
Exultant, deep, and strong,  
One gush of music's billowy might,  
To bear my soul away  
Into the realms of day,  
From these dim glacier-caves of Life's cold  
night !

Oh for a sunset strain  
Wafted o'er slumberous main,  
To enter, spirit-like, my prisoned heart,  
And there, with viewless hand,  
Unloose each mortal band,  
That in the songs of heaven I too might learn  
a part.

The sweetest music here  
Calls forth the quiet tear,  
For grief and gladness flow in blended  
stream ;  
Oh for the joyous day,  
(Can it be far away?)  
When one great Alleluia song shall chase Life's  
tuneless dream !

*TRAVELLING THOUGHTS.*

On board the steamer *La France*, January 26, 1865.

A STILL grey haze around us,  
Behind, a foreign shore,  
A still grey deep beneath us,  
And Dover cliffs before.  
Not one within a hundred miles  
Whose name I ever heard,  
None who would care to speak to me  
A passing friendly word :  
Yet not a shadow crosseth me  
Of loneliness or fear ;  
I bless the Omnipresent One,  
I know that God is here.

All whom I love are scattered :  
And many a month and mile  
Rise, mountain-like, before, behind,  
Between me and their smile.  
Oh that the love I bear them  
Might blossom into skill  
To comfort and to brighten,  
And all with gladness fill !

Ah ! helpless love ! Yet 't is a joy  
To turn each wish to prayer,  
And, where each loved one sojourneth,  
To know that God is there.

The nearest and the dearest  
Are where the rushing Rhine  
Bends northward from the Drachenfels,  
From castle, rock, and vine ;  
Where long-lined chestnut shadows  
Make tracery below,  
And the moss-framed window challenges  
The might of frost and snow.  
Lit rather by the dawn of heaven  
Than earthly sunset glow,  
That passing home of faith and prayer !  
Oh, God is there, I know !

From thence the wing of loving thought  
Speeds on where Severn flows,  
And hovers o'er as fair a scene  
As our fair England knows ;  
The home of summer roses,  
Of winter mirth and glee,  
Long may that home unbroken,  
That mirth unsilenced be !

The blessings of unbounded grace  
I pray Him to bestow,  
And trust Him for the coming years,  
For He is there, I know.

Now westward sweeps the vision  
Across the Irish Sea,  
And echoes low of sisters' love  
Come back again to me.  
A beacon bright in stormy night  
Of error, rage, and wrong,  
That home of love and truth shall cast  
Its radiance pure and strong.  
They tell of rumours strange and dark ;  
But oh ! no need to fear !  
God will not leave His own, I know,  
His guardian hand is near.

Another scene by gentle Ouse  
Must aye be dear to me,  
Though all are not together now,  
And one is on the sea.  
And where a grey cathedral tower  
Uprises broad and high,  
A home is made in cloistral shade,  
Beside the winding Wye.

To seek the richest boons for these,  
Why should the heart be slow ?  
One Shepherd, Chief, and Great, and  
Good,  
Is watching there, I know.

Then, in a busy city,  
A crypt all dark and lone,  
A name engraven on our hearts  
Is traced upon a stone.  
Not *there* the sainted spirit !  
She dwells in holy light,  
Within the pearl-raised portals,  
With those who walk in white.  
May all her children follow  
The path she meekly trod,  
And reach the home she rests in now,  
And dwell, like her, with God.



*NEW YEAR'S WISHES.*

A PEARL-STREWN pathway of untold  
                  gladness,  
Flecked by no gloom, by no weary sadness,  
      Such be the year to thee !  
A crystal rivulet, sunlight flinging,  
Awakening blossoms, and joyously singing  
      Its own calm melody.

A symphony soft, and sweet, and low,  
Like the gentlest music the angels know  
      In their moments of deepest joy ;  
'Mid earth's wild clamour thy spirit telling  
Of beauty and holiness, upward swelling,  
      And mingling with the sky.

A radiant, fadeless Eden flower,  
Unfolding in loveliness hour by hour,  
      Like a wing-veiled seraph's face ;—  
Such be the opening year to thee,  
Shrouded though all its moments be,  
      Unknown as the bounds of space.



Blessings unspoken this year be thine !  
Each day in its rainbow flight entwine  
    New gems in thy joy-wreathed crown ;  
May each in the smile of Him be bright,  
Who is changeless Love and unfading Light,  
Till the glory seem to thy tranced sight  
    As heaven to earth come down.

—o—

*BONNIE WEE ERIC.*

**B**ONNIE wee Eric ! I have sat beside the  
    evening fire,  
And listened to the leaping flame still darting  
    keenly higher,  
And all the while a lisping voice and eyes of  
    sunny blue  
Out-whispered the flame-whisper, and out-  
    shone the flicker too.

Bonnie wee Eric ! To his home thoughts plea-  
    santly return,  
To long fair evenings in the land of ben and  
    brae and burn ;

Sweet northern words, so tunefully upon our  
Saxon flung,  
As if a mountain breeze swept by where fairy  
bells are hung.

But sweeter than all fairy bells of quaint sweet  
minstrel tongue,  
Rang out wee Eric's gentlest tone when o'er  
his cot I hung,  
And told him in the sunset glow once more  
the old dear story  
Of Him who walked the earth that we might  
walk with Him in glory.

'He loves the little children so ;—does darling  
Eric love Him ?'  
I think the angels must have smiled a rainbow-  
smile above him,  
Yet hardly brighter than his own, that lit the  
answer true,  
'Jesus, the kind good Jesus! Me do, oh yes,  
me do!'

Bonnie wee Eric! How the thought of heaven  
is full of joy,  
And death has not a shadow for the merry  
healthful boy!

To hear about the happy home he gladly  
turns away  
From picture books, or Noah's ark, or any  
game of play.

'Mamma, some day me die, and then the  
angels take me home  
To Jesus, and me sing to Him ;—Papa and  
you too come.'

So brightly said ! 'But, Eric, would you  
really *like* to die ? '

She answered him ; 'then, darling, tell mamma  
the reason why ? '

And then the sunny eyes looked up, and  
seemed at once to be

Filled with a happy solemn light, like sunrise  
on the sea ;

He said—'Yes me *would* like to die, *for me*  
*know where me going !*'

What saint-like longing, baby lips ! and oh !  
what blessed knowing !

The lesson of the 'little child' is sweetly learnt  
from him ;

No questioning, no anxious faith all tremulous  
and dim,

No drowsy love that hardly knows if it be love  
indeed ;  
Not 'think' or 'hope,' but—'Oh me *do*,'—  
'me *know*,'—his simple creed.

Bonnie wee Eric ! Hardly launched on this  
world's troubled sea,  
We know the little bark is safe whate'er its  
course may be ;  
And short or long, or fair or rough, our hearts  
are glad in knowing  
It will be onward, heavenward still, for he  
'*knows where he's going.*'

—o—

*MY SWEET WOODRUFF.*

N<sup>O</sup> more the flowers of spring are seen,  
And silence fills the summer noon ;  
The woods have lost the fresh bright green  
Of May and June.

But yesterday I found a flower,  
Deep sheltered from the withering rays,  
Which might have known the sun and shower  
Of April days.

I did not think again to find  
Such tender relic of the spring ;  
It thrilled such gladness through my mind,  
I needs must sing.

My girlhood's spring has passed for aye,  
With many a fairy tint and tone ;  
The heat and burden of the day  
Are better known.

But by my summer path has sprung  
A flower of happy love, as fair  
As e'er a subtle fragrance flung  
On spring's clear air.

I hardly thought to feel again  
Such dewy freshness in my heart,  
And so one little loving strain  
Must upward start.

There was spring-sunshine in my eyes,  
I had such joy in finding you  
So full of all I love and prize,  
So dear and true.

My heart is richer far to-day  
Than when I came a week ago ;  
How near to me such treasure lay  
I did not know !

The long parenthesis is o'er,  
And now, in letters all of light,  
The story of our love once more  
We both may write.

I have no words to breathe the praise  
Which now for this 'good gift' I owe :  
A wordless anthem I must raise,  
But HE will know.



*OUR GEM WREATH.*

**H**EARD ye the sounds of joyous glee,  
And the notes of merry minstrelsy,  
And the purling of low, sweet words which  
start

From the silent depths of a loving heart ;  
And the gushing laugh, and the rippling song,  
As the summer days sped swift along ?

Saw ye the gleam of sunny hair,  
And the glancing of forms yet young and fair,  
And the dancing light of happy eyes,  
And smiles like the rosy morning skies ?  
Saw ye and heard ? and would ye not know  
What made such mirth and music flow ?

There were maidens five, as blithe and free  
As the curbless waves of the open sea :  
They met ;—ye may liken their early greeting  
To the dewdrops on a rose-leaf meeting ;  
Then many a day flew uncounted by,  
With Love like an angel hovering nigh,  
While the ruby light of his sparkling wing  
Flung a tint of joy on everything.

‘In books, or works, or healthful play,’  
As the merriest lips would often say,  
Or in strange attempts to weave a spell  
Which might bid the Muses among them  
    dwell,

Or in a stream of mingled song,  
Some of their hours have passed along ;  
Bearing the sound of each pleasant lay,  
And the echo of many a laugh, away.

When the burning day is on the wane,  
They wander through some darkening lane,  
In quieter converse lingering awhile  
‘Neath the arching roof of its shadowy aisle.

Where the latest sunbeams kiss the brow  
Of Malvern’s Beacon, see them now ;  
Springing o’er moss-bed, and rock, and stone,  
As though the green earth were all their own ;  
And singing forth to the fair wide scene,  
In a loyal chorus, ‘*God save the Queen !*’

Again, from out the busy street,  
They pass with gladly reverent feet  
Within the old cathedral’s shade ;  
And feel the sacred silence laid  
Upon the lips, upon the heart,  
By time and place thus ‘set apart.’  
Then the anthem fills the glorious fane,  
Till its solemn tones float back again,



Round arch and column the sound enwreathing,  
Till they seem with holy music breathing,—  
Music and love ; while the choral praise  
Images better and holier days.

Yet once again ;—with low bent head,  
They are kneeling where the Feast is spread ;  
Not one is absent, all are there,  
Its silent blessedness to share.  
Well may a bond of love be felt,  
When thus together they have knelt.

Would ye know the maidens five, oh say ?  
The meek, the merry, the grave, the gay :  
Each jewel of all the sunlit cluster  
Shines with its own unborrowed lustre ;  
Then listen and gaze, while each shall pass,  
As a half-seen vision in magic glass.

## I.

A QUIET summer evening, when the daybeams'  
heat and glare  
Have passed away, and coolness comes upon  
the cloudless air,  
And the soft grey twilight wakes the stars to  
glisten o'er the hill,  
And the only vesper-chime is rung by one low-  
murmuring rill :

Like such an evening is the soul of that one  
    dark-eyed maid,  
Amid earth's restless turmoil like a calm and  
    pleasant shade ;  
So soothing and so gently sweet her words of  
    deep love fall  
Upon the wearied spirit, like the ringdove's  
    forest call.

Well hath she learnt to sympathize with every  
    hope and fear,  
Well hath she learnt the sorrowing heart to  
    brighten and to cheer ;  
Long years of weary weakness have not passed  
    away in vain,  
If the holy art of sympathy they taught her to  
    attain.

Her fairy footstep falleth as a noiseless flake  
    of snow,  
So violet-like and still that we her presence  
    hardly know ;  
But like a gleaming vessel-path, far glittering  
    through the night,  
She leaves a memory behind of soft and silvery  
    light.

Within the crystal cavern of retirement ye find  
That gem of inward radiance, her 'meek and  
quiet' mind ;  
Not like the flashing topaz, or the ruby's  
gorgeous glow,  
She is a precious AMETHYST, whose value  
well we know.

## II.

Now turn we to that merry maiden,  
With azure eye, and smooth bright hair ;  
A lily blossom, fragrance-laden,  
Is not more fair.

A dewdrop to the thirsty flower,  
A sun-ray gilding every cloud,  
A rainbow when the thunder-shower  
Is rushing loud ;

A spirit full of pleasant brightness,  
That speaks from lip, and cheek, and brow,  
To whose glad spell of cheering lightness  
E'en grief must bow.

Her hand hath learnt with wondrous power  
Scenes of rare loveliness to trace,  
And picture forms with airy dower  
Of beauteous grace.

The breath of flattery hath not tainted  
Her simple thought with pride's dark stain ;  
Because her leaves are richly painted,  
Is the rose vain ?

Then as an orient EMERALD shining,  
Long may her loveliness be set  
Among the sister-gems, entwining  
Our coronet.

### III.

SAY, who shall form the vision-centre now ?  
She of the large, soft eye, and pensive smile,  
She of the earnest gaze, and thoughtful brow :  
Who would not love to read her looks awhile,  
Or list that often silent voice, whose flow  
Like distant waterfall is heard, so sweet and  
low ?

Not many summers o'er her youth have cast  
Their varying sun and shade, and we might  
deem

No breath of sadness o'er her soul had passed,  
But for that orb subdued, like some lone  
stream,

Where the sad willows rest in shadowy love,  
While its blue depth reflects the sunlit heaven  
above.

All calmness, yet deep sorrow she hath known,  
Dimming the star of hope which shone so clear,  
The song of life hath changed its joyous tone,  
The pearl of life hath melted to a tear;  
But star and song shall rise in brighter day,  
And hers that priceless Pearl which none may  
take away.

Her sorrow, all unspoken, doth but twine  
Our earnest love more changelessly around her;  
While we look onward, upward, for the time  
When Joy's fair garland shall again have  
crowned her,

Who as the PEARL of all our wreath is gleam-  
ing,

In mild and moonlit radiance softly 'mid us  
beaming.

## IV.

LIKE a flash of meteor light,  
Strangely gladdening and bright,  
Is the youngest of the band,  
Making every heart expand.

Like a petrel on the wave,  
What to her though tempests rave  
She will skim each foamy crest,  
Making all around her blest.

Like a song-bird of the spring,  
She is ever on the wing ;  
Carolling in blithest glee,  
Like the wild breeze, fresh and free.

Like a beautiful gazelle  
Bounding over hill and dell ;  
Like the scented hawthorn-flowers,  
Ever scattering blossom-showers.

Can a star of light be found,  
Shedding aught but light around ?  
Joy and gladness must be nigh,  
Where her starry pinions fly.

Clear and open as the day,  
All may trust her glancing ray,  
All must love its rainbow light ;  
Is she not a DIAMOND bright !

## v.

AND the last maiden,—what is she?  
She sees not herself as others see,  
From an outward point of view ;  
She only knows the scenes within,  
The weary conflict, and the sin,  
The strivings a better life to win,  
And the gleams of gladness too.

But little she knows of the secret cells,  
Where in lonely twilight the spirit dwells  
In an ever mysterious home,  
Where music, and beauty, and sweet perfume,  
Grim storms, and the blackness of the tomb,  
In morning brightness, and midnight gloom,  
In an untracked labyrinth roam.

How many a chamber within is sealed !  
How wondrous the little that is revealed  
In a scarce-caught whispering tone !

Strange thoughts come forth to her outer gaze,  
Wild fancies flash with spectral rays,  
And feelings glow with uncertain blaze ;  
    But their fountain is all unknown.

Ah ! she would long to glean a ray  
From each lovely gem of this summer lay,  
    For her own are faint and few.  
The tremulous OPAL'S changeful light  
May emblem her, now dark, now bright,  
Yet blending in love with each sister sprite  
    In a union fond and true.

---

Such are the five, as now they seem  
In the golden haze of Memory's dream.  
But the future ! who may lift the veil  
And read its yet unwritten tale !  
The rose, or the thorn, the sun, the cloud,  
The gleeful heart, or the spirit bowed,  
The song of joy, or the wail of woe,  
Which shall be theirs, we may not know.  
Then sorrow and joy alike we leave  
    In the Hand which doeth all things well,  
And calmly from that Hand receive  
    All that each coming year may tell.  
Our jewel-garland lives by Him ;  
    We would not ask of life or death,



Who first shall break its shining rim ;  
It shall be as the Master saith :  
He only shall untwine the bond,  
So fair and faithful, fresh and fond.  
But oh that each who glistens now  
In this verse-woven coronet,  
Upon the Saviour's thorn-wreathed brow  
May as a living gem be set !  
Then never shall their light grow dim ;  
Redeemed and sanctified by Him,  
Their life and love in blended rays  
Shall shine in everlasting praise.

—o—

*MY NAME.<sup>1</sup>*

FROM childish days I never heard  
My own baptismal name ;  
Too small, too slight, too full of glee  
Aught else but 'little Fan' to be,  
The stately 'Frances' not in me  
Could any fitness claim.

<sup>1</sup> Suggested by the question, 'What does the letter R in your initials (F. R. H.) represent?'

Now, in the crowded halls of life,  
May it be mine to bring  
Some gentle stir of the heated air,  
Some coolness falling fresh and fair,  
Like a passing angel's wing.

My father's name,—oh how I love  
Its else unwonted look !  
For his dear sake right dear I hold  
Each letter, changed, as he has told,  
Long since from early Saxon mould,  
' The rising of the brook. ' <sup>1</sup>

Of music, holiness, and love  
That name will always tell,  
While sacred chant and anthem rise,  
Or mourners live whose deepest sighs  
To echoes of a Father's will  
He tuned, or child, or grandchild still  
On his bright memory dwell.

But ' what the R doth represent, '  
I value and revere ;  
A diamond clasp it seems to be  
On golden chains enlinking me

<sup>1</sup> ' Heavergill '—the heaving or rising of the brook, or  
rill.

---

In loyal love to England's hope,  
Bulwark 'gainst infidel and Pope,  
The Church I hold so dear.

Three hundred years ago was one  
Who held with stedfast hand  
That chalice of the truth of God,  
And poured its crystal stream abroad  
Upon the thirsting land.

The moderate, the wise, the calm,  
The learned, brave and good,<sup>1</sup>  
A guardian of the sacred ark,  
A burning light in places dark,  
For cruel, changeless Rome a mark,  
Our Bishop RIDLEY stood.

The vengeance of that foe nought else  
But fiery doom could still :  
Too surely fell the lightning stroke  
Upon that noble English oak,

<sup>1</sup> 'A man beautified with such excellent qualities, so ghostly inspired and godly learned, and now written doubtless in the book of life with the blessed saints of the Almighty, crowned and throned amongst the glorious company of martyrs.'—*Foxe's Acts and Monuments.*

Whose acorn-memory survives  
In forest ranks of earnest lives,  
And martyr-souls in will.

Rome offered life for faith laid down :  
Such ransom paid not he !  
' As long as breath is in this frame,  
My Lord and Saviour Christ His name  
And His known truth I'll not deny : '  
He said (and raised his head on high),  
' God's will be done in me.' <sup>1</sup>

He knelt and prayed, and kissed the stake,  
And blessed his Master's name  
That he was called His cross to take,  
And counted worthy for His sake  
To suffer death and shame. <sup>2</sup>

Though fierce the fire and long the pain,  
The martyr's God was nigh ;  
Till from that awful underglow  
Of torture terrible and slow,  
Above the weeping round about,  
Once more the powerful voice rang out  
His Saviour's own last cry.

<sup>1</sup> See Works of Bishop Ridley.—*Parker Society*, pp. 295 and 296.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

Oh faithful unto death ! the crown  
Was shining on thy brow,  
Before the ruddy embers paling,  
And sobbing after-gusts of wailing  
Had died away, and left in silence  
That truest shrine of British Islands,  
That spot so sacred now !

In dear old England shineth yet  
The candle lit that day ;  
Right clear and strong its flames arise,  
Undimmed, unchanged, toward the skies,  
By God's good grace it never dies,  
A living torch for aye.

'T is said that while he calmly stood  
And waited for the flame,  
He gave each trifle that he had,  
True relic-treasure, dear and sad,  
To each who cared to claim.  
I was not there to ask a share,  
But reverently for ever wear  
That noble martyr's *name*.

*FAITH AND REASON.*

REASON unstrings the harp to see  
Wherein the music dwells ;  
Faith pours a Hallelujah song,  
And heavenly rapture swells.  
While Reason strives to count the drops  
That lave our narrow strand,  
Faith launches o'er the mighty deep,  
To seek a better land.

One is the foot that slowly treads  
Where darkling mists enshroud ;  
The other is the wing that cleaves  
Each heaven-obscuring cloud.  
Reason, the eye which sees but that  
On which its glance is cast ;  
Faith is the thought that blends in one  
The Future and the Past.

In hours of darkness, Reason waits,  
Like those in days of yore,  
Who rose not from their night-bound place,  
On dark Egyptian shore.

But Faith more firmly clasps the hand  
Which led her all the day,  
And when she wished for morning dawns,  
Is farther on her way.

By Reason's alchymy in vain  
Is golden treasure planned ;  
Faith meekly takes a priceless crown,  
Won by no mortal hand.  
While Reason is the labouring oar  
That smites the wrathful seas,  
Faith is the snowy sail spread out  
To catch the freshening breeze.

Reason, the telescope that scans  
A universe of light ;  
But Faith, the angel who may dwell  
Among those regions bright.  
Reason, a lonely towering elm,  
May fall before the blast ;  
Faith, like the ivy on the rock,  
Is safe in clinging fast.

While Reason, like a Levite, waits  
Where priest and people meet,  
Faith, by a 'new and living way,'  
Hath gained the mercy-seat.

While Reason but returns to tell  
That this is not our rest,  
Faith, like a weary dove, hath sought  
A gracious Saviour's breast.

Yet both are surely precious gifts  
From Him who leads us home ;  
Though in the wilds Himself hath trod  
A little while we roam.  
And, linked within the soul that knows  
A living, loving Lord,  
Faith strikes the key-note, Reason then  
Fills up the full-toned chord.

Faith is the upward-pointing spire  
O'er life's great temple springing,  
From which the chimes of love float forth  
Celestially ringing ;  
While Reason stands below upon  
The consecrated ground,  
And, like a mighty buttress, clasps  
The wide foundation round.

Faith is the bride that stands enrobed  
In white and pure array ;  
Reason, the handmaid who may share  
The gladness of the day.



Faith leads the way, and Reason learns  
To follow in her train ;  
Till, step by step, the goal is reached,  
And death is glorious gain.

*LYNTON.*

WHY does it seem familiar ground?  
I was never here before ;  
I never saw this fairy dream  
Of wood and wave, of rock and stream,  
Nor watched the snowy foam-line gleam  
On Devon's bay-loved shore.

It feels as weird and strange as though  
My spirit had been here ;  
And in the mists of long ago  
An outline wavers to and fro,  
Now colourless, now all aglow,  
Now faint, now wondrous clear.

I know it now—the tender spell  
    On all this pleasant scene ;  
For memory's first pale flickering light  
Falls on a long-forgotten night,  
Though conscious lifetime, dark and bright,  
    Lies all outstretched between.

The dearest name I ever spoke  
    Was on my lips that eve ;  
We gave her ' welcome home ' once more,  
Unknown, the last short absence o'er ;  
And now, she is but ' gone before '  
    The palm-branch to receive.

I know it now,—*she* told me all ;  
    I sat upon her knee,  
And heard about the cliff so tall,  
The craggy path, the rocky wall,  
The ever-chanting waterfall,  
    The silver autumn sea :

The steep and dangerous way above,  
    The winding dell beneath ;  
The rushing Lyn, the shadowy trees,  
The hills that breast the Channel-breeze,  
The white ships bound for western seas ;  
    One shining marvel-wreath !

A little picture she had brought  
Of Lynton's lovely vale :  
I fastened it upon my wall,  
Half deeming I had seen it all ;  
While colours came at fancy's call  
To deck those outlines pale.

Hers then the charm, so strangely sweet,  
Which made me sit and gaze ;  
'T is like a breeze from far-off hills,  
Or midnight anthem of wild rills,  
That cools the fever-fire which fills  
Our hot and hurried days.

It may be that the parting time  
Has more than half gone by,  
That ere another twenty years  
Have mingled all their smiles and tears,  
We may have passed all griefs and fears,  
And her dear welcome greet our ears  
To her blest home on high.

Oh, might it be ! That far-off land  
Is all unseen as yet :  
But when we pass its portals fair,  
It may be that some glory there

Sweetly familiar shall appear,  
Because we heard it whispered here  
By that soft voice, whose accents dear  
We never can forget.



*A BIRTHDAY GREETING TO MY  
FATHER.*

1860.

'T IS fully known to ONE, by us yet dimly  
seen,  
The blessing thou HAST BEEN ;  
Yet speaks the silent love of many a mourning  
heart  
The blessing that thou ART ;  
While traced on coming years, in faith and  
hope we see,  
' A blessing thou SHALT BE ;'  
Then here in holy labour, there in holier rest,  
BLESSING, thou SHALT BE BLESSED.

*A LULL IN LIFE.*

‘And He said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.’—MARK VI. 31.

O H for ‘a desert place’ with only the  
Master’s smile!

Oh for the ‘coming apart’ with only His ‘rest  
awhile!’

Many are ‘coming and going’ with busy and  
restless feet,

And the soul is hungering now, with ‘no  
leisure so much as to eat.’

Dear is my wealth of love from many and  
valued friends,

Best of the earthly gifts that a bounteous  
Father sends;

Pleasant the counsel sweet, and the interchange  
of thought,

Welcome the twilight hour with musical  
brightness fraught.

Dear is the work He gives in many a varied  
way,  
Little enough in itself, yet something for every  
day,—  
Something by pen for the distant, by hand or  
voice for the near,  
Whether to soothe or teach, whether to aid  
or cheer.

Not that I lightly prize the treasure of valued  
friends,  
Not that I turn aside from the work the  
Master sends,  
Yet I have longed for a pause in the rush and  
whirl of time,  
Longed for silence to fall instead of its merriest  
chime :

Longed for a hush to group the harmonies of  
thought  
Round each melodious strain that the harp of  
life hath caught,  
And time for the fitful breeze Æolian chords  
to bring,  
Waking the music that slept, mute in the ten-  
sionless string :


Longed for a calm to let the circles die away  
That tremble over the heart, breaking the  
    heavenly ray,  
And to leave its wavering mirror true to the  
    Star above,  
Brightened and stilled to its depths with the  
    quiet of 'perfect love :'

Longed for a sabbath of life, a time of renew-  
    ing of youth,  
For a full-orbed leisure to shine on the foun-  
    tains of holy truth ;  
And to fill my chalice anew with its waters  
    fresh and sweet,  
While resting in silent love at the Master's  
    glorious feet.

There are songs which only flow in the lone-  
    liest shades of night,  
There are flowers which cannot grow in a blaze  
    of tropical light,  
There are crystals which cannot form till the  
    vessel be cooled and stilled ;  
Crystal, and flower, and song, given as God  
    hath willed.

There is work which cannot be done in the  
    swell of a hurrying tide,  
But my hand is not on the helm to turn my  
    bark aside ;  
Yet I cast a longing eye on the hidden and  
    waveless pool,  
Under the shadowing rock, currentless, clear,  
    and cool.

Well ! I will wait in the crowd till He shall  
    call me apart,  
Till the silence fall which shall waken the  
    music of mind and heart ;  
Patiently wait till He give the work of my  
    secret choice,  
Blending the song of life with the thrill of the  
    Master's voice.





*ADORATION.*

O MASTER, at Thy feet  
I bow in rapture sweet !  
Before me, as in darkening glass,  
Some glorious outlines pass,  
Of love, and truth, and holiness, and power ;  
I own them Thine, O Christ, and bless Thee  
for this hour.

O full of truth and grace,  
Smile of Jehovah's face,  
O tenderest heart of love untold !  
Who may Thy praise unfold ?  
Thee, Saviour, Lord of lords and King of  
kings,  
Well may adoring seraphs hymn with veiling  
wings.

I have no words to bring  
Worthy of Thee, my King,  
And yet one anthem in Thy praise  
I long, I long to raise ;  
The heart is full, the eye entranced above,  
But words all melt away in silent awe and  
love.

How can the lip be dumb,  
The hand all still and numb,  
When Thee the heart doth see and own  
Her Lord and God alone?  
Tune for Thyself the music of my days,  
And open Thou my lips that I may show Thy  
praise.

Yea, let my whole life be  
One anthem unto Thee,  
And let the praise of lip and life  
Outring all sin and strife.  
O Jesus, Master! be Thy name supreme  
For heaven and earth the one, the grand, the  
eternal theme.



## INDEX OF FIRST LINES.

---

	PAGE
A pearl-strewn pathway of untold gladness . . . . .	170
A still grey haze around us . . . . .	166
Ah ! the weary cares and fears . . . . .	98
Amid the broken waters of our ever-restless thought . . . . .	1
An April burst of beauty . . . . .	75
'As thy day thy strength shall be' . . . . .	118
'Bonnie Wee Eric' . . . . .	171
Finished at last ! . . . . .	133
From childish days I never heard . . . . .	187
God doth not bid thee wait . . . . .	111
'God's everlasting love ! What would'st thou more ?' . . . . .	127
Heard ye the sounds of joyous glee . . . . .	177
I gave My life for thee . . . . .	105
I love to feel that I am taught . . . . .	47
I played with the whispering rushes . . . . .	70
I've found at last the hiding-place . . . . .	163
In God's great field of labour . . . . .	2
Is this the Peace of God, this strange, sweet calm ? . . . . .	38
Jesus, Master, whose I am . . . . .	36

	PAGE
Jesus, Master, whom I serve . . . .	37
Leave behind earth's empty pleasure . .	125
Light ! emblem of all good and joy ! . . .	92
Little one, what are you doing . . . .	140
Lord, is it still the right way, though I cannot see Thy face ? . . . .	119
Love culminates in bliss when it doth reach .	91
Made for Thyself, O God ! . . . .	53
Mark ye not the sunbeams glancing . . .	65
Master, speak ! Thy servant heareth . .	129
No more the flowers of spring are seen . .	174
Not yet thou knowest what I do . . . .	23
'Not your own !' but His ye are . . . .	31
'Now I see !' But not the parting . . . .	126
O Master, at Thy feet . . . .	203
Oh the hidden leaves of Life ! . . . .	8
Oh for a burst of song . . . .	165
Oh for 'a desert place' with only the Master's smile ! . . . .	199
Oh that I loved the Father . . . .	80
Oh ! to raise a mighty shout . . . .	67
Only a look and a motion that nobody saw or heard . . . .	33
Our yet unfinished story . . . .	86
Peace, peace ! . . . .	40
'People do not understand me' . . . .	62
Reason unstrings the harp to see . . . .	192

	PAGE
Return ! O wanderer from my side ! . . .	100
She is at rest . . . . .	115
Thanks be to God ! to whom earth owes . . .	25
The world is full of crystals. Swift, or slow .	28
There are those who deem they know me well .	137
There is a hush in earth and sky . . . .	43
' There is no rose without a thorn ! ' . . .	95
They said their texts, and their hymns they sang	51
Thine eyes shall see ! Yes, thine, who blind ere- while . . . . .	107
' This same Jesus ! ' Oh ! how sweetly . . .	113
' T is fully known to One, by us yet dimly seen	198
To whom, O Saviour, shall we go ? . . . .	102
What is the first and simplest praise . . . .	11
What will the summer bring ? . . . . .	72
' What would'st thou be ? ' The question . . .	54
' What would'st thou be ? ' A wavelet . . . .	58
Where are the countless crystals . . . . .	131
Who saith that Poetry is not in thee . . . .	143
Who shall tell our untold need . . . . .	109
Whom hear we tell of all the joy which loving Faith can bring . . . . .	77
Why does it seem familiar ground ? . . . .	195
With quivering heart and trembling will . . .	122
Ye maidens of Old England ! . . . . .	147
Yes ! He knows the way is dreary . . . .	46
' You bear the chalice Is it so, my friend ? .	90

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