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Rack of Ages



My dear

My dear



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ROCK OF AGES.

BY

AUGUSTUS MONTAGUE TOPLADY.

WITH

DESIGNS BY MISS L. B. HUMPHREY.

ENGRAVED BY JOHN ANDREW AND SON.

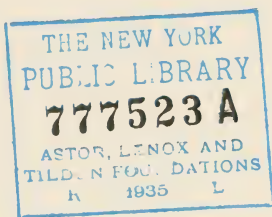


BOSTON:
LEE AND SHEPARD, PUBLISHERS.

NEW YORK:
CHARLES T. DILLINGHAM.

1879.





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1878.

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ELECTROTYPED AND PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS,
CAMBRIDGE.



Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy Cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die!

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyestrings break in death,
When I soar through tracts unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment-throne;
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!

AUGUSTUS MONTAGUE TOPLADY was born at Farnham, Surrey, England, in 1740. His father fell at the battle of Carthagen, and he was brought up in charge of an exemplary and pious mother. He was educated at Westminster school.

At the age of sixteen Toplady chanced to go into a barn at an obscure place, called Codymain, Ireland, to hear an illiterate layman preach. The sermon made upon him an unexpected impression and led to his immediate conversion.

He became a minister of the Church of England, and preached and wrote with self-consuming zeal.

In the year 1775 his health began to fail. His physician commanded him to go to London, where he became pastor of the French Calvinist Reformed Church.

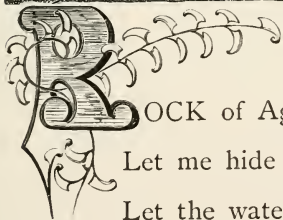
In the year of his settlement in London he published in the *Gospel Magazine* (March, 1776) an article entitled "Questions and Answers Relative to the National Debt," in which he adverts to the debt of sin, and shows how multitudinous are the sins of mankind. By numerical calculations he exhibits the enormity of the debt of the redeemed soul, which Christ has cancelled, and impresses the reader with the transcendent love and value of Christ's atonement. With these thoughts glowing like a vision in his mind, he wrote the hymn beginning, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me." He died in 1778.



ROCK of Ages, cleft for me,
Yet me hide myself in Thee!

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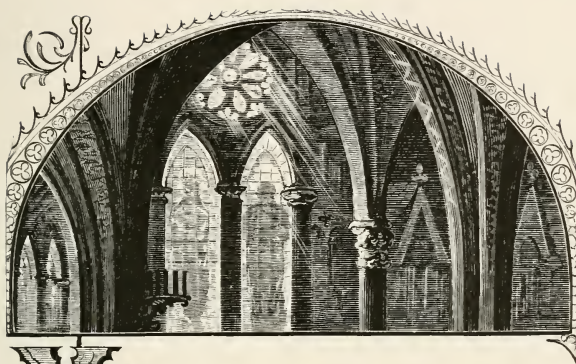
ROCK of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.



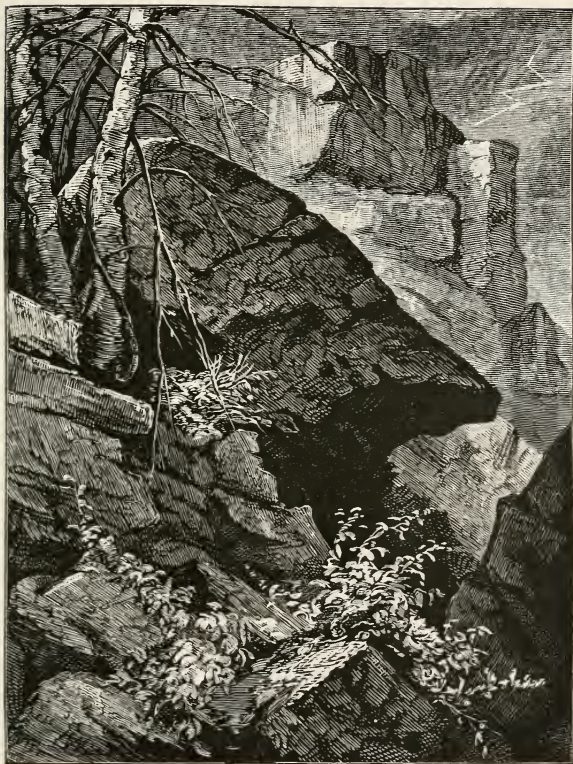
For they drank of that spiritual rock that followed
them ; and that rock was Christ.

1 Cor. x. 4.

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NOT the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands ;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone ;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.



Be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to
save me.

Psalms xxxi. 2.





Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy Cross I cling;



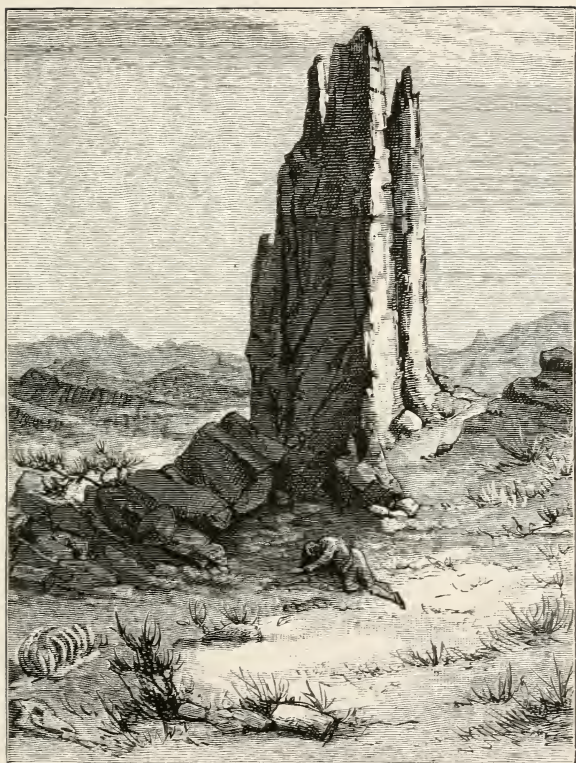
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Psalms lxi. 2.



NAKED, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee
for grace:

Foul, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die!



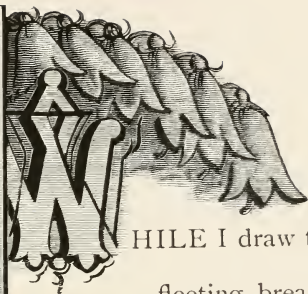
As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

Isaiah xxxii. 2.

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WHILE I draw this
fleeing breath,
When my eyestrings
break in death,
When I soar through
tracts unknown,

See Thee on Thy judgment-throne ;
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee !



Let us make a joyful noise to the **Rock**
of our SALVATION.



Upon this rock I will build my church.

Matt. xvi. 18.

