

Paradise in Eden
How Lost and How Redeemed

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How Lost and How Redeemed

by

MARGARET HARRIS BLACK



The Naylor Company

Book Publishers of the Southwest
San Antonio, Texas

THIRD EDITION, 1963

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Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 63-22787

Printed in the United States of America

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*To the King of Kings and Lord of Lords
and all who love them,
This work is humbly dedicated*

A TRIBUTE OF PRAISE

No talent I bring Thee,
No merit I own;
I've only glad praises
That Christ did atone
For me when a sinner,
Alienated from God;
And that He has sent me
His chastening rod.

Earth's pleasures are fleeting,
To trust them is vain;
I've wept o'er their passing
Again, and again.
But in my Redeemer
There's unending joy,
And peace which the world
Cannot give, nor destroy.

Accept, Loving Father,
The offering I bring,
To thee, and to Jesus,
My Saviour and King.
Oh! may they bring comfort
To some fainting soul,
And lead them to Jesus,
Whose blood maketh whole.

Preface

This poem touches briefly upon the most important truths of the Bible, thus outlining God's eternal plan as it is therein recorded. It will be noted that all references are to the Scriptures alone, and that all quotations are from either the Old or the New Testament, with one exception, viz, "It is not all of life to live, nor all of death to die."

We have been told, and it seems most reasonable, that the Bible must be taken literally wherever the language will permit; and that no true doctrine is founded on symbols or parables. Since, then, these would all have to be interpreted in harmony with the literal statements, we have chosen to use the literal only.

All paraphrasing has been carefully studied in order to guard against any possible wresting of the Scriptures upon which it bears; and has been used only where the preservation of rhyme and meter prevented quoting the verses verbatim; and in a few instances where we have commented upon some incident in what seems to us a reasonable manner.

Surely, in this the darkest hour the world has ever known, we have need of something more stable than the arm of flesh, on which to lean; and the Bible alone gives to us a reasonable and definite hope. It is this hope which we have earnestly endeavored to set forth in this brochure. That the words with which, in our comments, we have clothed these wonderful truths come far short of revealing their beauty and grandeur, we realize. Their "Breadth and Length, and Depth and Height," beggar our powers of description.

Our hope for this poem to prove a blessing to those who may read it is: that through the Scriptures quoted and the references to many others, there may be aroused in the minds of those who have never studied the Bible a desire to search the Scriptures as did the Bereans of old, "To see whether these things are so." And thus establish in their hearts faith in God's promises for a better day to come for this poor groaning creation, and its ultimate deliverance from the bondage of sin and death. Again and again, He has through His Word given us the assurance that such is His purpose; and that no power in heaven, nor on earth shall be able to prevent His carrying it out. Rom. 8:38, 39.

Whatever of merit may be found in the lines of the poem is due, first, to the fact that the glory of God as it shines in the face of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, can not be hidden however imperfectly it may have been presented in our feeble efforts to praise Him.

Second, to the kindly criticisms and helpful suggestions of friends who have so generously and patiently given us their aid and encouragement. Unto Him from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, and to these, His dear children, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

Yours in the Blessed Hope,
The Author.



Margaret Harris Black

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Paradise in Eden

How Lost and How Redeemed

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed."—Gen. 2:7, 8.

Oh fair and sweet were Eden's bowers
When God created man;
'Mid winding brooks and fragrant flowers,
His wondrous life began.
A body formed of dust, we are told,
The power to breathe was given;
And man became a living soul,
Without a peer 'neath heaven.

Engraven deeply in his heart,
The principles of good
Were of the perfect man a part;
And well he understood
That He whose hands had formed his clay,
And graciously imbued
It with such power, he should obey
With humble gratitude.

For greatest of them all, God made
The creature He called "Man,"
And earth's foundations He had laid
For him, ere Time began. *
Of "things not seen," the Lord God wrought **
His marvelous works of old: ***
And in far distant ages brought
Forth all that we behold.

* Matt. 25:34.

** Heb. 2:3.

*** Psa. 8:4-9.

The soft green vales that calmly sleep
 Beneath the summer sun,
And mountains bold that o'er them keep
 Their watch till day is done,
Were made by Him to please man's eye,
 From every flower and tree,
And murmuring stream as it flows by,
 He whispers, "I love thee."

And song birds in their happy flight
 Through vaulted skies of blue,
The beauty of a moonlit night,
 The rose's lovely hue,
All tell us with what tenderness,
 What patient loving care
The God of Heaven was pleased to bless,
 And for our race prepare.

All pleasing creatures, great and small,
 Inhabiting the earth,
The flocks and herds, yea, one and all,
 For man's sake came to birth;
For over every living thing,
 On land, in air and sea,
To Adam, as their lord and king,
 God gave authority.

Clothed him with intellectual might
 To think, to will and do;
To him gave wisdom and the right
 That kingdom to subdue.
In thus bequeathing to the man,
 So glorious a throne,
God placed a scepter in his hand,
 In likeness to His own.

* Gen. 1:26-28.

How great the moment of that hour
We cannot comprehend,
The glory, dignity and power,
That would his throne attend.
But let none take these words to mean
That man would equal be—
In this alone is likeness seen,
His was a monarchy.

No other being earth has known
Such honor has possessed,
A world and all its wealth his own;
And his, at God's behest.
Yet with these blessings in his hand,
Life, and earth's treasure-store
Of riches waiting his command,
His soul cried out for more;

For in his being had the Lord
Implanted a desire
For higher things than these afford,
Or ever could inspire;
And thoughts of praise within his heart
Would oft expression find;
But none the solace could impart
Of sympathetic mind.

For as the different creatures came
Before him one by one,
That he might give to each a name,
On his plane there was none. *
Assembled in that first parade,
Were two of every kind;
But man, in God's own likeness made,
Found there no kindred mind.

* Gen. 2:19, 20.

For while befitting their estate,
No other creature could
The nobler things appreciate;
Nor offer praise to God.
Companionship in this blest sense,
To him remained unknown;
And there is naught can recompense
The heart that beats alone.

For who would sever human ties,
And choose alone to live,
Though he might gain the luxuries
Ten thousand worlds could give?
Intelligence, on any plane,
Desires a common ground
For fellowship; and would remain
Wherever it is found.

And had it been for you or me
To dwell here all alone,
Would not our hearts have voiced the plea,
"Lord, hast Thou mercy shown?
Why unto other creatures give
That which my soul doth crave,
While I alone, must ever live
To solitude a slave?

"Am I not what Thou hast designed?
And made as Thou hast willed?
Then why hast Thou my lot consigned
To longings unfulfilled?
With silent skies above my head, .
And scenes surpassing fair,
In silent beauty 'round me spread,
I breathe a silent prayer;

“For there is none with ears to hear,
When I Thy praises speak;
No kindred soul is ever near,
No matter where I seek.”
And well these thoughts portray to us
That wealth alone can bring
To man no lasting happiness,
Though he be crowned a king;

That only those who love to share
The treasures they possess,
May know the joys so rich and rare,
Bred in unselfishness.
And this the Father verified,
When He brought forth His Son;
Where not His pleasures multiplied, *
In that Beloved One?

For though all power in Him reposed,
And wisdom was His own,
Their worth could not have been disclosed,
Had He remained alone.
What use was power while only space
Was there at His command?
How could He exercise His grace,
If He alone should stand?

And if the One who is Supreme,
Companionship desired,
Would He the action sinful deem
When man for this inquired?
An echo from His loving heart,
Spoke in the humble prayer,
“In all my blessings, Lord, a part
I would with others share.”

* Prov. 8:30.

Nor had God planned for man to live
In solitude alway;
A helpmeet He would surely give;
But wisely did delay
That such experience might bring
To his untutored soul,
In life this most important thing—
That God has full control

Of all things, both in earth and heaven;
Nor shall His glory be *
To any other ever given,
Through all eternity.
This vital truth He would impress
That man might ever stand
Acknowledging with thankfulness,
Each gift as from His hand.

Might learn how good it is to kneel
Low at his Maker's feet;
For only there can mortals feel
The joy that is complete.
Earth's present joys are fleeting things,
And born but to decay;
While faith in God assurance brings
That hails a better day.

His ways are equal, and have been,
And shall forever be;
No favor now denied to men,
Doth He hold carelessly.

THE CREATION OF EVE

"It is not good," the Lord then said,
"For man to be alone; **
And though he shall remain the head,
Twain I will make of one." ***

* Isa. 42:8.

** Gen. 2:18.

*** Eph. 5:23; Mark 10:6-8.

Delaying not His word to keep,
That strange work He began;
And caused a deep and quiet sleep
To overcome the man.
How God then opened Adam's side,
That He might take from it
A nucleus to form his bride,
Is found in Holy Writ.

*

Immeasurable the power and grace
Which there was manifest;
For in that hour a mighty race
With life-rights He had blest.
And skeptics who have elsewhere sought
The origin of man,
Have found no trail but what has brought
Them back where they began.

If mankind were, as they declare,
Evolved from "Protoplasm,"
Time had ere this evolved somewhere,
A "link" to bridge the chasm
That lieth still unbridged between
The spheres in which things move;
The "missing link" has never been
Produced, their claim to prove.

In all the centuries no change
In man nor beast appears;
As God commanded, each its range
Has kept throughout the years.
Linked with His Word all nature's laws,
Immutable and sure,
Without a moment's break or pause,
Forever shall endure.

**

- * Gen. 2:21, 22.
- ** Gen. 1:24, 25.
- *** Isa. 55:11.

Who claims Creation came by chance,
Without a hand to guide,
Backed by Supreme Intelligence,
Sound reason lays aside.
Let him that makes this foolish claim,
One tiny bud create;
And he shall win himself a name,
The greatest of earth's great.

Ignoring God, he cannot tell
How life first came to be;
What power produced the first "lifecell,"
Remains a mystery
Their ablest men cannot explain;
And yet do they deride
The Name of Him that doth sustain
Their lives and all beside.

O wretched man, to thus misuse
The functions of the brain;
And doubting God, blind and confuse
Those following in thy train.
Till he with humble spirit seeks
"The wisdom from above,"
Presumptuously of life man speaks;
And vain his thoughts all prove.

Great truths the Lord is pleased to keep
For those who trust His word;
And as we sow, in kind we reap, *
Is every man's reward.
The light is for the righteous sown; **
And gladness for the heart
Of him that doth God's name enthrone;
Nor would from Him depart.

* Gal. 6:7.

** Psalms. 97:11.

The Record reason can accept,
 The Lord, through Moses, made;
 Intact has this by Jew been kept;
 And there for us is laid
 A firm foundation where we build
 The faith none can gainsay;
 Where all uncertainty is stilled,
 And peace attends our way.

'Tis not a blind faith God requires,
 'Tis not credulity
 His Word within the heart inspires;
 But in simplicity
 He tells to us of how man came,
 Why sin and death prevail;
 Shows, first in type, our Paschal Lamb,
 Whose blood can all avail.

*
 **

And we, as in a mirror, see
 In Paradise at dawn,
 A pattern of what earth shall be
 When sin and death are gone.
 Oh, think how wonderful that scene!
 A setting all complete
 By God's own hands arranged had been,
 Where first "the Twain" would meet.

In gala dress for bride and groom,
 Their coming to adorn,
 The garden laden with perfume
 Was waiting that blest morn.
 Trees gay with fruit that would sustain
 Their lives forevermore,
 Were beckoning from hill and plain
 Their bounties to outpour.

- * Gen. 1:26-31.
- ** Gen. 2:16, 17; 3:1-19.
- *** Exod. 12:1-14; I Cor. 5:7; Col. 1:19, 20; Isa. 53:11.
- **** Isa. 25:6-9; Rev. 21:3-6.
- ***** Gen. 3:22-24.

While flowers, blooming everywhere,
In beauty with each other vied;
But ne'er a blossom nestling there,
Was lovely as was Adam's bride.
Beyond compare was mother Eve,
More beautiful than we
Have ever seen, or can conceive,
Mankind originally.

Awaking Adam from his sleep,
The Lord bade him arise.
No more would he a lone watch keep;
For to his glad surprise,
In pristine beauty near him stood,
A creature of his kind,
Partaker of his flesh and blood,
Possessed of kindred mind.

Was it a vision he beheld—
A dream, or was it true?
He trembled lest it be dispelled,
And vanish from his view.
Oh, could it be that God had heard,
And granted his request?
The blessing only had deferred
His loyalty to test?

And on his listening ears would fall
The sound of human voice,
The music of an answering call,
His spirit would rejoice?
The glad sweet smile that glorified
The woman's lovely face,
Assurance gave; and at her side
He quickly took his place.

O Mystic Hour! thy wondrous spell
No other soul has known;
For only Adam came to dwell
Upon this earth alone.
And Eden's flowers would sweeter grow,
Her skies be brighter blue,
The sunset tints a richer glow,
Since Eve would share them too.

How sad if he had never known
The pleasure that one finds
In warm hand-clasp, and loving tone,
And thoughts of kindred minds.
And often we have wished that we
Might have been present there,
When God His blessing full and free,
Gave to the perfect pair.

That when in reverence they knelt
Before their Maker's face,
We might have joined, and with them felt
The fullness of His grace.
Above, around, and underneath,
Did perfect peace abound;
For in no creature that had breath,
Was evil to be found.

And through the heavens and earth there rang
A joyous, happy lay,
As morning stars together sang
Of man's nativity.
And everything that God had made,
Pronounced He, "very good."
The might and wisdom there displayed,
Proclaimed His fatherhood.

• Gen. 1:27, 28.

•• Job 38:7.

••• Gen. 1:31.

Man's heritage from sun to sun,
 Was like a ceaseless tide;
 Whose current smooth would bear him on
 To oceans deep and wide.
 Thus sacred annals of the past,
 As if upon a screen,
 Present Creation,† first, and last,
 With many planes between. **

Alas, comparatively few
 Have taken time to find
 If what men say of God is true;
 Or if blind leads the blind.
 No other book in all the earth
 Is there, where we can trace
 Man's history from earliest birth,
 With given time and place.
 Six thousand years have winged their flight,
 Since that eventful day;
 Six thousand years since fell the blight
 To which we still are prey.

THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT

But let us now forget that time
 Has intervened since then;
 And view again that lovely clime
 Ere it was stained by sin;
 And watch within the garden where
 The Lord had placed the man,
 A drama, as we tarry there,
 That will the ages span.
 Not aimlessly were they to live,
 Too wise a God was He,
 Unto such creatures not to give
 Responsibility.

†"In a beginning was the Word, (Greek, *Logos*) and the Word was with the God, and a god was the Word. This was in a beginning with the God." John 1:1. Greek and English column, as given in Wilson's Greek Diaglott. For verification please read Prov. 8:22-31.

* Psalms 8:3-9.

** Prov. 8:22-31; Gen. 1:19-28.

*** John 1:1; Col. 1:12-16.

Within the ground He placed the seed,
 And caused them all to grow;
 But what of tending they would need,
 He left for man to do;
 That he might learn to exercise
 The talents he possessed;
 And in each harvest realize
 The joy of efforts blest.

*

All this the Lord for man had done;
 And then He left him free
 To dress and keep all things, save one,
 A fair and fruitful tree,
 That stood within the garden's midst;
 And with a fragrance rare,
 As summer winds its blossoms kissed,
 Perfumed the balmy air.

Of it God said, "Thou shalt not eat,
 But freely do I give
 All other trees to be thy meat—
 Obey, and thou shalt live.
 But if you turn away from Me,
 And this command defy,
 The curse of sin shall rest on thee,
 And in that day thou'lt die."

**

But with the Lord a thousand years
 Are counted as one day;
 Within that space, His Word declares,
 Man must the forfeit pay.
 And it is so, no human yet
 Has lived a thousand years;
 Within its bounds they all forget
 Their heartaches, hopes and fears.

* Gen. 2:8, 9, 15-17.

** Gen. 2:15-17.

*** II Pet. 3:8, 9; Psa. 90:1-4.

**** Eccles. 9:4-6.

But why did God that fruit withhold,
That tree so strictly ban?
Had it produced some poisonous mold
Injurious to man?
Ah, no! It was with all the rest
Accounted "very good,"
And to their use would have been blest,
When given them for food.

So prone are we to think the Lord
Cares not when things seem wrong;
Nor doth our weariness regard
When rough the way and long;
And only deem Him to be wise
When fortune tends our way;
When on our path from cloudless skies
The sunbeams laugh and play.

Remembering our fallen state,
Our weak and sinful frame,
It ill becomes us to berate
Our great Creator's Name.
His ways are high above our ways
As Heaven is than earth;
Nor mortal tongue has words of praise
To speak His matchless worth.

And no restriction has He made
That is not for our good,
His laws with mercy are arrayed,
When rightly understood.
A child with every want supplied,
Cannot then understand
The loving efforts which provide
The blessings in its hand.

* Isa. 55:7-11.

Till in itself it must take count
Of strength for others spent,
It cannot measure the amount
Such love to it has lent.
Through sad experience we learn
The lessons we must know,
Ere we are able to discern
How great a debt we owe.

Can we our health appreciate,
Till strength begins to wane;
Or sense the bliss of ease how great,
Till we have suffered pain?
And do we fully realize
What loved ones to us mean,
Until we view with tearful eyes,
A low green mound between?

Ah, if this life holds all there is
Of hope for human kind,
Too often do its miseries
Outweigh the joys we find;
And many a soul has chosen to end
By his own hand his life;
Unwilling longer to contend
With all its pain and strife.

But here let us this comfort give,—
The balm of Truth apply,
'Tis now "not all of life to live,
Nor all of death to die."
Bright shines the hope of future days,
Aye, bright as stars above
God's promises, whose healing rays
Are changeless as His love.

O Thou from whom all blessings flow!
 The Giver of all good!
 We long amid earth's pain and woe,
 To sound Thy Name abroad.
 To tell a sadly plundered world,
 Of Christ, the Prince of Peace,
 Whose banner, soon to be unfurled,
 Shall make the wars to cease.

*

That God has suffered much for us,
 The giving of His Son,
 Through him our wayward souls to bless,
 Should prove to every one.
 That we might endless life secure,
 He bore that crucial test;
 And love that would such pain endure,
 Lives only in His breast.

**

Ah, not alone has mankind felt
 The fury of the storm!
 But ne'er a blow by Satan dealt,
 Can reach beyond God's arm.
 Some happy day there'll be unveiled
 The wonders of His grace;
 And broken, contrite hearts be healed,
 And grief to joy give place.

For when His purposes are known,
 Then all the world shall see
 His love and wisdom clearly shown,
 In sorrow's ministry.
 As unto angels, so to men
 He gave the power to will,
 To do aright; and left them then
 Their pleasure to fulfill.

* Psa. 46:9-11.

** John 3:16.

*** Psa. 34:18, 19; Psa. 51:17.

**** Psa. 30:4, 5; Psa. 16:11.

***** Psa. 119:65-72.

***** Deut. 30:19, 20.

In granting them the right to choose,
He left it so that they
Were free His dictates to refuse,
Or willingly obey;
"For God seeks such as worship him
In spirit and in truth."
Should He ask less when giving them
Of his great love such proof?

Ah, how could any ever turn
Away from such a Friend?
Or let ambition's fires burn
To gain a selfish end?

LUCIFER

"Thou wast perfect in all thy ways from the day thou wast
created, till iniquity was found in thee."—Ezek. 28:12-19.

Alas, among the hosts above,
One viewed with envious eye,
Man's reverence for the God of love,
And sought to break that tie.

Yes, Lucifer was such a one—
A son grown boastful, proud,
Who sought for power beyond his own;
Though graciously endowed.
"I will exalt my throne," said he,
"Above the stars of God;
Like unto Him, then I will be,
And wield a kingly rod."

Defiantly he sought a part
Which God to none had given;
For pride had filled his once pure heart,
And Satan fell from heaven.
"Tis sharper than a serpent's tooth,
To have a thankless child."
Deep in His heart God felt this truth,
When He that son exiled.

* John 4:23, 24.

** Isa. 14:12-14.

*** Luke 10:18.

While Satan, in his shameless pride,
To peaceful Eden came,
That toward the God whom he defied,
Man's heart he might inflame.
And cunningly he laid the snare
That caught their untried feet;
And left them helpless captives there,
The penalty to meet.

For unto Eve these words he spake,
"And hath God said to thee,
'Thou'lt surely die if thou partake
The fruit on yonder tree?'"
And she replied, "'Tis even so,
Of it we may not eat;
That tree alone of all that grow,
For our use is not meet."

Then Satan said, "Why was it made,
If not for man to use?
Be not so humble and afraid,
Thy trust doth God abuse;
For well He knows that in the day
Thou eatest of that tree,
With opened eyes thou then canst say,
'Lo, I am wise like Thee!'"

"Let now the power thou dost possess
Win greater powers still;
He binds thee in unrighteousness,
Why then obey His will?
And of his proud nefarious mind,
Was born the murderous lie,
Whose echo everywhere we find,
"Ye shall not surely die!"

• Gen. 3:1-5.

•• Gen. 3:4, 5.

Are we not told when breath has gone
From out this hapless clay,
The soul, immortal, still lives on,
Not subject to decay?
That somewhere in the realms of space,
In happiness or woe,
Each "entity" has earned a place,
Where it at death must go?

Philosophers of old, they say,
Have ever thus believed;
And letting this their reason sway,
They too, have been deceived;
And have for ages sought in vain
This "Phantom soul" to find,
'Tis in the body, they explain,
And by the flesh confined:

Though never has the sight of eye,
Nor yet the sense of touch,
Been found their claims to verify,
They firmly hold to such.
To say man cannot be destroyed,
Completely, as a whole,
Of reason surely is devoid,
It takes from God's control

That which with His own hands He formed,
Wrought wondrously of clay,
And with the breath of life then warmed,
But has not power to slay. *
They reason well on other things,
Of knowledge have great store;
That here their reason should take wings,
How deeply we deplore.

* Webster defines the word "immortal" thus,—Undying, imperishable, Not mortal; exempt from liability to death; having unlimited existence.—Destined to live in all ages of this world. Synonyms.—Imperishable, incorruptible, eternal, deathless, sempiternal, indissoluble, everlasting, perpetual, endless. One who is immortal or exempt from death or annihilation. (Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.)

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die." *
 And who from guilt is free?
 Then how can either you or I,
 Claim immortality?
 For since the body and the breath,
 Compose the "living soul," **
 What has man left, when these at death
 Are lost to his control?

The Bible tells us such "are not." ***
 That all within the grave,
 Their love and hatred have forgot,—
 Of life no memory have.
 Their sons may unto honor come,
 But they perceive it not;
 There is no knowledge in the tomb,
 Device, nor work, nor thought. ****

But that man does not die is taught
 By creeds in every land;
 And some, within this maelstrom caught,
 In Christian pulpits stand;
 And by that error there is stayed
 The vilely slanderous one,
 Wherein is God a monster made,
 With heart as hard as stone;

Who has, it claims, prepared a fire
 That shall forever burn,
 And sinners, in relentless ire,
 Into its flames will turn,
 Not for a day or year to be
 Where fiery billows roll,
 But there through all eternity,
 Must dwell the tortured soul.

* Ezek. 18:4.

** Gen. 2:7.

*** Jer. 31:15; Matt. 2:18.

**** Eccles. 9:5, 6, 10.

And well did the Accuser know
The censure this would bring
On Him, who for His deadliest foe
Provided no such thing. *
That it would veil God's righteousness,
And cause Him to appear
As one to whom in our distress,
We never could draw near.

Such doctrine no apostle taught;
And does not Paul declare
That of God's counsel there is naught
He to withhold would dare? **
That hope of a hereafter lies,
Not in what we possess,
But that we shall from death arise,
Through Jesus' righteousness. ***

With what long-suffering God has borne
This stain upon His Name!
And should not we, His children, mourn,
And bow our heads in shame,
That any educated mind
The parables would use,
And with their symbolisms blind
Men's eyes to kindly truths?

They teach, and truly, that Christ rose
In triumph o'er the grave;
And by His death from all their woes,
Repentant souls will save.
That in the sinner's place He stood
And paid the debt we owed;
And through the merit of His blood,
Made peace for us with God.

* Heb. 2:14; Jer. 32:30-36.

** I Cor. 9:16-19; Acts 20:25-27.

*** Rom. 6:23; I Cor. 15:12-22.

But if eternal torment be
The penalty for sin,
Could Jesus then have set us free,
And not remained therein?
And if that dreadful thing were true,
Our debt has not been paid;
And there is nothing we can do,
With no foundation laid

On which to base salvation's claim,—
All hope would then be waived;
And Jesus' name is not the name
"Whereby we must be saved."
Consistency! how much we need
Thee in life's weary rounds!
And sad thy lack in man-made creeds
With which this world abounds.

Because of this God's Word is spurned;
His Name trailed in the dust;
And honest hearts from Him are turned,
Believing His unjust.
And Satan's lie has served his plan
Such darkness to instill
And nourish, in the heart of man,
It would his spirit fill

With fear that would resentment bring,
And reason over-ride,
Till veiled is every lovely thing,
That doth in God abide.
He has placing dark for light,
Made ill as good appear,
And wrong has made to seem as right,
To those who give him ear.

* Acts 4:10-12.

How deep the callousness that dwells
 Within the walls of pride;
 And vain the hearts from which there wells
 Its devastating tide!
 The Adversary's mad desire
 To thus exalt his throne,
 Has built for him a funeral pyre,
 Where death shall claim its own. *

THE FALL

"And Adam was not deceived; but the woman being deceived, was in the transgression."—I Tim. 2:14.

If mother Eve had only said,
 "O wicked one, be gone!
 The curse thou wouldst bring on my head, **
 Leave thou my soul alone!
 I will be true to Him whose hand
 Withholds this thing from me,
 I would not, if I could, demand
 More than He wills for me.

"All that we have, we owe to Him;
 And 'tis a goodly store,
 Thy subtle words do I condemn,
 Be gone! and come no more!"
 And let the Lord in His wise way,
 The mystery explain,
 They might have lived until this day,
 Untouched by care or pain.

But seeing that the tree was good,
 And pleasing to the eyes,
 A tree to be desired for food,
 And one to make them wise,
 She hearkened to the murderer's lie,
 Till truly she believed
 That they might eat, and yet not die— ***
 "The man was not deceived." ****

* Psa. 145:20.

** Gen. 2:15-17; Gen. 3:22, 23.

*** Gen. 3:6.

**** I Tim. 2:13, 14.

For face to face with him God spake,
When giving His command;
And when He speaks none can mistake
Nor fail to understand.
That he could not the man beguile,
The Adversary knew,
To try would not be worth his while—
This course he would pursue;

Since Eve had not directly learned
Of that which God required,
Through artifice she might be turned,
And with his scheme inspired.
And so he waited for the hour
In which he deemed it wise,
Then held the subtle thing called "power,"
Before her as a prize.

"She would not die," how sweet the thought!
Perhaps 'twas but a threat,
Which, when she gained the power she sought,
Could easily be met.
Why should she fold her hands and wait
Through needless interlude?
Was she not even then too great
To bow to servitude?

How often has ambition led
Where treacherous pitfalls lie;
Where evil thoughts and deeds are bred,
And noble aims must die.
And that we do so often touch
With our unskilful hands,
The problems which involve so much,
Against our interest stands;

* Gen. 2:16, 17.

And hinders what the Lord would choose
Of blessings for us here,
We do not know how much we lose
Because we interfere.
But Adam knew that "thou shalt die,"
Was not an idle threat;
That death, should he God's will defy,
Its seal on him would set.

Nor had he wished to break that law,
Or nullify its power;
God's right to thus command he saw;
And grievous was the hour
In which the woman tempted him,
For she had been untrue;
In spite of blessings showered on them,
Had dared that deed to do.

And once again he seemed to hear
The words of that command,
Did Eve—o'erwhelming came the fear—
Beneath the curse then stand?
Was that to be his lov'd one's fate,
And he must see her die?
The thought made his heart desolate;
And broken was his cry,

"Oh Lord, for this that she hath done,
Must death her portion be?
The rising of tomorrow's sun,
Shall mine eyes only see?
I know that justice rules Thy ways;
That Thou art ever kind;
And cords of sympathetic praise,
Our hearts to Thee should bind.

"But since it was alone to me,
Thou gavest the command,
Perhaps she did not clearly see,—
Let mercy stay Thy hand;
And in Thy goodness Lord forgive,
And spare her life to me;
For oh, I would not want to live
Alone eternally!

"So closely are our hearts entwined,
So truly are we one,
Without her, life would be less kind
Than would oblivion.
And should I see the pall of death
Its mantle o'er her spread,
Till it had stilled her gentle breath,
And life from her had fled,

"The memories of the past would bring
More grief than I could bear;
While on the earth no living thing
Could in my sorrow share."
But there was no assuring voice,
No answer to his cry;
And waiting not he made his choice—
Together they would die.

Then Adam took the fruit and ate,
Lest he be left alone;
And thus the deed that sealed man's fate,
Deliberately was done.
And on that fair horizon rose
A storm-cloud black as night,
The herald of impending woes
That would the whole world blight.

For by that act sin entered in,
 And death passed on our race; *
 And sin's defiling hand since then,
 Is found in every place.
 We do not know what might have been,
 Had Adam's faith not failed,
 For God imputes not wilful sin
 To those whose eyes are veiled. **

Nor any soul will He condemn
 To everlasting night,
 Until He has enlightened them,
 And they reject the light. ***
 It is in Adam that we die,
 And not in Eve at all,
 It is his act we should decry,
 When burdened by the fall.

EXILED

"So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the tree of life."—Gen. 3:24.

The peace their innocence had known,
 From out their bosoms fled;
 That they must face the Holy One,
 Then filled their souls with dread;
 And when at eventide He came,
 As He was wont to do,
 A sinner, conscious of their shame,
 The man would from His view

† Conceal his bride; and from the wrath
 Which was about to fall
 With all its bitter aftermath,—
 Would shield her from it all.
 Shall we then say that Adam played
 A coward's shameful part?
 Ah, no, his was, though sore dismayed,
 A brave and loyal heart.

* Rom. 5:12.

** Luke 12:47, 48; Jas. 4:17.

*** Gen. 3:6-19.

† We have been told the original Hebrew carries this thought.

But when God spoke commandingly,
He truthfully replied,
"The woman whom Thou gavest me,
My very soul has tried.
And though distress provoked the deed,
Guilt I do not deny;
No clemency my Lord, I plead,
I know that we must die."

And then with drooping heads they heard
The price which they must pay
In toil and pain, out in a world
That yet unfinished lay.
"From thorns and thistles which it yields,
Shalt thou in sweat of brow,
Reclaim the ground; for from its fields
Shall be thy portion now."

"In sorrow thou thy bread shalt eat;
Through all thy days thou'lt see
Each prospect end in sad defeat;
For death shall walk with thee."
And then the Lord God drove them forth—
Forth from that blissful home,
As wanderers upon the earth,
Thenceforth were they to roam.

And holy angels with a sigh,
Obeyed their Lord's command,
And spreading white wings toward the sky,
Joined there the unseen band;
And silent stood before the Throne;
For clouds obscured God's face,
Ah, could it be that He had known
Of old, this would take place?

* Gen. 3:9-12.

** Gen. 3:17-19.

That on that morning when they sang
 Their hallelujah song,
He had foreseen, and felt the pang,
 When man would yield to wrong?
The lovely garden left unkept,
 Laid waste through lack of care;
While man in fields by tempest swept,
 Would slowly perish there?

*

The curse of death, till then unknown,
 Was hard to understand;
Had Satan, once for all, o'erthrown
 What love so long had planned?
But ages passed ere God revealed
 What now is history;
From anxious eyes those things were sealed,
 In obscure prophecy. **

But since fulfilled they clearly show
 That God foreknew the fall,
The bitter depths of pain and woe
 It would inflict on all.
The sacrifice which He would make
 Was there also foreshown,
The yielding up for mankind's sake,
 His undefiled One. ***

Was Jesus then the victim of
 An arbitrary will? *****
Ah, no! The urge of pity-love,
 Caused him his blood to spill.
His every word, and all his deeds,
 Prove this assertion true;
And that such love our cause now pleads,
 Our courage doth renew.

* Job 38:1-7.

** Dan. 12:8, 9.

*** Acts 3:14-25.

**** John 10:1-18, 27-30; Psa. 40:6-8.

The blood of beasts could never cleanse
 From sin, and set man free; *
 Christ's blood alone could make amends,
 And bring us liberty.
 But this was little understood,
 To few was it revealed,
 Until the shedding of His blood,
 The promised Covenant sealed. **

THE WAGES OF SIN

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man
 soweth, that shall he also reap."—Gal. 6:7.
 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal
 life, through Jesus Christ our Lord."—Rom. 6:23.

And man had forfeited his crown,
 His fellowship with God;
 Had laid his royal scepter down,
 To pass beneath the rod;
 No more to dwell in paradise;
 For they could not return,
 Though often they with tear-dimmed eyes,
 Would for its shelter yearn.

The garden toward the sunrise faced;
 And at its gates the Lord
 Angel and flaming sword had placed,
 The tree of life to guard;
 Lest they put forth their hands and eat,
 And live forevermore; ***
 And His wise purposes defeat,
 God closed and barred the door.

In terror they beheld the sight;
 And weeping turned and fled
 Into the shadows of the night;
 Lest they be stricken dead.
 And oh, how darkly o'er their way
 The storm-clouds gathered then;
 The process which would bring decay,
 At once in them began.

* Heb. 10:4-7.

** Gen. 28:14.

*** Gen. 3:22-24.

For sin o'er them then had control,
Nor compromise would make;
And its inevitable toll
Of life, began to take.
The fatal seeds which they had sown,
Did early fruitage yield,
We see them weeping o'er a son,
Whose lips in death were sealed.

For Cain had with a jealous hand,
Poured out his brother's blood; *
And with a murderer's shameful brand,
Before them he then stood.
Dare they accuse him when their sin,
By flaming sword declared, **
Had robbed him of the blessings in
The home which God prepared?

No "offering" had been required,
No burden on them lay,
Till by the evil One inspired
God's will to disobey.
Remorse, from which they could not hide,
Swept o'er them like a flood;
For their own sin against them cried,
In righteous Abel's blood.

Thus "As we sow, so shall we reap,"
Has been since earliest dawn;
And other sins o'er which we weep,
Oft spring from what we've sown.
And with a grief too great to tell,
Commingled with their fear,
Their bitter tears of mourning fell
Upon that lov'd one's bier.

* Gen. 4:3-8.
** Gen. 3:24.

And from his grave they turned to face
A world before unknown;
It seemed the joy in every place,
Had perished with that son.
If only they might come once more
To Eden's peaceful bowers,
And share again her treasure-store
Of fruit and fragrant flowers;

And with integrity meet Him
Who had created them,
No tempter could their vision dim;
Nor wean their souls from Him.
But only in their dreams they saw
That lovely shrine again;
Its heavy bars no man could draw,
Nor even look therein.

And ever conscious of their sin,
They trod the downward way,
Until in death they turned again
To cold and lifeless clay.
Sad ending to the glorious start
In Eden that bright day,
Sad ending for those happy hearts,
Oh, what a price to pay!

And God's pronouncement, "Dust thou art,
To dust shalt return," *
Lies heavy on each human heart.
Though some this truth may spurn,
And boldly claim, "There is no death,"
They go the selfsame way;
And when has passed this fleeting breath,
They too, return to clay.

* Gen. 3:19.

Where then the wisdom and the power,
Of which Eve once had dreamed?
And he who in that fatal hour,
To her so wise had seemed?
Ah, he came not with words of cheer
To soothe a dying bed;
A murderer, he shed no tear;
Nor cared when they were dead.

Their offspring would his will obey,
He'd leave unturned no stone
Of all that in his pathway lay,
To thus exalt his throne.
To hold man captive to his will,
Subservient in his hand,
Would be his sole objective still,
As he at first had planned.

When we remember Paradise,
Its verdant fields and flowers,
Life-giving trees, and peaceful skies,
A longing deep is ours
To rest within its quiet shade;
And leaving sin behind,
Be pure, as when man first was made,
And unto good inclined.

How wonderful life must have been!
Its joys we cannot know,
Who from our birth are heirs of sin,
And victims of its woe.
For man at first in all his ways
Was upright, pure and good;
And unto his Creator's praise,
A monument he stood.

• Eccles. 7:29.

But centuries have passed since then;
And burdens hard to bear,
Through our inheritance of sin,
Have marred the glory there.
For tears bedim the sparkling eyes,
And sorrow leaves its lines;
The taint of sin life's fountain dries,
And every grace declines.

Because of this we see today,
Misshapen, wretched souls,
Whose bodies, lashed by pain alway,
Lie broken on its shoals.
And some are wont to charge to God,
The ills through sin incurred;
And blame Him that its heavy rod
His hand has not deterred.

So lost to reason's power is man,
So blinded by the fall,
That with an unshamed face he can
Reproach God with it all.
But we remember how the Lord
Does not man's will coerce;
That disobedience to His word,
Brought down on us the curse;

For He whose hand has weighed this earth,
And balanced it in space,
And then prepared it for man's birth,
Is mindful of our race.
His turning doth no shadow cast,
His mercy ne'er shall end;
And He, the Great, the First, the Last,
Has been man's constant friend.

* Deut. 30:15-20.

** Job 38:1-11.

*** Psal. 8:4-9.

**** Jas. 1:17.

The privilege of life He gave
 To Adam long ago,
Made him a king, and not the slave
 To sin that we now know.
But when he chose the paths of sin,
 God did not block the way;
Nor hinder him from entering in
 Where death's dark shadows lay.

A mere machine would man have been,
 Had God his will controlled;
Free moral qualities would then
 Have been a tale untold.
And even our dim eyes can see
 The wisdom of His ways,
That when worked out, all things shall be
 For our good and His praise.

His laws are all designed to bless,
 Now, and eternally;
All opposition brings distress,
 And ends in misery.
But Adam only disobeyed
 When fear had chilled his heart;
When dread of loneliness had made
 Death seem the better part.

And while his act included sin,—
 The breaking of God's law
Where ignorance did not enter in,
 And favor must withdraw,
'Twas not rebellion 'gainst his God,
 Nor hatred of the right,
That brought on him the chastening rod;
 And stripped him of his might.

While God is merciful and kind
 He does not death forestall;
 Nor loose the cruel chains that bind
 Alike, both great and small.
 Thus letting sin's concomitants
 Cause men to realize
 The terrible inheritance
 That in its pathway lies.

So prone are we to disbelieve;
 So slowly do we learn,
 That many a stripe we must receive,
 Ere to the right we turn.

JUSTICE, THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S THRONE

"Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne; mercy and truth shall go before Thy face."—Psa. 89:14.

"Eye for an eye, and hand for hand;
 And man's life for man's life." *

God's law of justice doth demand—
 'Tis thus He deals with strife.

The perfect life man had in Eden,
 Before he went astray,

Had counterpart in earth nor heaven,
 None could the ransom pay. **

An angel's life would not suffice,
 If on the altar laid;

Ah, no, a "corresponding price,"
 For Adam must be paid.

No man his brother could redeem, ***
 For at its fountain-head,

Sin had corrupted life's pure stream,—
 In God's sight all were dead.

Thus passed the heritage of sin
 From father to the son,

Not one the right to life could win;
 The whole race was undone.

* Lev. 24:17-22.

** Psa. 49:7.

*** Heb. 2:14-18.

Then where, oh, where, could help be found?
Must man forever die?
Return to dust, and in the ground
Must he forever lie?
God's law of justice changes not;
But one faint ray of light
He gave to cheer the dreary lot
Of toilers in the night;

For to the Serpent He had said,
"Thou too, the curse shalt feel,
The woman's seed shall bruise thy head,
And thou shalt bruise his heel." *
While he but dimly understood,
Hope sprang within man's breast,
That God, the Giver of all good,
Would sometime grant them rest.

That through that promise there would come
Deliverance from the fall;
The restoration of their home,
And freedom from sin's thrall.
But years, yea, even ages passed,
Without the promised "Seed."
On those who trusted, scorn was cast,— **
So foolish seemed their creed.

And this is true until this day
'Mongst unbelieving men,
"How foolish to have faith," they say,
"In that which men wrote then;
For since the fathers fell asleep,
All things the same remain,
What gain is there a faith to keep,
That genders only pain?"

* Gen. 3:14, 15.

** II Pet. 3:3, 4.

But what have they to offer more?
 Are earthly joys secure?
 'Gainst moth and rust will their good store
 Forevermore endure?
 Ah, no! They know that wealth nor might,
 Against death shall prevail,
 That soon or late the things of sight,
 Alike for all shall fail.

While those who lean upon the Lord,
 And from their own works cease,
 Have even here as their reward,
 The bliss of perfect peace. *
 In colors fair, God's grand design
 Of purple, scarlet, blue and gold, **
 In emblematic beauty shine;
 As spellbound we behold

In vesture, as in sacrifice,
 The story of the Cross;
 Where all our hope and comfort lies,
 Our gain for every loss.
 Impossible for God to die, ***
 He gave His blessed Son,
 That he the merit might supply,
 And pardon for our race be won.

And in the fulness of the time, ****
 That mighty Arm began
 Amid earth's wantonness and crime,
 Redemption's glorious plan.
 When from his throne beyond the sky,
 With pity he looked down,
 And chose for such as you and I, *****
 To bear God's righteous frown,

* John 14:27; Psa. 119:65.

** Exod. 39:1-5.

*** Psa. 90:2; I Tim. 6:13-16.

**** Gal. 4:4-6.

***** Rom. 5:8; I Cor. 15:3.

Did angel hosts their anthems cease,
And rest their harps of gold;
And wonder in their hearts increase,
There in the upper fold?
And did they seek with anxious brow,
Once more the Father's face,
To tell of searching, and of how
They found of Him no trace?

Some things the angels did not know; *
Nor to the saints of old
Did God when they were prophesying show **
The things which they foretold.
May it not be that He there shows
The way in which He tries,
And proves, the faith of all of those
Whom He will recognize?

For surely Heaven's splendor paled,
When that Star shone no more,
Had God a little while then veiled
From them love's treasure-store?
How strange His going must have seemed,
With no words of goodbye.
Of losing Him, they never dreamed,
Oh, had they! If so, why?

For none could His position fill;
At His command they moved; ***
Pre-eminent by the Father's will,
Was Michael, their belov'd.
And when at last on earth He was ****
"In fashion as man found,"
Immortal hallelujahs
Made the heavens and earth resound.

* I Pet. 1:9-12.

** Dan. 12:6-9.

*** Col. 1:12-19.

**** Luke 2:10, 11; Phil. 2:8.

Such praises sprang from heart to tongue,
Such music thrilled the air,
As even they had never sung,—
God's heart was mirrored there.
No more would clouds obscure His face,
For in the Saviour's birth
Was manifest, oh, wondrous grace!
Hope for a sin-crust earth. *

THE MESSIAH

"Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,
that ye through His poverty might be rich."—II Cor. 8:9.
"And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself,
and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."—
Phil. 2:8.

Forsaking riches, fame and power,
From Heaven "the Logos" came, **
And was made flesh; oh, Blessed Hour!
"The Son of Man," His name.
Of royal lineage was He,
Scion of David's line;
The Saviour of the world to be;
And heir of life Divine.

And heaven's gates swung open wide,
As jubilant angels came
In myriads, like a silv'ry tide, ***
To herald His blest Name.
And through the silent starlit sky,
Their joyful chorus rang,
"All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth," they sang.

And shepherds, keeping watch by night,
Their glad hosannahs heard;
While round them an increasing light,
With fear their souls had stirred.
In all their hist'ry none had seen,
Nor ever heard such things,—
The anthems and the glittering sheen
Of countless angel wings.

* John 1:14-17, 29.

** Matt. 1:1-17.

*** Luke 2:8-14.

Ah, can we wonder that they felt
Amid the splendor there,
Their smallness, and in awe had knelt
Before their God in prayer?
'Twas midnight, yet the roseate light
That softly round them spread,
Had changed to noon day's glow the night,
And all the darkness fled.

"And Lo, there came and stood by them
An angel of the Lord." *
In wonderment they gazed on him;
And waited for his word.
They knew that in the bygone days
Such messengers were sent
To punish men for evil ways,—
On this was he intent?

One breathless moment, then his voice,
"Fear not! Behold I bring
Glad tidings unto you, Rejoice!
This day is born your King!
Go ye to David's Bethlehem,
And seek within her gates
The portals of a lowly inn,
'Tis there thy King awaits.

"And these shall be to you the signs, **
A Babe in swaddling clothes,
Within a manger's bare confines,
Will lie in sweet repose."
And hastening to Bethlehem,
They found, as they were told,
A newborn Babe, and worshipped Him,
As angels did of old.

* Luke 2:8, 9.
** Luke 2:7-12.

For He who then so helpless lay
In Mary's arms asleep,
From heights of glory, far away,
Had come with men to weep. *
No crown was there for His dear head,
No place for Him prepared,
And even that rude manger bed,
Was that night scarcely spared.

Yet principalities, and powers,
And thrones and cherubim,
The Universe that we call ours,
Created were by Him. **
What sacrifice, dear Lamb of God! ***
And love transcending thought,
Which bore for us the chastening rod,
And our salvation wrought.

O, sacred town of Bethlehem!
How dark this world would be,
Unlighted by the love of Him,
Whose birth has hallowed thee.

"HOLY, HARMLESS, UNDEFILED"

"Wherefore he is able to save to the uttermost, them that come unto God by him."—Heb. 7:25.

The Child in strength and wisdom grew:
Submissive, meek and kind;
Unerringly did He pursue
The course the Law defined.
Perfection crowned His kingly head;
And filled with truth and grace,
His words a benediction shed
On all who sought His face. ****

And when to Jordan's banks He came,
He held within His hand
A perfect life,—the very same
That justice did demand

* Isa. 53:3; Matt. 23:37, 38.

** Col. 1:16, 17.

*** Matt. 20:28; I Tim. 2:3-6; Hos. 13:14.

**** Luke 2:51, 52; John 7:46.

In lieu of that which Adam lost;
 And this He came to give,—
 To lay it down, pay all the cost,
 That we through Him might live.
 So clearly do the Scriptures teach
 A ransom from the fall,
 That none this doctrine can impeach
 Without denying all.

From first to last, have Old and New
 In this blest Theme concurred;
 And those who say it is not true,
 Make void God's Holy Word.
 Since once for all Christ's life he gave,
 Nor shall, thank God, repeat,
 His sprinkled blood alone can save,
 He is our Mercy Seat. *

DESPISED BY MEN

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not."
 —John 1:11.

And did the world receive Him then,
 And give Him worthy praise?
 Ah, no, he was despised of men
 Who followed devious ways. **
 No beauty in Him did they find;
 "For darkness hates the light."
 The law of justice He outlined,
 Their selfish schemes would blight. ***

And Jesus' loving "follow Me,"
 Struck no responsive chord
 In heart of Scribe nor Pharisee;
 And they denied their Lord.
 For Israel desired a king
 Whose power and racial pride,
 Such prestige unto them would bring
 It would the world o'erride.

* I Tim. 2:3-6; Heb. 10:26.

** Isa. 53:2, 3.

*** Luke 19:18; Luke 10:25-28.

And "those who sat in Moses' seat," *
 Became so vain and proud,
 So filled with arrogant conceit,
 They then were disallowed.
 O proud and blind Jerusalem!
 How often Jesus would
 Have gathered thee as doth a hen
 Beneath her wings, her brood.

But "ye would not," and His tears fell, **
 As in that solemn hour,
 He left the house of Israel,
 A slave to Gentile power.
 His ministry of truth and grace,
 They scoffed at and denied;
 A stubborn and rebellious race ***
 Their king had cast aside.

And filled with jealous rage they sought
 How they His life might take;
 With accusations—falsely brought,
 Might enmity awake
 Among the ignorant multitude,
 That would no pity show;
 But with religious hate imbued,
 Would "let Barabbas go." ****

When they amid the rabble's scorn,
 To Pilate led Him forth,
 He said, "To this end was I born,
 To witness to the Truth. *****
 My kingdom is not of this age,
 Else would my servants fight;
 The hosts of evil now engage,
 And right would conquer might."

* Matt. 23:1-7.

** Luke 13:34, 35.

*** Deut. 9:24-27; Psa. 78:5-17.

**** Matt. 27:15-21.

***** John 18:36, 37.

Thus willingly did Jesus let
 Our sins on him be laid;
 In his own body was our debt
 Received and fully paid.
 From Prophecy He learned that he
 Was to be crucified; *
 That vilest of the vile would be
 The name to him applied. **

Nor dread of pain nor shame had cast
 Him prone upon his face;
 But when "his hour had come" at last, ***
 To take the sinner's place,
 On him God laid the guilty stain ****
 We had forever known,
 Had he not, bearing all its pain,
 The winepress trod alone.

So great for us was Jesus' love,
 He would not self defend;
 But chose to die, that he might prove
 Himself the sinner's friend.
 Had he once thought to change that course—
 Escape in part the awful cost,
 Our hope had withered at its source;
 For he with us would have been lost.

No cross was there o'ershadowing Him,
 No refuge for his soul
 From Him whose pure eyes must condemn
 The offering not whole. *****
 But He foreknew his Father's plan;
 And Calvary was his by choice.
 To doubt his constancy none can,
 If they will hearken to his voice. *****

* Luke 24:25, 26, 44.

** Matt. 10:25.

*** Matt. 16:21-26; Mark 8:31-35; John 7:30.
 John 16:32, 33; John 17:1, 4.

**** Isa. 53:6; II Cor. 5:21; II Pet. 2:21-24.

***** Ex. 12:1, 5; I Pet. 1:18, 19.

***** John 17.

Nor till He was made sin for us, *
 Did fears disturb his breast—
 He had fulfilled in righteousness, **
 Each heavenly behest.
 But as he bowed beneath the weight
 Of sin that on him lay,
 Despondent grew as to his fate,—
 Could he our ransom pay?

Had he God's perfect law obeyed—
 Each jot and tittle kept?
 His waning strength caused hope to fade;
 And bitterly he wept.
 And there went up with anguished breath,
 The Saviour's tearful cry,—
 To be "delivered out of death," ***
 And not forever die.

But even that He, should it be
 His Father's will, would bear;
 With his last breath his destiny,
 Committed to God's care. ****

* II Cor. 5:20, 21.

** John 8:29; John 11:41, 42.

*** Heb. 5:7.

**** Luke 23:46.

"He who in the days of his flesh, having offered up both prayers and supplications, crying aloud with tears to Him who was able to deliver him *out of death*, and was heard for his piety."—Heb. 5:7. Wilson's Greek Diaglott.

Since our Lord's experience in Gethsemane is the only instance given in the Bible to which the above language would apply, are we not justified in the conclusion that the Cup which he prayed the Father might pass from him, was not the pain nor the ignominy of the cross; but that with the sins of the whole world bearing down upon him, he had for the first time come to doubt, not his Father, but himself and that he was worthy a resurrection. To believe that Jesus at the last moment was unwilling to fulfill the mission for which he said he had come into the world (John 12:23-33.), or that he was not aware (Heb. 10:4-7.), at the latest at Jordan, of the manner of death he was to die, does violence to the whole tenor of the Bible; and takes away from his name the glory of a perfect sacrifice, that is so justly and eternally his as many scriptures prove conclusively. Would it not have been unjust on his part to rebuke his two disciples as he did (please read Luke 24:13-27.) had he been guilty of the same ignorance and unbelief?

And when His faithful heart was stilled
 On the accursed tree,
 Death's awful cup had then been filled,
 And drained for you and me. *
 Blest Sacrifice! and offering free
 From any guilty stain— **
 The spotless Lamb of God was He,
 Who for our sins was slain.

And think not that the Father bore
 No sorrow in that hour;
 Had watched that precious life-tide pour,
 Nor felt death's stinging power;
 Had veiled from that loved One his face
 And left Him there to die
 Without the comfort of His grace;
 And passed it lightly by.

That He who notes the sparrow's fall ***
 Beheld that agony,
 Unmindful of the piteous call,
 "Hast Thou, forsaken Me?" ****
 Oh, what is man that God would taste
 Such bitterness for him;
 When he through sin, laid Eden waste,—
 Why suffer thus for him?

Forgive, dear God, these feeble words,
 They do not half express
 The wealth of love Thy Name affords;
 Nor speak its tenderness.
 'Tis not within the power of man
 To comprehend such love,—
 To sound its depths, no human can,
 Nor scale its heights above.

- John 1:29, 36.
- I Pet. 1:18, 19.
- Matt. 10:29.
- Matt. 27:46.

For who of us would thus give up
 The one we cherish most;
 And drain with him the bitter cup,
 Which our salvation cost?
 If "God so loved" this world of ours, *
 Think you He will forget?
 Ah, no! He'll send refreshing showers, **
 Upon His people yet.

JESUS' MURDERERS

"In like manner also the chief priests mocking Him, with the scribes and elders, said, 'He saved others; himself he cannot save. Let him come down from the cross, and we will believe on him.'—Matt. 27:41-43.

And they who wore the priestly gown,
 Had mocked Him with the cry,
 "Thou saviour, from the cross come down,
 And thy claim justify."
 "And sitting down, they watched him there," ***
 Beheld the raging pain,
 And burning thirst, without a tear,—
 His death would be their gain.

No longer would they have to dread
 Incriminating truths;
 Nor unto Israel have it said,
 Thy priests the poor abuse.
 O, vain observers of the law,
 To gain respect of men! *****
 O Whited Sepulchers! Christ saw
 "The dead men's bones," within.

"His blood be on our heads," they cried;
 But little did they know
 How dark and fearful was the tide
 That over them would flow.
 'Tis written, "Many days shall Israel
 Abide without a king,
 Without an ephod . . . and shall dwell
 Without an offering." *****

* John 3:16.

** Acts 3:19-21.

*** Matt. 27:36.

**** Matt. 23:1-12.

***** Hos. 3:4.

The tribe wherein their priesthood lies,
Has long since been unknown;
They dare not offer sacrifice,
Lest God their rite disown;
And they should die like those of old,
Who had strange offering made;
All that had dared a thing so bold,
With their own lives had paid. *

And high priests come no more to lay
On altars to the Lord,
The offering of atonement day,
Which once their peace secured. **
Their "House," to them left desolate,
Remains deserted still,— ***
Relentlessly does Gentile hate,
Their cup with anguish fill.

O Israel! If thou hadst known
The sorrows waiting thee,
Couldst thou then with heart of stone,
Have watched His agony?

THE SEPULCHER

"Joseph . . . went unto Pilate and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid."—Luke 23:50-53.

And He who over Israel wept,
Was laid in Joseph's tomb;
While sorrowing friends their vigils kept
Through those two nights of gloom.
None coming after them can know
The loneliness they felt,
The utter hopelessness and woe,
That in their bosoms dwelt.

* Lev. 10:1, 2.

** Lev. 9.

*** Matt. 23:27, 28.

For hope had whispered, "Rest is nigh,—
He is Messiah come!"
And then they watched hope fade and die,
Twixt rise and set of sun.
If Nature trembled at the blow, *
And veiled her orbs of light;
Their souls were bathed in deeper woe,
And felt a darker night.

For what, they asked, was left for them
Who had forsaken all
That they possessed to follow Him?
What fate would them befall?
Since Christ arose, we who believe
Can always comfort find;
While they had nothing to relieve
The burden of their mind.

The Holy Spirit had not come
To open their blind eyes;
Nor did they know that from the tomb,
The Saviour would arise. **
Like sheep that can no longer hear
Their shepherd's kindly call,
A sense of helplessness and fear,
Alike swept over all,

As they envisioned once again
The horrors of that hour;
And in their own hearts felt the pain
That robbed him of power

* Matt. 27:45, 50, 51.

** John 20:9.

To save himself, or Israel. *
 The hope that he'd restore
 The land where they might safely dwell,
 Seemed lost forevermore.
 How could they hope for one to come
 With greater power than he,
 Who called the dead forth from the tomb;
 And calmed the raging sea? **

And can we not then understand
 How dark their pathway grew,
 When they had lost his guiding hand,
 Nor ray of light shone through?
 They shunned the throngs that mocked and scorned,
 And sought a quiet room,
 Where they might speak of Him they mourned,
 Amid the deepening gloom,

Some ray of hope and comfort find,—
 Some word which He had said,
 That would their aching hearts then bind,
 And lift the bowing head.
 With mixed emotions they recalled
 Their fellowship with Him;
 Of how His humble spirit galled
 Both priest and proud sanhedrin. ***

The perfect rest of heart and mind,
 As on his words they fed;
 He who had power to heal the blind,
 And call to life the dead, *****

* Luke 24:21.

** Matt. 8:23-27; John 11:1-44.

*** Luke 15:1, 2.

**** John 9:1-11; Luke 7:22-23.

Had chosen with the poor to dwell;
 And to these lowly ones *
 Told secrets that He would not tell
 To Rulers on their thrones.
 How gently He had soothed the breast
 When strife had entered in;
 And taught them that their only quest
 Should be the vict'ry over sin. **

And with them often drew apart
 From crowds that thronged the way,
 Some needed lessons to impart
 Their trusting souls to stay.
 "Strong meat," which they could not then bear,
 Nor due for them to know,
 The Holy Spirit would declare;
 And things to come would show. ***

So patiently did He reprove,
 And with such dignity,
 They could but marvel at His love,
 And its infinity.
 How calm His voice the night He said
 To one who called him Lord,
 "Rebuke not her who on my head
 The costly perfume poured,—

"The poor you have with you alway;
 But I shall soon be gone: ****
 Then grieve her not, for she today
 A goodly wrk has done;
 And tenderest love for Me hath shown,—
 Beforehand for the grave,
 Is mine anointing thus begun,
 And she her sweetest gave.

* Mark 12:37.

** Matt. 18:1-4; Matt. 20:20-28.

*** John 16:12-15; John 14:12-17.

**** Mark 14:3-9.

“And wheresoe’er My Word shall go,
The story of this deed,
Shall keep her memory aglow,
Its pathos for her plead.”
And as His mission here below
Was drawing to an end,
He knew how mighty was the foe
That would on them descend;

And from His loving heart arose
That ne’er forgotten prayer—
“O Father, in Thy name keep those
Whom Thou hast given me here!
May they be one, as we are one,
And in Thy love abide;
Thy holy will in them be done;
And Thy name glorified.

*

“I ask not that they may not weep,
For each his cross must bear;
But that Thou wouldst from evil keep
These lov’d ones for Me here;
For they are Mine, and I am Thine;
And I now come to Thee.
O Father, through Thy grace divine,
May they My glory see.”

Then came the feast, their last with Him;
The shocking words He spake,—
A traitor! Ah, which one of them
Their Master would forsake?
And when the bread He blessed and brake,
He said “When this ye eat,
My body broken for thy sake,
In memory ever keep.”

**

* John 17.

** Matt. 26:21, 22.

*** Matt. 26:26-28.

And giving thanks, the cup He gave
 To them also, and said,
 "My blood a covenant ye have,
 Which is for many shed.
 And ye shall all offended be,
 Because of me this night;
 'Tis written, 'The sheep shall scattered be, *
 When I the shepherd smite.'"

And silence fell on each of them,
 As painful memories came
 Of how they had forsaken Him;
 And heads were bowed with shame,
 As sadly they recalled how they
 So confident had been,
 That though the whole world turned away, **
 On them He could depend.

But ah, they had not learned how weak
 Their earthen vessels were;
 How often they the throne would seek
 With penitential tear. ***
 His chosen three—had they not slept,
 While in Gethsemane
 In drops of blood their Master wept,
 In lonely agony?

He healed disease at the expense
 Of His vitality; ****
 "Took our infirmities," and hence *****
 He suffered bodily;
 Yet when the cross on Him was laid,
 Few pity for Him showed?
 A stranger from Cyrene was made
 To help Him bear the load; *****

* Matt. 26:31.
 ** Matt. 26:33-35.
 *** Rom. 7:18-24.
 **** Matt. 8:14-17; Mark 5:30; Luke 6:19.
 ***** Matt. 8:17.
 ***** Luke 23:26.

Ah, no, but gave a pitying look
As He was led away;
The mem'ry of which Peter took
Unto his dying day.
And when they led him forth to die
Upon a cross, he said,
"Let my unworthy head now lie
Where His dear feet once bled."

*

'Tis said that Peter thus had died
A martyr, unafraid.
To Him, whom he had thrice denied,
That loving tribute paid.
The mind of Christ within the heart,
Can make the weakest strong;
And fit them for a glorious part
With the immortal throng.

**

But victory like this is born
Of many a sad defeat;
Which leaves the soul, by conflict torn,
A suppliant at His feet.
For who has not in weakness trod
The straight and narrow way?
And learned through discipline that God,
Alone, can save the day?

Then shall we boast but in the Lord?—
Of merit we have none;
Nor shall we win the great Reward,
Save through His blood alone.

* Luke 22:59-62.

** Phil. 2:5.

*** Eph. 2:8-22.

MARY MAGDALENE
AND THE OTHER DISCIPLES

They waited for—they knew not what—
 Inside that humble door;
The Cross lay like a crimson blot,
 Where hope had been before.
Night passed, a day had come and gone;
 Yet they still lingered there,
And waited for the coming dawn
 In mutual despair.

But Mary could no longer stay
 Within that lonely room;
And went, ere came the dawn of day,
 To weep beside His tomb.
The pain within her anguished heart,
 Seemed more than she could bear;
And there was naught could heal its smart,
 While He lay buried there.

The cold gray mists of morning fell
 Unheeded on her brow,—
To whom could she her grief then tell?
 To whom for mercy bow?
She sought Him once in deep distress,
 And He had heard her cry,—
Had stooped her unclean soul to bless;
 While others passed her by;

For evil Spirits over her
 Then held complete control; *
These fallen ones at that time were
 The masters of her soul.
They in an hour, then long since past,
 As rebel sons had been,
With Satan, out of heaven cast
 Because of wilful sin; **

* Luke 8:2, 26-39.

** Gen. 6:1-9, 17.

For they kept not their "first estate,"
But mingled with mankind;
And now, while they their judgment wait,
The chains of darkness bind
Invisible to human eyes;
Nor have they since the flood,
Had power to "materialize."
Are thus restrained of God,

*

Lest they again should flesh assume,
And mankind so debase,
He must of earth make one vast tomb,
Their offspring to erase.
They cannot any more at will,
Humanity possess;
But if one yields to them, they still
Have power to obsess.

**

Asylums have them, young and old,
Whose brains are not diseased;
But are "obsessed," and we are told
Few ever are released.
And thus these evil ones maintain
Their contact with mankind,—
Their "mediums" often drive insane;
But still new victims find.

These victims often they deceive
By speaking of the Lord;
Pretending that they too, believe
On Him, and in His Word.
Indeed, they do believe in Him;
And tremble at His power.
The punishment awaiting them
They know, and dread the hour

* Gen. 6:1-9, 17; Jude 6:7.

** Gen. 6:4, 5, 13.

*** Jas. 2:19.

When He, whose goodness they despise,
Shall take His power to reign;
For at its close in earth nor skies,
Shall evil thing remain.
Some claim that such will yet repent;
But Scriptures clearly show
That to the end, 'tis their intent
The good to overthrow.

*

We who have never felt the weight
Of their satanic power,
Know not, nor can appreciate
What slaves their victims are.
And seven over Mary held
Their evil mastery,—
To do their will was she compelled,
Obeying helplessly.

**

When Jesus loosed her from their spell,
And she was sane and free,
She knew no words with which to tell
How sweet her liberty.
Nor would His grace in that dark hour,
Forgotten ever be,—
The wonders of His saving power,
Would fill eternity.

But oh, the cruel, cruel cross!
That last despairing cry!
Her own o'erwhelming sense of loss,—
Why must her Lord thus die?
Oh, why should He, the Holy One,
Such shame and suffering bear?
The noblest she had ever known,
With Him could not compare.

* Rev. 20:7-10; Mal. 4:1-3.

** Luke 8:2, 26-30.

*** Matt. 27:46.

Had God His loyal Son forgot?
 Was there a veil between
 That hid from Him the awful spot
 Her tearful eyes had seen?
 Not even those who loved him most,
 His mission understood;
 Nor realized that all were lost,
 Had He not shed His blood.

THE RESURRECTION

"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."—Luke 24:5, 6.

"I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen."—Rev. 20:1-16.

How long the time she never knew,
 Till He was by her side.
 Her Lord alive! dear God, 'twas true!
 "My Master!" then she cried;
 For at His dear familiar call, *
 Her heart made glad reply.
 O loving Mary! first of all
 To hear His, "It is I."

With joy unspeakable she bowed
 Low at His blessed feet;—
 No soul had ever been endowed
 With rapture so complete.
 The rock-hewn tomb with guarded door **
 And seals, were all in vain,—
 For He was risen, and nevermore
 Would enter death's domain. ***

And then she knew that God had known,
 And felt her sorrow too,—
 That He to His beloved Son
 Had verily been true. ****
 How tranquil is the soul that leans
 By faith upon His breast;
 For length of time, nor changing scenes,
 Can e'er disturb its rest,

* John 20:1-16.

** Matt. 27:57-66.

*** Rev. 1:4, 5, 17, 18.

**** I Cor. 15:15.

To Mary had this blessing come,
Abiding, calm and sweet;
Had found within her heart a home;
And she—her Mercyseat.
But blissful as those moments were,
She could not longer stay;
For there were others who must hear
That Christ was risen that day. *

He died to save, and rose to bless,
And then with tenderest care
Was watching o'er the comfortless;
And felt the heartaches there.
"Remain not with Me now," he said, **
"But to My brethren go;
Tell them He lives, who once was dead,
That they thy joy may know."

With feet that seemed to touch but air,
She hastened on her way;
Soon stood within the chamber where
Were hearts too sad to pray.
And they beheld her with surprise,—
So joyous was her mien;
No longer did she breathe in sighs—
No trace of tears was seen.

What strange thing happened at the tomb?
Could idle tale or dream
Have given wan cheeks back their bloom,
And tear-dimmed eyes their gleam?
And how could she so soon forget,
And with such gladness come,
When Israel's star of hope had set
Amid such awful gloom?

* Rom. 4:24, 25.

** John 20:11-17.

THE GLAD TIDINGS

And then burst forth the Wondrous News
From Mary Magdalene,—
That which of all things they would choose,—
Their risen Lord she'd seen! *
Oh, yes! and He had called her name!
It was the same dear voice
Which they had known—the very same!
Let heaven and earth rejoice;

For since He lived, all men might live,—
No foe this boon could take;
And life eternal God would give
Them freely, for His sake.
“The Firstborn from the dead,” He rose **
Triumphant o'er the grave;
From sin and death and all their woes, ***
Bought freedom for the slave.

His perfect life unforfeited,
He freely laid it down;
Thus He “that liveth, and was dead,” ****
Won an immortal Crown.
And with his Father in His throne, *****
Rules now at His right hand,—
Above all names, except God's own, *****
Shall Christ's forever stand.

GALILEE

And now, in spirit, let us go
Once more to Galilee,
And there amid life's ebb and flow,
Behold that company,
Whose hearts, a little while distressed,
And filled with anxious care,
Had come in joyful peace to rest,
For Christ the Lord was there.

* John 20:16-18.

** Col. 1:18-23.

*** Eph. 4:8.

**** I Cor. 15:12-23; Rev. 1:17, 18.

***** Rev. 3:21.

***** I Cor. 15:20-28.

It seemed that they were done with woe,
That neither grief nor pain,
Their happy hearts could ever know,
Since Jesus lived again.
But tenderly He sought to show
That in earth's troubled mart,
There still remained a cup of woe,
In which they would have part;

And which, if they would follow Him,
They willingly must take;
Nor let the eye of faith grow dim,
Though hearts would bleed and break.
That if within the narrow way
They patiently should tread,
He still would be their shield and stay,
Their sympathizing Head.

But they no more His face would see,
Until, with trials done,
In His own likeness they should be,
"And shine forth as the sun
Within their Father's Kingdom," where *
He then was soon to go;
And there a place for them prepare;
While they toiled on below.

For they must suffer yet a while,
Endure both grief and pain,
And travel many a weary mile,
Ere they the Prize would gain.
"The Comforter," should He remain, **
Would not to them be given;
And this, He promised, would explain
The mysteries of heaven.

* Matt. 13:43.

** John 16:12-14.

The Holy Spirit would reveal
To them truths yet unknown;
And by its power His promise seal,
That they might share His throne. *
And so the days passed swiftly on,
As joys of time all do,
And soon, so soon, their Lord was gone,—
Had passed from earthly view.

THE ASCENSION

Out near to Bethany one day,
He led that little band;
There where they oft had met to pray,
Once more with them to stand.
Oh, how He loved those faithful hearts,—
The few who were His friends.
With hands uplifted He imparts
His blessing, then ascends;

For as they watched with wistful eyes,
They saw a cloud of light
Envelop Him, then softly rise
And vanish from their sight. **
While yearning hearts would follow Him,
Nor ever from Him part,
The Benediction left with them,
With comfort filled each heart.

For when He said, "I go away,
But I will come again," ***
A hope within that promise lay,
That soothed the parting pain.
And bowing down they worshipped Him;
And joined in grateful praise
For all God's benefits to them,
In wondrous works and ways.

* Rev. 3:21; II Tim. 4:8.

** Luke 24:50-53.

*** John 14:1-3.

And hope and courage sprang anew,—
It was not theirs to weep;
Their Lord would come again—they knew
His promise He would keep. *

PENTECOST

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all
with one accord in one place."—Acts 2:1.

With prayers and supplications, all
Then waited for the hour
When from above on them would fall
The Holy Spirit's power;
And on that pentecostal day,
Obedient to His Word,
Before Him their "first fruits" to lay,
Had come with one accord. **

When suddenly a rushing sound,
Whose power filled all the room,
Brought peace to them, and joy profound,—
"The Comforter," had come.
And things that once so dark had seemed,
Then glowed with heavenly light;
While from the Cross a glory beamed,
That scattered all their night.

THE NARROW WAY

"Then said Jesus to His disciples, if any man will come after
Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow
me."—Matt. 16:24.

Ambassadors for Christ were they, ***
The chosen of the Lord,
To walk with Him the narrow way,
And teach to men His Word.
Foregoing all this world could give
Of peace and joy combined,
For Jesus only, they would live,—
In Him their pleasures find.

* Lev. 23:9-11, 14.

** Acts 2:1-4.

*** II Cor. 5:18-21; I Pet. 2:9.

Their love for Him was then so great,
His name to them so dear,
That they could challenge any fate,
Without a doubt or fear;
And yet it was a solemn hour,
When they His cause embraced,
For well they knew the sullen power
That each of them then faced.

They knew that following in His steps
Would bring reproach and pain;
For they had seen how His precepts
Induced the world's disdain;
How Satan never is off guard,
Alert both day and night,
Would every step seek to retard,—
Each holy impulse blight;

*

Endeavoring through pain and woe
And many a shameful deed,
Their faith in God to overthrow;
And thus destroy the "Seed."
But why, is asked, does God allow
His saints to be thus tried,
And suffer those who serve Him now,
In sorrow to abide?

**

'Twould seem that all who love the right,
And seek to do His will,
Would find life's pathway always bright;
Its waters cool and still.
O soul, so prone to take thine ease,
How limited thy sphere,
Hadst thou been granted full release
From pain and sorrow here!

* I Pet. 1:8.

** Gen. 22:15-18; Gal. 3:16.

*** Ps. 119:65-67; Heb. 12:3-11.

The flesh would shun the furnace heat;
 Nor to its lips would press
 The cup that hath been drained of sweet,
 And filled with bitterness.
 But who can weep with those that weep
 Until they too, have wept,—
 Until o'er them in billows deep,
 Some mighty grief has swept?

*

'Tis in the poignancy of pain,
 That sympathy is born.
 When dearest ties are rent in twain,
 And we are left forlorn,
 'Tis then another's broken heart,
 We view with tenderness;
 And in their grief would share a part,
 And make the burden less.

But human strength cannot avail,
 There's little we can do;
 For our most earnest efforts fail
 Deep sorrow to subdue.
 Nor doth the Father pleasure take
 In man's unhappy state,
 Rejoices not that hearts must break,
 The gold from dross to separate;

**

While Satan, with vindictiveness,
 Upon the righteous head
 His fury pours. By him oppressed,
 The faithful ones have fled
 To Christ whose sheltering wings protect
 The helpless and the poor;
 And Satan's wrath has in effect
 But taught them to endure.

* Rom. 12:15.

** Ezek. 18:32; Ezek. 2:11.

*** I Pet. 5:8.

**** Heb. 12:5-11; I Pet. 5:9-11; Psa. 91:1-4.

Thus doth the Lord affliction guard
 In lives beneath His touch,—
 No soul has been, nor shall be marred *
 By trials overmuch.
 And oh, how kind and good is He
 To cleanse and make us whole!
 From sin and death to set us free,
 And sanctify the soul!

To grant us strength from day to day,
 To do His blessed will;
 To tread a lonely barren way, **
 Assured He loves us still.
 Yet of the many He has called,
 But few have proven true,— ***
 The rest by things of Time enthralled,
 Its vanities pursue.

'Tis sad indeed, and passing strange,
 That one whose eyes have seen
 The heavenly prize, could think to change
 To things so low and mean;
 Their glorious prospects jeopardize
 For things made but of clay;
 For that which never satisfies,
 Their vows refuse to pay.

Shall these be purified by fire, ****
 Or death their portion be?
 He unto whom is given all power,
 Will judge them righteously. *****
 But mercy there will have no part,
 For there will be none due; *****
 The inmost secrets of each heart,
 Shall then be brought to view.

* I Cor. 10:13; II Tim. 2:9, 10; Psa. 34:15-19.
 ** John 10:14, 15; Psa. 23:1-6.
 *** Matt. 22:9-14.
 **** Mal. 3:1-3; Heb. 10:25-30.
 ***** Psa. 97; John 5:22.
 ***** Rom. 2:16; Luke 8:17.

We that have tasted of God's Word,
 And of the coming age,
 And in His Holy Spirit shared,
 A fight must ever wage
 Against the fallen tendencies,
 That are so manifest
 In all the shameful weaknesses,
 Of which man is possessed;

*

Must let our love for God and Christ,
 Cast every idol down;
 Lest having been by them enticed,
 We lose the promised crown.
 Our day of grace will soon be past;
 The moments swiftly fly,—
 Some shall be worthy found at last,—
 And some—forever die;

For 'tis a narrow way indeed,
 And fraught with many a woe,—
 This lonely pathway that will lead
 Where joys immortal flow.
 And it is but "a Little Flock,"
 Their covenant have kept;
 Whose feet once planted on the Rock,
 From it could not be swept.

**

And though in number very small,
 So precious in God's sight
 Are all who answer to His call,
 And walk with Him in white,
 His angels watching over them,
 Unseen will guard and guide,
 Till crowned with royal diadem,
 They reign at Jesus' side.

- Heb. 6:4-6.
- Tim. 2:7-13; Matt. 7:13, 14; Matt. 10:22, 25; John 10:27-29.
- Luke 12:32.
- Psa. 34:7; Heb. 1:13, 14.
- Psa. 45:6-15; Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 20:6.

If men would search that they might see
 The wisdom of our God,
It would unveil all mystery;
 And lift life's heavy load.
He knew that few would heed his voice,
 And heavenward raise their eyes,
That earth by nature is man's choice,—
 He forged its tender ties.

Shall we then count those souls as lost
 Who love the world God made;
When Jesus at such fearful cost,
 Their ransom price has paid?
For those who do not care to leave
 The joys of earth for heaven,
We need not suffer fear, nor grieve,—
 Earth shall to them be given.

For Heaven is not the only place
 In God's grand Universe,
Through far-flung corridors of space,
 His shining worlds disperse.
"The Heaven of heavens," is His Throne; *
 But by His own decree,
The earth with its peculiar zone,
 Is for humanity. **

Although the world is filled with strife,
 With envy, hate and greed;
And nation seeks a nation's life,
 Nor sinful counts the deed,
Let none forget the Lord our God,
 Has never willed it so;
'Tis not His hand which wields the rod
 That fills the earth with woe.

* Psa. 115:11-16.

** Gen. 1:24-31.

But men by proud ambition led,
His righteous laws defy;
With hands by children's blood stained red,
They boast of victory.
And war now lifts its ugly head,
And frowns on every race,
As blood on blood is being shed,
To wrest or hold some place.

Today such dreadful tales are told
Of man's brutality,
Within our veins the blood runs cold
At the intensity
Of malice in the human heart;
That, without hope of gain,
Is practised in the fiendish art
Of bringing needless pain.

But were not these all "born in sin,
And shapen in iniquity"? *
Then only God who looks within,
Knows their responsibility. **
And millions born and reared in shame,
Who never saw the Light,
Their hearts with murderous hate aflame,
Have fallen in the fight.

While loved ones starved and wounded die
By roadside, in the street;
And unlamented, they there lie
Without a winding sheet. ***
But all these things hath God foretold,—
He knew the downward trend
Of man, when unto Satan sold,
And what would be his end.

* Psa. 51:5; Eph. 2:3.

** I Sam. 16:7.

*** Jer. 25:33.

Then let not death's dark shadows hide
 From us the blessed view
 Of Calvary, where Jesus died *
 That these might live anew.
 For on the Cross He purchased all,—
 E'en those who nailed him there;
 And all who've suffered from the fall,
 His cleansing blood may share. **

No power can stay the God of heaven;
 Nor His just laws rescind;
 And not till sight to all is given, ***
 Shall mercy have an end.
 And many a soul born deaf and blind,
 Because of Satan's reign,
 Will shout for joy when he shall find ****
 The way of life made plain.

THE CHURCH'S MISSION MESSENGERS, NOT SAVIOURS

"If ye would my disciples be, *****
 First count how great the cost;
 Then take thy cross and follow Me,—
 If Me thou lovest most,
 And go in all the world and preach
 The tidings of great joy;
 That it may every nation reach,
 Your talents all employ."

Thus Jesus sent them far and near,
 The gospel to proclaim,
 To teach to all "with ears to hear," *****
 Salvation through His name.
 Our mission then is but to tell
 How Jesus' blood makes whole;
 For not on one of us e'er fell
 The power to save a soul,

* Heb. 2:9; John 10:7-11.

** I Cor. 15:12-22.

*** Isa. 35:3-6.

**** Isa. 35:8-10.

***** Luke 14:27-33; Rev. 3:6.

***** Matt. 28:18-20.

To no man's keeping has God given
 The souls of other men,—
 To Him alone whose side was riven,
 Have these entrusted been. *

It is our loss if we refuse
 Our mission to fulfill;
 And though our own life we may lose,
 God's plan shall prosper still; **

For He, who only asks of one
 According as he hath, ***
 Shall grant to each ere time is done,
 To choose twixt life and death. ****
 And though we tell it o'er and o'er,
 The Story ne'er grows old;
 But is today, just as of yore,
 The sweetest ever told.

Beclouded is the vision then,
 And misinformed the mind,
 That thinks the fate of other men,
 God has to it resigned.
 Why would He leave to fallen man
 The souls Christ died to save?
 And where the justice in His Plan,
 If He that power gave

To creatures such as you and I,
 So weakened by the fall
 That we would surely faint and die,
 Did we on Him not call?
 Suppose that one with light now blest,
 Should fail to let it shine,
 And through such failure souls were lost,—
 Perchance your child and mine;

* Acts 4:11, 12; Eph. 1:7.

** Isa. 55:10, 11.

*** Luke 12:47, 48.

**** I Tim. 2:5, 6; Acts 3:19-24; Isa. 35.

Could we look up to Him and say,
Just are Thy ways, O Lord!
And kneel down at His feet and pray,
With hearts in sweet accord?
And could such words as, "God is love,"
E'er pass our lips again?
Ah, no! 'twould bring Him from above
To depths we've never been.

No human heart could acquiesce
In such a plan as this;
And shall we say that God is less
Than man, in righteousness?
"His blood will I require of thee,"
Does not support such thought,
But means that "life for life," shall be
Required, as Moses taught.

Should man who grovels here below,
Lost in the depths of night,
Presume a better way to know
Than He who dwells in light?
Than He whose wisdom speaks through worlds
Winged for eternal flight;
Poised with precision that unfurls
Infinitude of might?

Oh, that mankind to Him would bow;
Accept His law of love;
Within their hearts enshrine Him now,
And earth to peace remove!
For there's no peace on land nor sea;
No heart is now at rest,—
What has been, and what is to be,
The whole world doth oppress.

• Lev. 24:17-22; Num. 35:29-31.

But high above the clouds of war,
 Beyond this world's dark rim,
 There shines a bright and Morning Star,—
 The Star of Bethlehem.
 Its steady rays presage the dawn
 Of the Millennial day,
 Whose close shall find all evil gone;
 And gladness come to stay. *

TIMES OF RESTITUTION

"And the Lord shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."—Rev. 21:1-7; Isa. 25:6-9.

"And the spirit and the bride say Come. And let him that heareth say come; and let him that is athirst come; and whosoever will, let him take the waters of life freely."—Rev. 22:17.

"The Heavens," Jehovah hath declared,

"Shall be My dwelling place;

But earth for man have I prepared,

And given to his race." **

In looking backward we can see

How dispensations past,

Have in God's grand Economy,

For certain things been cast.

That each its destined purpose filled;

And passing from the stage,

Another came, as God had willed,

Doth reverent thought engage;

And gives to us the confidence

That He can all things do;

And for our grief will recompense

Far more than we are due.

This earth of ours, as we all know,

Is very small in size

Compared with millions whose soft glow

We see through azure skies;

Yet it was here the Father chose

His love to demonstrate;

And bring to naught His treacherous foes

Who would earth desecrate.

* Isa. 35:10.
 ** Psa. 115:16.

And since for man He gave the One
 Whom He loved best of all,
 That by His death He might atone
 For sin wrought through the fall,
 May we not definitely conclude *
 That sacrifice is done;
 And that He will through Jesus' blood, **
 Grant life to every one?

For He who on the Cross once bowed,
 Now lives forevermore; ***
 And is of God, with power endowed
 A lost world to restore, ****
 And all the blessings for man planned,
 Ere sin laid Adam low,
 He'll place again within his hand,
 The same as long ago.

Then shall the "restitution times,"
 By prophets long foretold, *****
 For every race, in every clime,
 Their precious gifts unfold.
 For Christ shall set death's prisoners free,—
 Each one in his own band; *
 To dwell with his own company, *****
 And in his native land.

And many a paradise shall spring,
 Where burning sands now spread;
 And every man may be a king,
 Secure from want and dread. *****
 For in those days 'twill not be said
 Our fathers sinned, and we
 A curse have now upon our head,
 Through their iniquity. *****

* Rom. 6:9, 10.
 ** I Cor. 15:22.
 *** Rev. 1:17, 18.
 **** Matt. 28:17, 18.
 ***** Acts 3:19-21; Psa. 37:27-40.
 ***** I Cor. 15:22, 23; Eze. 37:12-14.
 ***** Mic. 4:1-4; Rev. 22:1-6.
 ***** Jer. 31:29, 30.

But every man that dies, shall die
 Because of his own sin;
 For Satan then no soul may try;
 Nor blind men's eyes again.
 "Then shall the lame leap as a hart,"
 And tongues now silent sing;
 The desert wastes become a part
 Of earth's eternal Spring.

*

For when our Great Creator smiles
 Upon this world again,
 E'en fresher than a little child's,
 Shall be the flesh of men.
 No wrinkled face, no graying hair,
 No weary way-worn feet,
 No head bowed down with shame and care,
 Nor one joy incomplete;

**

For things remembered with regret,
 In words and deeds unkind,
 One may correct, and then forget,
 And leave all grief behind.
 For God, who does not plan in vain,
 Declares this earth shall be
 A home for man; where he shall reign
 In peace eternally.

And every saint on bended knee,
 Has prayed, "Thy kingdom come!
 O Lord of life and liberty,
 Thy will on earth be done!"
 For Jesus taught them thus to pray;
 And patiently to wait,
 Though it should seemingly delay,
 The hour would not be late.

* Rev. 20:2, 3; Isa. 35:5, 6.

** Job 33:24-26.

*** Isa. 45:18; Isa. 55:7-13.

**** Rev. 21:1-7.

***** Matt. 6:9, 10; Rom. 8:25; I Thes. 1:9, 10.

***** Hab. 2:2, 3.

Then let all join in this blest prayer;
And bowing to God's will,
Each ransomed soul himself prepare
Some noble place to fill;
And when that Morn of morns shall break,
Eternal, calm and clear,
He shall to joys unknown awake,—
To powers undreamed of here. *

Invention, yet in infancy,
Bright secrets now may hold,
Which shall in days that are to be,
Far greater things unfold.
And worlds now wrapped in swaddling bands,
Man's footprints yet may bear;
For He whose voice their course commands
Can open "airways" there.

And nations yet unborn may rise,
And go from sphere to sphere,
And make them there a paradise
Like that which God made here.
Since, as the Psalmist doth declare,
"The heavens God's glory show," **
The message He has written there,
Should we not seek to know?

The realms which lie beyond our skies,
Where Spirit beings dwell,
He hath concealed from human eyes,
Who doeth all things well.
His promise is that "secret things,"
Belong alone to Him;
But what He has revealed He brings
To us, and to our children, ***

* I Cor. 2:9.

** Psa. 119:1.

*** Deut. 29:29.

And to our hearts most sacred are
The things His wisdom veils
In secrecy; but yon bright star,
Whose luster never pales,
Through the dim distance speaks to us;
In astronomic tones
Doth kinship with the earth confess,
And earth the kinship owns.

Think how much has been discovered
In the present century;
How each step led Science onward
New and greater things to see;
Till we gaze with awesome wonder
On what puny man has done;
While earth vibrates with the thunder
Of achievements he has won.

If he can with body broken
By the fall, such heights attain,
Surely it is but a token
Of his powers when life shall reign.
Is earth's Jubilee approaching?
Does the Prince of Peace draw near?
Aye, 'tis evil forces dying,—
This commotion we now hear.

For the wicked all shall perish,—
All who wilful prove to be;
But the righteous God will cherish,—
Joy o'er them eternally. *
The thought that all at death are changed,
And lost to man's estate,
Against the plan which God arranged,
Doth surely militate.

* Zeph. 3:17.

For though the "Little Flock" shall be
 Made like their Lord and Head, *
 And given immortality,
 When brought forth from the dead,
 To them alone is promise given
 Of such a high reward
 As that of entering into Heaven,
 And reigning with their Lord.

But when the last one, tried and true,
 His cross shall have laid down;
 And passing death's dark waters through,
 Receives of life the crown,
 Then are "the residue of men," **
 "That which remains," to be
 "To their own borders" brought again, ***
 Restored humanity.

Four days had one lain in the tomb, ****
 Yet when Christ called his name,
 And bade him from the dead to come,
 Was he not just the same?
 Likewise did all whom Jesus raised,
 Come forth as Lazarus did; *****
 And only this the crowds amazed,—
 His power to raise the dead.

And by such deeds hath He foreshown
 The glory of the hour
 When he shall reign on David's throne.
 And all shall know his power.
 In planets that now occupy
 The boundless realms of space,
 Great possibilities may lie
 For Adam's fruitful race. *****

* Psa. 17:15; I John 3:2.

** Acts 15:14-18.

*** Jer. 31:16, 17.

**** John 11:1-44.

***** Mark 5:35-43.

***** Gen. 1:28.

It wrests no scripture thus to think
That such may be His way,
When all shall life's pure waters drink,
And all His will obey;
But opens up vast avenues
Whose glories would expand
Far, far beyond all we now view;
Or human thought has scanned.

Edenic earth would then afford
The nucleus to spread
Throughout the universe abroad,
The blessings on her shed.
Thus faith can see in every star,
The great Creator's face;
And in its shining from afar,
Majestic goodness trace.

Shine on, O Morning Star, shine on,
And light for on us the way,
Until the night of sin is gone
And dawns eternal day.

THE WILFULLY WICKED

"For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses; of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath done despite to the spirit of grace?"—Heb. 10:26-29.

Since knowledge then will fill each heart,
As water fills the sea, *
Mankind, no longer "blind in part," **
Accountable shall be.
And while God's grace is full and free,
His will must be obeyed;
And none shall, with impunity,
Transgress the laws He made. ***

* Isa. 11:9; Jer. 31:33, 34.

** Rom. 11:25-27; I Tim. 2:3, 4.

*** Acts 3:22, 23.

And if a heart be filled with pride,
 And in that day shall scorn
 The One who for his soul has died,
 In vain that man was born. *
 For after God reveals the good
 To their unclouded view,
 And offers life through Jesus' blood,
 There's nothing He can do,

And leave them still the power to choose,—
 In Christ He gave His all;
 When they perversely Him refuse,
 In "finished sin," they fall; **
 For they were numbered with the dead,
 And came forth at His call,—
 The fullness of God's grace was shed
 On them, as on us all.

And these the Bible says will be
 As though they had not been,—
 In time, nor in eternity,
 Shall they have life again. ***
 For they with Satan will be cast
 Into "the fiery lake,"
 Into "the second death," at last; ****
 From which none ever wake.

And who will say it is not good
 That God should thus erase
 That serpent, and his poisonous brood,
 That have despised His grace?
 For having counted Jesus' blood,
 As "an unholy thing," *****
 If life were granted them they would
 To others, sorrow bring. *****

* Jas. 1:13-15.
 ** Jas. 1:13-15.
 *** Psa. 37:9-12.
 **** Rev. 21:7-10.
 ***** Heb. 10:29.
 ***** Psa. 37:12-15.

We cannot tell now who they are,—
 'Tis not for us to say
What souls the Lord from life will bar,
 When comes their judgment day. *
When sorrow's ploughshare sends its blade
 Through hearts now hard as stone,
A fallow ground may then be made;
 And seeds of Truth be sown,

Which springing up shall never die;
 But yield a thousand fold
More joys than either you or I,
 Have ever yet been told.
Oh, blessed, blessed day to be,
 When heaven and earth shall sing,
Where now, O grave, thy victory?
 And where, O death, thy sting? **

As mountain peaks above us tower
 In strength and magnitude,
God's justice, wisdom, love and power,
 Rise up and call Him good.
For who but He, could have conceived
 So marvelous a Plan?
Or his own heart would thus have grieved
 To rescue fallen man?

And prophecy proclaims it near,—
 Yea, even at the door,
When Christ in glory shall appear,
 And life and peace restore.
Then let our hearts to Him give praise,
 While waiting for that Day;
And seek by walking in His ways,
 Our debt of love to pay.

* I Pet. 2:12.

** I Cor. 15:55.

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Other Poems

THE MORALIST

They say the Bible is God's Word;
This statement I have often heard:
And that 'tis there alone we find
The hope of life for all mankind.
And often I've been urged to take
The time, and prove this for my sake.
But since this seems an endless task,
I would this question of you ask:

Suppose I give my time to this,
Will it increase my usefulness?
I know they say no man is good
Until he gives himself to God;
And bowing humbly at his feet,
Through Jesus' blood is made complete.
But after all, is it not true
The ways of life are only two?

The one is right, the other wrong;
We make our choice and pass along.
And if one takes the upper road,
Why would you say, "He is not good"?
My moral code let me recite—
A better one can you indite?—
Intoxicants I never touch.
The price one pays is far too much

In self-respect, and home and friends;
And life in horror often ends.
I do not steal, nor do I lie,
And to deceive I never try.
Unto the worthy poor I give,
And would at peace with all men live.
I am not bound by any rule
Made by a so-called Christian school;

For often sins committed there
Are winked at — lest they fail to share
The guilty one's prosperity,
Thus hind'ring deeds of charity.
Since they God's Holy Word must preach,
And heathen far and near must reach,
Peace must at any price prevail
So that "collections," shall not fail.

And sometimes those who claim Christ's name,
Live openly a life of shame;
And sheltered in that whitewashed fold
Become both arrogant and bold.
Though I'm an outcast in their eyes,
I wear no manner of disguise:
My sins, whatever else they be,
Do not include hyprocrisy.

And when at last I go the way
We all must go, I think they'll say,
"There lies a man who always stood
For that which he believed was good;
A faithful husband, father, friend,
Upon whose word you could depend."
And thus he writes his epitaph,
Which if not sad, would make one laugh;

For like the Pharisee of old,
His virtues are by him extolled.
And as he counts them one by one
He cries, "Behold, what I have done!"
When told that he shall sometime find
How foolish he has been, and blind,
That time to him shall clearly prove
The need of a Redeemer's love,

Resentment flashes in his eyes;
And he that vital truth denies,
For he believes he's wiser far,
Than those that trust in Jesus are.
While youth and health their pleasures bring,
And every prospect seems to sing;
Ere sorrow comes these joys to dim,
He does not feel the need of Him.

But when the hour of death draws nigh,
And naught is left him but to die,
Few such have died without the plea:
"Look down with pity, Lord, on me!"
And raising his dim eyes to heaven,
He prays that he may be forgiven;
From his sad heart there comes the cry:
"Have mercy, Lord! Let me not die

Without assurance of thy grace;
Turn not away from me thy face!
What others do will never be
Excuse for infidelity.

My many sins to Thee I own;
And would I might for them atone.
No soul apart from Thee shall live;
Mine unbelief, O Lord, forgive!"

Shall He that suffered Calvary,
Refuse that dying sinner's plea?
It was for sinners Christ was slain,
And none shall seek his face in vain.
But not in heaven, nor in hell,
Are such forevermore to dwell:
Our God is far too wise to make
A world like this — then from it take

The only creature with a mind
Where he companionship should find.
Earth is the place which He prepared
For men to dwell, nor effort spared.
Designed and fashioned by his hand,
For that one purpose it shall stand.
And heaven and earth shall hail the hour
When Christ by his almighty power,

Shall bring death's prisoners from the tomb,
Forever banishing its gloom.
With stumbling stones all gathered out,
There'll be no question, fear nor doubt;
For eyes now blind shall clearly see,
And ears now deaf shall opened be.
Free from the blight of inbred sin,
Each soul may life eternal win.

* Rom. 5:8.

But power to choose shall be theirs still;
The Lord will not coerce man's will;
While his commands they may defy,
The ones that do shall surely die.
For when the Prince of Peace shall reign,
No evil thing shall there remain.
But that blest day is not to come
Until the saints are gathered home;

For life upon the heavenly plane
Is offered now, which these will gain,
The "Little Flock, who for Christ's sake,
Rejoice the sacrifice to make;
And leaving all that earth holds dear,
They willing are to suffer here;
Upheld and strengthened by his might,
They follow him through dark and light,

Endure the heartaches, scorn and shame,
Which come to all who bear his name.
And when their trials all are done,
And victory is surely won,
Then Jesus from his royal throne,
Will come and claim them for his own,
Joint — heirs with him — like him they'll be,
Then crowned with immortality.

And heaven and earth shall hail the hour
When Christ by his almighty power,
Shall call death's prisoners from the grave —
It was for this his life he gave.
And not one soul shall be forgot,
Nor any stone to mark the spot
Where some loved one was long since laid,
For on the Cross their debt was paid.

Oh, glorious hope! Oh, happy day!
Then tears shall all be wiped away.
In every land the emptied tomb
Will tell the world that Christ is come.
This is the story often told,
In Scriptures New, and Scriptures Old,
Though men have searched the world around,
No other Book has e'er been found

That brings the hope to which we cling,
The hope that robs death of its sting.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
John 3:16.

"I am the resurrection, and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:25, 26.

No words have we with which to tell
How cruel was the Cross,
And infinite the love of Him
Who drained for us its dross.
Beyond the power of finite mind
Such love to comprehend —
But this we know: in Christ we've found
A never-failing friend.

His covenant of sacrifice *****
 Was with the Father made
 Before they had created man
 Or earth's foundations laid.
 And "when the time had fully come," *****
 He left his home on High
 And "was made flesh," and dwelt with men, *****
 That he for them might die.

Then humbly, and with open minds,
 Let us consider Him
 Who was begotten from above
 And born in Bethlehem.
 O Bethlehem! Thou blest of God!
 Thy name shall ever be
 The most revered in all the earth,
 For Christ was born in thee.

- * Deut. 21:23.
 ** Gal. 3:15.
 *** Heb. 2:9-11.
 **** Psa. 89:18.
 ***** I Pet. 1:18-21.
 ***** Gal. 4:4, 5.
 ***** John 1:1-5, 14.

And how each child of God has longed
 That sacred place to see!
 To tread the path whereon Christ bore
 The Cross to Calvary:
 And to behold the ancient trees
 'Neath which the Garden lies,
 That once was hallowed by His tears
 And heard his lonely cries.

For when His work on earth was done,
 And he would soon depart
 And leave in this unfriendly world
 Those dearest to his heart,
 He sought with them the solitude
 Of that familiar place,
 And there "exceeding sorrowful"
 Bowed down his tear-stained face.

"By one man's disobedience,
 Death passed upon all men,"
 Nor could the blood of many beasts
 Cleanse them from inbred sin;
 For unto Moses God had said.
 "A corresponding price,"
 Must for the life of man be given;
 None other would suffice.

Well-versed was Jesus in the Law;
 He knew a sacrifice must be
 If unto God acceptable,
 From imperfection free.
 While his delight had ever been
 To do his Father's will,
 He feared his oft-times weary flesh
 Had failed some point to fill:

- * Matt. 26:36-38.
- ** Rom. 5:12.
- *** Heb. 10:1, 4-7.
- **** Lev. 24:17-21.
- ***** Luke 2:42-47.
- ***** John 4:34.
- ***** Matt. 26:41; Jas. 2:10.

And fear of death — eternal death —
 Encompassed Him that night: *
 Oh, would the Cross thus banish him
 Forever from God's sight!
 And leave the lost and dying world,
 Which he alone could save, **
 With nevermore a ray of hope
 Of life beyond the grave?

And in that dark and lonely hour,
 Without one pitying eye,
 Thrice from his troubled heart there came
 The same despairing cry:
 "O Father, if 'tis possible,
 Remove this cup from me!
 If not, except I drink of it,
 Thy will, not mine, shall be." ***

The Cross held not the bitter "cup"
 Christ prayed he might not drink, ****
 For never once did he "look back,"
 Or from his covenant shrink. *****
 But had he failed the God he loved?
 Would he unworthy be
 A resurrection "out of death?"
 He wept in agony. *****

The doubt, the fear to him was like
 As if some hurtling dart,
 With poisoned prong had pierced his breast,
 And lodged within his heart:
 And he was near to death that night,
 His strength was almost gone,
 For he had healed the multitudes
 With virtue (vitality) of his own. *****

* Matt. 26:36-38.
 ** Luke 1:26-35; John 1:9.
 *** Matt. 26:36-42.
 **** John 10:11, 15, 17, 18.
 ***** Heb. 12:2-4.
 ***** Luke 22:41-44.
 ***** Mark 5:30; Luke 6:19.

But "He was heard in that he feared,"
 And from the Courts of Heaven
 An angel came and ministered,
 And needed strength was given.
 That he went forth and gave himself
 To Judas' murderous band;
 A monument unto his name
 Forevermore shall stand.

With blows and spitting then the mob
 Pressed on His faultless brow
 The crown of thorns which they had wreathed
 In mockery to bow. *

But as a lamb that had been shorn
 "He opened not his mouth," **

For to this end had he been born:
 "To witness to the Truth." ***

He shrank not from the furnace heat,
 Nor sought to quench the fire.
 To glorify his Father's name,
 Was Jesus' sole desire.
 For self he entertained no thought,
 Asked not for a reward;
 But prayed the glory he had known ****
 To him might be restored.

Oh heavy was the cross He bore,
 And dark the way he trod.
 In shielding us he needs must stand *****
 As one accurst of God,
 As one unworthy of His love,
 A rebel 'gainst His grace;
 And for our sins the Father turned
 Away from him his face.

* Isa. 50:6; Matt. 27:27-31.

** Isa. 53:7.

*** John 18:37.

**** Deut. 21:22, 23; Gal. 3:13.

***** Mark 15:34; John 19:32-36.

And when He cried, "My God, O why
 Hast Thou forsaken Me?" *
 His heart was broken, and he died
 That we might all go free.
 No voice in answer to his cry
 Came from the great white Throne;
 Alone and hopeless he must die
 If he would sin atone. **

And thus the King of glory died,
 Forsaken by his God,
 He suffered sin's full penalty,
 And died beneath its rod.
 Oh! never can the debt of love
 We owe to Him be paid,
 Whose life a willing sacrifice ***
 On our behalf was made.

But now triumphant over death
 He lives forevermore, ****
 And in his hands he holds the power
 A lost world to restore.
 "The restitution of all things!" *****
 Does that mean Eden, too?
 The blessings God at first prepared
 For man shall he renew?

Indeed! He formed the earth to be
 Inhabited by man; *****
 And there's no power in Heav'n, nor earth,
 Can change, or thwart his plan. *****
 And though the time seems long — so long,
 Ere dawns the promised day,
 The One who knows and loves us all,
 Shall suffer no delay.

* Matt. 27:46.
 ** Gal. 3:13.
 *** Heb. 12:1-4.
 **** Rev. 1:10-18.
 ***** Acts 3:18-21.
 ***** Gen. 1:26-31.
 ***** Isa. 45:18.

The times and seasons are His own,
And under his control
Are working out a glorious Plan
For every ransomed soul.
Before them lies Eternity!—
A glowing, pulsing world
With all the joys of Paradise
Awaits its rightful Lord.

*

Oh, bless our God! Give praise to Him,
Who did so freely give
His only Son, His best loved One,
That we through him might live.

*“WEEPING MAY ENDURE
FOR THE NIGHT, BUT
JOY COMETH IN THE MORNING”*

“Because I live, ye shall live also.” John 14:19.

Sad my heart, and oh, so lonely!
When death claimed my only son,
Nothing here had I to live for,
No one left to call my own,
And my soul cried out in anguish:
Earth has now no place for me.
Let my days be few, or many,
Homeless I shall always be,

For his gentle presence no more
Would my longing spirit bless,
No more should I hear him calling,
Nevermore his fond caress.
When we talked of that dark river
All must soon or late cross o’er,
It was I, who we then thought
Would be the one to go before.

* Isa. 55:11-13; Acts 3:18-21.

But the mighty King of terror
 Strikes at will in every land,
 And no one can shield a loved one;
 None escape its cruel hand. *
 And if this dark night of weeping
 Were of human hopes the end,
 He that hath all life created
 To mankind is not a friend.

But, Praise God! death does not end all,
 Else would Christ have died in vain; **
 That he lives is our assurance
 That we, too, shall live again:
 That the many souls now sleeping
 In the bosom of the earth,
 Shall awake, for his blood purchased
 For them all a second birth. ***

'Tis this hope which soothes my sorrow ****
 And awakes my lips to song,
 For the Morn is near to breaking,
 And the time will not be long
 Till the desert wastes shall blossom,
 And eternal Spring shall come
 To the place which God created *****
 For man's everlasting home. *****

In His Word is it not written:
 "Unto Abraham God swore.
 All the land which thou beholdest,
 Shall be thine forevermore.
 A possession everlasting,
 Unto thee and to thy seed,
 It shall come, and it shall prosper
 Even as I have decreed." *****

* Psa. 49:6, 7.
 ** Rom. 3:23-25; 5:8.
 *** John 14:19.
 **** I Cor. 15:12-26.
 ***** Isa. 45:17, 18; Psa. 115:16.
 ***** Gen. 17:1-8; 22:15-18.
 ***** Isa. 55:8-11; Heb. 6:13-20.

"Then the earth shall yield her increase,
 And the ransomed of the Lord
 Shall return to their own border,"
 As recorded in His Word.
 "Every man in his own order." (Greek, "band.")
 This the promise God hath made
 And secured to us on Calvary,
 Where His Son our ransom paid.
 Then weep not for those who slumber;
 They have done with grief and pain.
 And we'll find them in the morning,
 Nor shall lose them once again.
 Oh, give thanks to God our saviour!
 And to His beloved Son,
 For the love wherewith they loved us
 And o'er death the victory won.

MY ETERNAL REFUGE

Dear Father, how good thou art to me!
 Thou hast blest me with all thy love,
 As from day unto day
 Thou hast watched o'er my way
 To fit me for service above.

No matter how deep the waters were,
 Nor how lonely the wilderness;
 Ne'er a place was so drear,
 But my Saviour was there,
 My trials to own and to bless.

When anguish no human eye could see
 Held my soul in its withering heat
 'Mid the flames fiercest glow;
 In that furnace I saw
 The prints of my dear Saviour's feet.

* Psa. 67:6.
 ** Isa. 35:10.
 *** Jer. 31:15-17.
 **** I Cor. 15:16-26.
 ***** I Tim. 2:1-6.

Through Him all Thy love flows out to me;
Through him I adore Thy great name.
Perfect peace fills my heart,
For I know that Thou art
Today, and forever the same.

Dear Father, how good thou art to me!
Oh! how often these words I repeat,
As Thy glory I trace
In the light of his face,
And worshiping bow at Thy feet.

GREAT AND MARVELLOUS ARE THY WORKS O LORD!

Moses tells us when describing
How Creation first began—
That is, when the Lord first started
To prepare the earth for man,
That its elements were chaos,
Without form was it and void.
And to order it, and change it
Many agents were employed.

*

**

For it lay in total darkness
Till God said, "Let there be light,"
And the sun and moon appointed
Rulers of the day and night.
Waters were ere this divided
So that dry land could appear,
For He purposed to perfect it
And a home for man prepare.

* Gen. 1:1, 2.

** Gen. 1:3.

*** Gen. 1:9.

Ages passed twixt this "beginning,"
 And the "day" when man was formed. *

In the meantime in the waters
 Myriad other creatures swarmed. **

How diversified God's wisdom!
 And how great the love displayed
 In the works which he commanded
 When the Universe was made.

When at eve we watch the sun set
 In a sea of burnished gold,
 Tinged with colors of the rainbow—
 Is His love not therein told?

And when we see tiny sparrows
 Safely try their new-fledged wings,
 We behold God's loving kindness
 Manifest in little things.

Even as the hills and mountains
 In His balances were weighed, ***
 Ere He gave to earth its orbit,
 So the little birds were made—
 Weighed and measured with precision,
 Else not one of them could fly;
 And there'd be no lilting music
 Coming to us from the sky.

And the miracle of songbirds
 Tells of wisdom greater far
 Than it took to make the mountains,
 Since inanimate they are.

And the busy little sparrow,
 With its feathered wings of brown,
 Doth the Lord with greater glory,
 Than the mighty mountains, crown.

* Isa. 45:18.

** Gen. 1:26.

*** Isa. 40:12.

Thus in Nature's realms God's power
To conceive and to create
Is revealed in all His creatures
Whether they be small or great.
Oh, the heart of our Creator
Is of love a boundless store!
And the blessings He bestoweth
Shall abide forevermore.

HE KNOWETH THE WAY I TAKE

My Saviour knows the way I take,
How fierce the storms which o'er me break,
The stones that bruise my weary feet—
Knows every hurtful thing I meet.
He knows how enemies assail,
How hope and strength and courage fail—
The terrors of oblivion felt
While in Gethsemane he knelt.

Oh, yes he knows, nor shall forget!
Too oft his cheeks with tears were wet,
His heart by many a grief was torn
For all our sorrows he hath borne.
And since I know that Jesus knows
And shares with me in all my woes,
My heart is glad the whole day long;
For in his strength am I made strong.

And future days once dark as night
Now glow with heaven's eternal light;
For framed in every cloud I see
The Lamb of God on Calvary.
His sacrifice vouchsafes us life—
The end of sorrow, pain and strife,
And blessings on the good to be
As boundless as eternity.

O, precious Jesus, heavenly Dovel
The Sent of God his love to prove!
Upon my heart let thy face shine
Till 'tis transformed, and made like thine.

OUR FLAG, AND WHY WE SALUTE IT

Was ever the Flag of our country,
An image we worshipped before,
An idol we bowed down and prayed to,
Its favors to humbly implore?

And do those who gladly salute it
As culprits before the Lord stand,
And come under just condemnation
For breaking His second command? *

We think not, for when we salute it
In action nor word, is there aught
Which savors of worshipful homage?
Such honor we never have brought.

No one ever bowed to "Old Glory"
As heathen to wood and to stone;
But standing erect, we salute her,
And bow to Jehovah, alone.

It is never the cloth which is honored,
Its colors, nor any such thing;
But love for the spirit of freedom,
Is voiced in the songs that we sing.

The "Red, White and Blue," is a symbol
Of reverence for God; and unfurled
By hands of our Christian forefathers,
Whose faith built for us a new world.

The principles our flag embraces,
Are those Jesus gave to the world.
For this, we respect and salute her,
The grandest flag ever unfurled.

* Ex. 20:1-4.

"HIS KINGDOM SHALL NEVER END"

Oh be with us in the morning,
At the noontide, in the evening;
Let us lean upon Thee only,
Christ our Saviour, Priest and King.
Give to us of thy sweet spirit,
We would all thy fulness know,
That we may thy loving kindness
Through eternal ages show.

Tell of love past understanding,
To a people not yet born, *
Of the Cross — its shame and anguish,
For a lost world freely borne.
Never has mankind envisioned
What stupendous thing was done,
When the Father for their ransom
Gave his Son — his only Son. **

When we have perceived and measured
The immensity of space,
Then may we the blessings measure
Jesus purchased for our race.
"Of the increase of his Government ***
There shall never be an end." ****
Think you mortals can contain it,
Its full import comprehend?

But when God said unto Abram:
"Look now toward the heaven and see
If thou canst the stars there number,
(Even) so shall thy seed be," *****
If we reason well we gather
That this earth could never hold
Such a multitude of peoples,
As to Abram there was told.

Has the God of love and wisdom
And of power prepared no place

* Psa. 22:30, 31.

** John 3:16.

*** Isa. 9:6, 7; Luke 1:26-33.

**** Psal. 145:8-13; Dan. 7:13, 14.

***** Gen. 15:1-6; 22:15-18.

For that faithful friend, and servant,
 And his promised myriad race?
 Knowing that His love ne'er faileth,
 That his wisdom is untold,
 And his power all things availeth
 To prepare for them a fold.
 We believe we have His answer
 In Creation's vast expanse,
 That He formed the worlds around us,
 For a purpose, not by chance.
 If the increase† of Christ's Kingdom
 Is to be an endless one,
 Surely man will need have access
 Unto worlds beyond our own.
 From these facts and many scriptures
 We conclude the stars that be
 Were designed for habitation
 By mankind eventually;
 For since God the earth created
 For the habitat of man,
 Should we deem it strange that others
 Are included in His Plan?
 High above us in the heavens
 Countless planets wing their flight,
 Worlds King David loved to ponder,
 Shine on us each starlit night.
 Each in its own orbit moving—
 Never varying — never still—
 Silently they span the heavens
 Obedient to their Maker's will.
 Are these solar systems kindred
 To the one we occupy?
 Minerals found in fallen meteors
 Prove there is a kindred tie.
 And men have their eyes upon them;
 With inventions they now hold
 They are hoping space to conquer
 And its mysteries unfold.

† (i.e. "increase") esp. in number — "to multiply by the myriad." Strong's Hebrew Dictionary.

* Gen. 1:26; Isa. 45:18; 55:11.

In their space crafts they are planning
 To fly far beyond the moon,
And explore each virgin surface;
 It may be long — it can't be soon.
Many think their efforts sinful
 And displeasing to the Lord,
But there's no such thought recorded
 In the volume of His Word.

Rest assured no knowledge ever
 Is attained against His will.
Whatsoever man discovers
 Jesus made — and governs still. *
Progress has had opposition
 By the many from of old,
But that knowledge should be increased
 Holy Prophets long foretold. **

Few believed the Jules Verne story
 Of the "leagues beneath the sea,"
Or in "eighty days to travel
 'Round this earth," could ever be.
But today seem they not common,
 Compared with what now is known?
Step by step have men in science
 Greater things unto us shown.

- "In a beginning was the Word, and the Word was with the God, and a god was the Word. This was in a beginning with the God. All through it was done, and without it was done not even one, that has been done." John 1:1-3. Wilson's Diaglott.
 "The Lord created me as the beginning of his way, the first of his works from the commencement. From eternity was I appointed chief, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. When there were yet no depths, was I brought forth; when there were yet no springs laden heavily with water." Prov. 8:22-24. Hebrew translation.
- Col. 1:12-19; Matt. 28:18; Dan. 12:4; Nah. 2:4; Psa. 119: 89, 90, 130.

Think what miracles with Tel Star,
Then unthought of, now are done.
Solomon, we think, would call them
"Something new, under the sun."
Yet these only faintly whisper
Of the wonders we shall see
When dominion lost in Eden
To mankind restored shall be;

For if while impotent, dying,
Such inventions they afford,
Greater things shall they accomplish
When to perfect life restored.
We that look upon the Bible
As Jehovah's inspired Word,
Joy to learn that Eden's blessings
Were not lost — only deferred.

And the great increase of knowledge
To which all ears now attend,
Is, according to the scriptures,
A forerunner of "the end."
Some may ask: "And what does that mean,
What is there to have an end?"
This God's Word declares of Satan
And of all things which offend. **

Long has been earth's night of weeping,
Sorrow, sighing, and decay;
Millions dead — the living dying,
For we all soon pass away. ***
But created in God's likeness,
Man had power to think and choose,
Life however was conditional,
Therefore, possible to lose.

* Acts 3:20-21; Isa. 35; II Pet. 3:3-13; Rev. 21:1-5.

** Rom. 6:23; Psa. 145:20.

*** I Tim. 2:14.

Knowing well that death should follow,
Adam chose to disobey,
Lest the loneliness experienced,
As at first, be his away. *
Alienated from their Maker
By a partially wilful sin,
They were driven from the garden,
And "death passed upon all men." **

And from many comes the question.
"Why was I, not given chance,
As was given our first parents,
Why but one like circumstance?"
Ah! therein is God's Economy,
And his love for all revealed,
"As by one man sin had entered"
So "one man" our pardon sealed.

Just how costly our redemption
We may never realize,
But that God permitted evil
Is a blessing in disguise.
Life had much less joy afforded
If as babes we'd never known
Virtue, and the satisfaction
In a worthy deed well done;

Nor could we in truth have loved Him,
While unable to discern,
And to choose twixt good and evil.
So God waits that we may learn
Of the sighing and the dying
In the paths which lead astray, ***
And then of our own volition
Hold to righteousness away.

* Gen. 2:18, 20.

** Rom. 5:12-21.

*** Prov. 13:13-15.

As we meditate upon Him
And his wondrous works and ways,
That we're privileged to know Him,
Is to his eternal praise.
If we share our children's sorrows,
When their hearts are troubled sore,
Surely then the Father suffered
When his Son our sorrows bore.

Ours is but a dim reflection
Of His sympathetic heart,
And the depths of his compassion,
We can only share in part.
Surely His heart bore the nail prints,
And the spear which pierced the side
Of the One he loved most dearly,
When our Lord was crucified.

And when blind eyes all are opened,
And mankind looks back they'll see
Love beyond their power to measure,
Manifest on Calvary.
And the soul that then denies Him—
And the blood which bought it spurns— *
Death—the second death—shall smite it, **
From whose bourn no one returns. ***

Nevermore shall Jesus suffer *****
For the sins of fallen men;
For his blood so freely poured out,
Was not shed for wilful sin.
It was not as in rebellion
Our first parents disobeyed;
Under strain, and gross deception,
Was their fatal mistake made.

* Acts 3:20-23.

** Rev. 21:8.

*** Heb. 10:28, 29.

**** Rom. 6:9, 10.

For such sins the Saviour suffered
Death upon the cursed tree,
That the blind eyes might be opened,
And the curse should lifted be.
Thus we see God's ways are equal—
Does not justice underlie
Every law to Moses given
On the mount of Sinai?

*

Oh! if men would seek His counsel,
Try to understand His Word,
It would solve for them life's mysteries
And would glorify the Lord.
They would find that God's objective
In permitting Satan's reign,
Is that man might by the conflict
Greater mental heights attain.

Learning this life does not end all,
But that they shall live again
In a glorious tomorrow,
Free from sorrow, toil and pain,
The good will join the mighty chorus
And with all the ransomed sing.

"Where, O grave, is now thy victory?
Where, O death, is now thy sting?"

**

Oh! the glory and the rapture
With which they shall crown His throne,
When the night of death is ended,
And the Lord brings back his own!
With life's crystal waters flowing,
In which all may freely share;
Earth shall be as fair as Eden,
Ere the tempter entered there.

* Lev. 24:17, 18, 22; Psa. 19:2; Ezek. 18:32.

** I Tim. 2:3-6; I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:15-21.

*** Rev. 22:1-6, 14, 17.

No more sorrow, no more sighing,
 Nevermore a sad farewell;
Joy shall fill each glad tomorrow,
 For the Lord with men shall dwell.
Oh! how glorious the future,
 Which by faith we now behold,
When there'll be one gentle Shepherd
 And one peaceful, happy fold! *

And we long for that blest morning,
 When we'll see our Saviour's face!
Greet once more our long lost loved ones—
 Miracle of boundless grace!
Help us then, Almighty Saviour,
 For thy kingdom to prepare,
That we may by thy good pleasure
 In its glorious blessings share!

* Isa. 35:10; I Tim. 2:3-6.