

VARIOUS

AULD LANG
SYNE

Various
Auld Lang Syne

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Auld Lang Syne Selections from the Papers of the «Pen and Pencil Club»:*

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CRADLE

The human heart is cradle of deep love,
Which growing and expanding from its birth,
Ever finds space within that living cot;
Howe'er remotely o'er this beauteous earth
Its subtle influences may joy impart,
Whilst nestling in the human heart.

The human mind is cradle of high thought,
Ever aspiring to extend its sphere,
To penetrate those mysteries of life
Philosophy has fail'd to render clear.
Howe'er expansive, thought will ever find
Its cradle in the human mind.

The human soul is cradle of deep faith,
Of aspirations, and of purpose strong,

To kindle into life the seeds of truth —
Eradicate the germs of vice and wrong.
Howe'er these seeds develop and increase,
Within man's soul they'll find their place.

Three living cradles in one living form,
Expanding ever from their early birth;
High thought and sweet affection in ye dwell,
And Faith which hallows all things on this earth.
Each human being in himself may find
Three living cradles – soul, heart, mind.

THE SOUND OF BELLS

O HAPPY bells that thrill the air
Of tranquil English summer-eves,
When stirless hang the aspen leaves,
And Silence listens everywhere.

And sinks and swells the tender chime,
Sad, as regret for buried fears,
Sweet, as repentant yearning tears —
The fit voice of the holy time.

O wond'rous voice! O mystic sound!
We listen, and our thoughts aspire
Like spiritual flame, from fire
That idly smoulders on the ground.

Forgotten longings have new birth
For better, purer, nobler life,
Lifted above the noisy strife
That drowns the music of this earth.

And human sorrow seems to be
A link unto diviner things,
The budding of the spirit's wings
That only thus can soar – and see.

The twilight fades – the sweet bells cease,
The common world's come back again,
But for a little space, its pain
And weariness are steep'd in peace.

MIRROR

I SEE myself reflected in thine eyes,
The dainty mirrors set in golden frame
Of eyelash, quiver with a sweet surprise,
And most ingenuous shame.

Like Eve, who hid her from the dread command
Deep in the dewy blooms of paradise;
So thy shy soul, love calling, fears to stand
Discover'd at thine eyes.

Or, like a tender little fawn, which lies
Asleep amid the fern, and waking, hears
Some careless footstep drawing near, and flies,
Yet knows not what she fears.

So shrinks thy soul, but, dearest, shrink not so;
Look thou into mine eyes as I in thine,
So our reflected souls shall meet and grow,
And each with each combine

In something nobler; as when one has laid
Opposite mirrors on a cottage wall;
And lo! the never-ending colonnade,
The vast palatial hall.

So our twin souls, by one sweet suicide,
Shall fade into an essence more sublime;
Living through death, and dying glorified,
 Beyond the reach of time.

SHADOWS

Shadow gives to sunshine brightness,
And it gives to joy its lightness;
Shadow gives to honour meekness,
And imparts its strength to weakness;
Shadow deepens human kindness,
Draws the veil from mental blindness;
Shadow sweetens love's own sweetness,
And gives to life its deep intenseness;
Shadow is earth's sacredness,
And the heaven's loveliness;
Shadow is day's tenderness,
And the night's calm holiness;
Shadow's deepest night of darkness
Will break in day's eternal brightness.

SHADOWS

In the band of noble workers,
Seems no place for such as I —
They have faith, where I have yearning,
They can speak where I but sigh,
They can point the way distinctly
Where for me the shadows lie.

Lofty purpose, strong endeavour,
These are not ordain'd for me —
Wayside flower might strive for ever,
Never could it grow a tree —
Yet a child may laugh to gather,
Or a sick man smile to see.

So I too in God's creation
Have my own peculiar part,
He must have some purpose surely
For weak hand and timid heart,
Transient joys for my diffusing,
For my healing transient smart.

Just to fling a moment's brightness
Over dreary down-trod ways,
Just to fan a better impulse

By a full and ready praise —
Pitying where I may not succour,
Loving where I cannot raise.

ORGAN-BOYS.

A LEGEND OF LONDON.

By Thomas Ingoldsby, Minor

In days – not old – a Demon lived,
And a terrible Fiend was he,
For he ground and he ground
All London around,
A huge barrel-organ of hideous sound,
Incessantly!
From morning's light
Till the deep midnight,
In all sorts of streets and all sorts of squares.
Up the *cul-de-sacs*– down the thoroughfares,
Where Thames rolls his waters from Greenwich to Kew,
Not a lane could you find that he didn't go through.
You heard him at all times when most unaware,
In quiet back-parlours up five flights of stair;
When you ate, when you drank, when you read morning
prayer,
Or sat dozing awhile in an easy armchair,
Or read a new novel – or talk'd to a friend,
Or endeavour'd to settle accounts without end,
Or when grief (or champagne), caused an ache in your head,
Or you promised yourself to lie latish in bed,

It was all the same
That Demon came,
Grind! grind!
Peace there was none,
Under the sun;
That odious organ never had done.
Sick, sad, or sorry,
No end to the worry.
No sort of grief
Brought the slightest relief;
You might send out to say you were dying or dead,
The organ ground on as if nothing were said!
Grind! grind!
Till you lost your mind.
No use to scold, or draw down the blind,
The fiend only ground more loud and more fast,
Till you *had* to give him a shilling at last.
So that having tormented you madly that day,
He would surely next morning come round the same way,
And grind and grind – till in frenzy of pain,
You should bribe him once more – just to come back again!

Know ye, my friends, who this Fiend may be?
Here is the key to the mystery —
It is Tubal Cain! who – the Bible says —
Invented organs in very old days,
And for that dread crime, so atrocious and black,
Was sentenced thenceforth to bear one on his back,
A heavier fate (as was justly his due),

Than befell his Papa when poor Abel he slew:
For Cain, killing *one* man, was let off quite cheap —
Tubal murdered us *all*— at least “murder’d our sleep.”

THE ORGAN-BOY

Great brown eyes,
Thick plumes of hair,
Old corduroys
The worse for wear.
A button'd jacket,
And peeping out
An ape's grave poll,
Or a guinea-pig's snout.
A sun-kiss'd face
And a dimpled mouth,
With the white flashing teeth,
And soft smile of the south.
A young back bent,
Not with age or care,
But the load of poor music
'Tis fated to bear.
But a common-place picture
To common-place eyes,
Yet full of a charm
Which the thinker will prize.
They were stern, cold rulers,
Those Romans of old,
Scorning art and letters
For conquest and gold;

Yet leavening mankind,
In mind and tongue,
With the laws that they made
And the songs that they sung.
Sitting, rose-crown'd,
With pleasure-choked breath,
As the nude young limbs crimson'd,
Then stiffen'd in death.
Piling up monuments
Greater than praise,
Thoughts and deeds that shall live
To the latest of days.
Adding province to province,
And sea to sea,
Till the idol fell down
And the world rose up free.

And this is the outcome,
This vagabond child
With that statue-like face
And eyes soft and mild;
This creature so humble,
So gay, yet so meek,
Whose sole strength is only
The strength of the weak.
Of those long cruel ages
Of lust and of guile,
Nought left us to-day
But an innocent smile.

For the labour'd appeal
Of the orator's art,
A few foolish accents
That reach to the heart.
For those stern legions speeding
O'er sea and o'er land,
But a pitiful glance
And a suppliant hand.
I could moralize still
But the organ begins,
And the tired ape swings downward,
And capers and grins,
And away flies romance.
And yet, time after time,
As I dwell on days spent
In a sunnier clime,
Of blue lakes deep set
In the olive-clad mountains,
Of gleaming white palaces
Girt with cool fountains,
Of minsters where every
Carved stone is a treasure,
Of sweet music hovering
'Twixt pain and 'twixt pleasure;
Of chambers enrich'd
On all sides, overhead,
With the deathless creations
Of hands that are dead;
Of still cloisters holy,

And twilight arcade,
Where the lovers still saunter
Thro' chequers of shade;
Of tomb and of temple,
Arena and column,
'Mid to-day's garish splendours,
Sombre and solemn;
Of the marvellous town
With the salt-flowing street,
Where colour burns deepest,
And music most sweet;
Of her the great mother,
Who centuries sate
'Neath a black shadow blotting
The days she was great;
Who was plunged in such shame —
She, our source and our home —
That a foul spectre only
Was left us of Rome;
She who, seeming to sleep
Through all ages to be,
Was the priest's, is mankind's, —
Was a slave, and is free!

I turn with grave thought
To this child of the ages,
And to all that is writ
In Time's hidden pages.
Shall young Howards or Guelphs,

In the days that shall come,
Wander forth, seeking bread,
Far from England and home?

Shall they sail to new continents,
English no more,
Or turn – strange reverse —
To the old classic shore?
Shall fair locks and blue eyes,
And the rose on the cheek,
Find a language of pity
The tongue cannot speak —
“Not English, but angels?”
Shall this tale be told
Of Romans to be
As of Romans of old?
Shall they too have monkeys
And music? Will any
Try their luck with an engine
Or toy spinning-jenny?

Shall we too be led
By that mirage of Art
Which saps the true strength
Of the national heart?
The sensuous glamour,
The dreamland of grace,
Which rot the strong manhood
They fail to replace;

Which at once are the glory,
The ruin, the shame,
Of the beautiful lands
And ripe souls whence they came?

Oh, my England! oh, Mother
Of Freemen! oh, sweet,
Sad toiler majestic,
With labour-worn feet!
Brave worker, girt round,
Inexpugnable, free,
With tumultuous sound
And salt spume of the sea,
Fenced off from the clamour
Of alien mankind
By the surf on the rock,
And the shriek of the wind,
Tho' the hot Gaul shall envy,
The cold German flout thee,
Thy far children scorn thee,
Still thou shalt be great,
Still march on uncaring,
Thy perils unsharing,
Alone, and yet daring
Thy infinite fate.
Yet ever remembering
The precepts of gold
That were written in part
For the great ones of old —

“Let other hands fashion
The marvels of art;
To thee fate has given
A loftier part,
To rule the wide peoples,
To bind them to thee.”
By the sole bond of loving,
That bindeth the free,
To hold thy own place,
Neither lawless nor slave;
Not driven by the despot,
Nor trick’d by the knave.

But these thoughts are too solemn.
So play, my child, play,
Never heeding the connoisseur
Over the way,
The last dances of course;
Then with scant pause between,
“Home, sweet Home,” the “Old Hundredth,”
And “God Save the Queen.”
See the poor children swarm
From dark court and dull street,
As the gay music quickens
The lightsome young feet.

See them now whirl away,
Now insidiously come,
With a coy grace which conquers

The squalor of home.
See the pallid cheeks flushing
With innocent pleasure
At the hurry and haste
Of the quick-footed measure.
See the dull eyes now bright,
And now happily dim,
For some soft-dying cadence
Of love-song or hymn.
Dear souls, little joy
Of their young lives have they,
So thro' hymn-tune and song-tune
Play on, my child, play.

For though dull pedants chatter
Of musical taste,
Talk of hindered researches
And hours run to waste;
Though they tell us of thoughts
To ennoble mankind,
Which your poor measures chase
From the labouring mind;
While your music rejoices
One joyless young heart,
Perish bookworms and books,
Perish learning and art —
Of my vagabond fancies
I'll even take my fill.
“Qualche cosa, signor?”

Yes, my child, that I will.

STUMBLING-BLOCKS

Think when you blame the present age, my friends,
This age has one redeeming point – it *mends*.
With many monstrous ills we're forced to cope;
But we have life and movement, we have hope.
Oh! this is much! Thrice pitiable they
Whose lot is cast in ages of decay,
Who watch a waning light, an ebbing tide,
Decline of energy and fall of pride,
Old glories disappearing unreplaced,
Receding culture and encroaching waste,
Art grown pedantic, manners waxing coarse,
The good thing still succeeded by the worse.
We see not what those latest Romans saw,
When o'er Italian cities, Latin law,
Greek beauty, swept the barbarizing tide,
And all fair things in slow succession died.
'Tis much that such defeat and blank despair,
Whate'er our trials, 'tis not ours to bear,
Much that the mass of foul abuse grows less,
Much that the injured have sometimes redress,
Wealth grows less haughty, misery less resigned,
That policy grows just, religion kind,
That all worst things towards some better tend,
And long endurance nears at last its end;

The ponderous cloud grows thin and pierced with bright,
And its wild edge is fused in blinding light.

Yet disappointment still with hope appears,
And with desires that strengthen, strengthen fears,
'Tis the swift-sailing ship that dreads the rocks,
The active foot must 'ware of stumbling-blocks.
Alas! along the way towards social good,
How many stones of dire offence lie strew'd.
Whence frequent failure, many shrewd mishaps
And dismal pause or helpless backward lapse.
Such was the hard reverse that Milton mourn'd,
An old man, when he saw the King returned
With right divine, and that fantastic train
Of banished fopperies come back again.
Thus France, too wildly clutching happiness.
Stumbled perplexed, and paid in long distress,
In carnage, where the bloody conduit runs,
And one whole generation of her sons
Devoted to the Power of Fratricide
For one great year, one eager onward stride.

From all these stumbling-blocks that strew the way
What wisest cautions may ensure us, say.
Cling to the present good with steadfast grip,
And for no fancied better let it slip,
Whether thy fancy in the future live
Or yearn to make the buried past revive.
The past is dead, – let the dead have his dues,
Remembrance of historian and of Muse;
But try no lawless magic on the urn,

It shocks to see the brightest past return.
Some good things linger when their date is fled,
These honour as you do the hoary head,
And treat them tenderly for what they were,
But dream not to detain them always there.
The living good the present moments bring
To this devote thyself and chiefly cling;
And for the novel schemes that round thee rise,
Watch them with hopeful and indulgent eyes,
Treat them as children, love them, mark their ways,
And blame their faults and dole out cautious praise,
And give them space, yet limit them with rule,
And hold them down and keep them long at school:
Yet know in these is life most fresh and strong,
And that to these at last shall all belong.

Be proved and present good thy safe-guard still,
And thy one quarrel be with present ill.
Learn by degrees a steady onward stride
With sleepless circumspection for thy guide.
And since so thick the stumbling-blocks are placed,
You are not safe but in renouncing haste;
Permit not so your zeal to be repressed,
But make the loss up by renouncing rest.

WITCHCRAFT

I SPOSE 'tis I – and yet, so strange
I feel, I doubt if I'm all right.
Only since Tuesday last this change,
And this is Friday night.

On Monday, life was very drear,
My missus was *so* cross,
'Cos how I'd spilt a jug of beer —
She, who calls money dross.

She thinks herself a very saint,
'Cos she reads prayers to us;
But Sal the cook, and I, we ain't
Imposed on by her fuss.

'Tis not the prayers I think is bad,
But those who are so good
Should act as if they feelings had
Towards we – who are flesh and blood.

But *now* if missus 'gins to scold
I do not care a straw,
For Tom, on Tuesday morning, told
Me not to mind her jaw.

I now can dance, and laugh, and sing,
Altho' I work all day.
Surely it is a funny thing,
I'm all at once so gay.

All 'cos Tom's in love with me,
And I'm sure he says what's true.
He says love's a mystery
Which in Eden's garden grew.

I call love witchcraft, that I do;
It's made me quite another;
Instead of being Mary Roe,
I may be any other.

Missus thinks I'm going mad,
I work with such good glee;
'Tis only that my heart is glad
'Cos Tom's in love with me.

I wish some man would missus love;
She might be kinder then.
She says her 'fections are above,
'Cos sinful are all men.

If she but had the chance, I b'lieve,
She'd 'cept the first with glee,
And would not any longer grieve

O'er man's depravity.

She'd be as different as I —
Oh, laws! what fun 'twould be;
For missus is a very guy,
'Twixt you and Tom and me.

P'rhaps love would make her young once more,
And change her temper too,
For certain, love has witchcraft's power,
All things he likes, to do.

Tom says *so*, and *so* 'tis true,
Tom never tells a lie;
And what Tom bids I'll always do,
Until at last I die.

CHIVALRY

Chivalry, ho yes, I have heerd of such a thing, but I don't mind owning – not allus having a Tomson's Dixonary aside o' me – as I never rightly unnerstood the full meanin' o' the word until this very day, when the subjick was suggested and my opinion arxed, which, why should I deny, I *had* supposed it strictly limited to the man in Brass ninth o' November Lord Mayor's Show, as they says it is to be abolished in future times, and a great loss I'm sure to the rising generation, though apt to be mostly all mud and squeegeing and more pains than profit to grownups, and likewise in Christmas pantomines and bur-lesks at theayters I have seen Alls of Chivalry most georgius to beeold with young ladies in uncountless troops coming out o' shells and flowers and bells and stars as made the rime of infancy seem quite reesnable, though why slugs and snails only for the other sect is more than I can explain, and I don't blush to own free and frank as I believed the time for it in reel life was past and gone these ages, though efforts made many a year back at the Eglintown Turnamout rung through the country, and well I remember seeing picters of queens o' beauty and gentlemen done up in harmer and a hossback as looked when once they was hup it was more than they could do to save their lives to get down again without most competent assistance, and far from comfortable or easy I should say them mettal dresses was, as it stands to reesin, man being of

a active character, was never intended by nature to go about with a shell outside of him like snails, which is both slow and useless, *I* should say, unless making your palings slimy and nibbling at your cabbage sprouts is useful acts, which much I doubt, though how I've got from Chivalry to snails is most surprizing, only the workings of the huming mind *is* so surprizing as no one never need be surpriged at nothing of the sort, – where was I, ho at harmer which, if you arx my opinion, I do consider such a ill-conwenience as there ought to be a deal to make up for it, and if you can't have Chivalry without harmer I must say I think we're better as we are, fur what with crinnerlin the world's ardlly big enough as it is, and if these coats of male was to come in, made of steel likewise, you couldn't walk in London, excep in Portland Place, praps, and in quiet distrix like Islington and Upper Baker Street, while as for omnibuses, my belief is they're only kep going as it is by the lightness and tightness of manly figgers and costoom, and if *they* took to harmer there'd be an end of twelve inside, much less of thirteen out, and pit seats would have to be enlarged, as also pews in church, and especially pulpits, likewise the Houses of Parliament and the Corts of Lor, and everythink would be deranged together fur no particklar good that I can see, but Mrs. Jones she ses it's not the harmer, it's not the outside man as needs a haltering in this year age of ourn, it's not the costoom she ses, it's the manners, she ses, which in ancient times was so much superior to any think we know on in the presint day, she ses, fur in them distant days there was galliant knights which

wore a scarve or a ribbing of the lady as they preferred, and went about the world with long spears a defying all the other knights to say as that there lady of theirs wasn't the most beautifulest of all living ladies, and fight they would with them spears, and sometimes got ard nox too, in spite of their harmer, but got up again a hossback mostly, and went off to other parts a doing the same thing, which, if that's chivalry, why I arx you what on erth is the good of such goings on as that, but ho Mrs. Jones ses, that's not all, she ses, and torx at me fur hours on end, she does, a trying to show me what a deal more obliginger and politer was the manners of them there knights to the manners of these year days, and how they was always a helping of the helpless, and a succouring the distressed, and how they thought it a honner and no trouble to put theirselves to all sorts of inconvenience to oblige one of our sect which, especially the unprotected female, was their joy and pride, never you mind how many bangboxes she might have, nor how pouring of rain, outside of the omnibuses of the period them knights would go immediate, and only count it a ordinary part of what they called their devour to the fare, which I will own I *have* met with quite contrairy condick from well drest pussons, as doubtless calls theirselves gentlemen, and after standing hours, I may say, in Regint Circus or corner of Tottenham Court Road, have been pushed from getting of my place inside by the very harms that in other times Mrs. Jones ses would have been lifted to my haid, but lor! I ses to her, though this may appen occasional, I ses, what can you expeck in London

in the midst of millions of snobs as thinks only of themselves, and has never learned any better, poor deers, which I'm sorry fur 'em, fur sure I am as the feelins is much more comfortabler of a reel and right down *gentle* man, which the word explains itself, don't it, and we don't want no knights in harmer while there's men left, and proud I am to say I know a many such, and have met with kindness from a many more as I don't know the names on, which if they'd had harmer on twice over couldn't be more ready to lend their strength to the weak, and their elp to the elpless, and chivalry can't mean no more than that, so let alone the harmer, we can't have too much of it, *I* ses, and Mrs. Jones she ses so too, and we ses it not as wimming only but as humane beings as likes to see their feller creeturs a growing in good arts and appiness, not forgetting as wimming likewise has *our* duties, which is seldom done as well as one could wish, and so has no manner of rite to preech, which much I fear I've been a running on most unconscionable, and took up a deal too much of your time, but umbly arx your parding and won't intrude no further.

CHILDHOOD'S CASTLES IN THE AIR

Gently, no pushing; there's room to sit
All three without grumbling,
One in front, two behind, well you fit,
And mamma to hold you from tumbling.
Rock, rock, old rocking chair,
You'll last us a long time with care,
And still without balking
Of us four any one,
From rocking and talking —
That is what we call fun.

Curtains drawn, and no candles lit,
Great red caves in the fire,
This is the time for us four to sit
Rocking and talking all till we tire.
Rock, rock, old rocking chair,
How the fire-light glows up there,
Red on the white ceiling;
The shadows every one
Might be giants, reeling
On their great heads, for fun.

Shall we call this a boat out at sea,

We, four sailors rowing?
Can you fancy it well? As for me
I feel the salt wind blowing.
Up, up and down, lazy boat,
On the top of a wave we float,
Down we go with a rush;
Far off I see a strand
Glimmer; our boat we'll push
Ashore on Fairy-land.

The fairy people come running
To meet us down on the sand,
Each holding out toward us the very thing
We've long wished for, held in his hand.
Up, up again; one wave more
Holds us back from the fairy shore;
Let's pull all together,
Then with it, up we'll climb,
To the always fine weather
That makes up fairy time.

Come to us through the dark, children,
Hark! the fairy people call,
But a step between us and you, children,
And in Fairy-land room for us all.
Climb the main and you will be
Landed safe in gay Fairie,
Sporting, feasting, both night and noon,
No pause in fairy pleasures;

Silver ships that sail to the moon,
Magic toys for treasures.

Ah! the tide sweeps us out of our track,
The glimmer dies in the fire,
There's no climbing the wave that holds back
Just the things that we all most desire!
Never mind, rock, rocking-chair;
While there's room for us four there,
To sit by fire-light swinging,
Till some one open the door,
Birds in their own nest singing
Ain't happier than we four.

AUTUMN LEAVES

I

Who cares to think of autumn leaves in spring?

When the birds sing,

And buds are new, and every tree is seen

Veil'd in a mist of tender gradual green;

And every bole and bough

Makes ready for the soft low-brooding wings

Of nested ones to settle there and prove

How sweet is love;

Alas, who then will notice or avow

Such bygone things?

II

For, hath not spring the promise of the year?

Is she not always dear

To those who can look forward and forget?

Her woods do nurse the violet;

With cowslips fair her fragrant fields are set;

And freckled butterflies
Gleam in her gleaming skies;
And life looks larger, as each lengthening day
Withdraws the shadow, and drinks up the tear:
Youth shall be youth for ever; and the gay
High-hearted summer with her pomps is near.

III

Yes; but the soul that meditates and grieves,
And guards a precious past,
And feels that neither joy nor loveliness can last —
To her, the fervid flutter of our Spring
Is like the warmth of that barbarian hall
To the scared bird, whose wet and wearied wing
Shot through it once, and came not back at all.
Poor shrunken soul! she knows her fate too well;
Too surely she can tell
That each most delicate toy her fancy made,
And she herself, and what she prized and knew,
And all her loved ones too,
Shall soon lie low, forgotten and decay'd,
Like autumn leaves.

SILENCE. (OF A DEAF PERSON.)

I SEE the small birds fluttering on the trees,
And *know* the sweet notes they are softly singing;
I see the green leaves trembling in the breeze,
And *know* the rustling that such breeze is bringing;
I see the waters rippling as they flow,
And *know* the soothing murmur of their noise;
I see the children in the fire-light's glow,
Laughing and playing with their varied toys;
I see the signs of merriment and mirth;
I see the music of God's lovely earth;
I see the earnest talk of friend with friend,
And wish my earnest thoughts with theirs could blend;
But oh! to my deaf ears there comes no sound,
I live a life of silence most profound.

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

Dear heart! what a little time it is, since Francis and I used to walk

From church in the still June evenings together, busy with loving talk;

And now he is gone far away over seas, to some strange foreign country, – and I

Shall never rise from my bed any more, till the day when I come to die.

I tried not to think of him during the prayers; but when his dear voice I heard

I fail'd to take part in the hymns, for my heart flutter'd up to my throat like a bird;

And scarcely a word of the sermon I caught. I doubt 'twas a grievous sin;

But 'twas only one poor little hour in the week that I had to be happy in.

When the blessing was given, and we left the dim aisles for the light of the evening star,

Though I durst not lift up my eyes from the ground, yet I knew that he was not far;

And I hurried on, though I fain would have stayed, till I heard his footstep draw near,

And love rising up in my breast like a flame, cast out every shadow of fear.

Ah me! 'twas a pleasant pathway home, a pleasant pathway and sweet,

Ankle deep through the purple clover, breast high 'mid the blossoming wheat:

I can hear the landrails call through the dew, and the night-jars' tremulous thrill,

And the nightingale pouring her passionate song from the hawthorn under the hill.

One day, when we came to the wicket gate, 'neath the elms, where we used to part,

His voice began to falter and break as he told me I had his heart;

And I whisper'd that mine was his; we knew what we felt long ago:

Six weeks are as long as a lifetime almost when you love each other so.

So we put up the banns, and were man and wife in the sweet fading time of the year,

And till Christmas was over and past I knew neither sorrow nor fear.

It seems like a dream already, a sweet dream vanished and gone;

So hurried and brief while passing away, so long to look back upon.

I had only had him three months, and the world lay frozen
and dead,

When the summons came which we feared and hoped, and
he sail'd over sea for our bread.

Ah well! it is fine to be wealthy and grand, and never to need
to part;

But 'tis better to love and be poor, than be rich with an empty
heart.

Though I thought 'twould have kill'd me to lose him at first,
yet was he not going for me?

So I hid all the grief in my breast which I knew it would pain
him to see.

He'd be back by the autumn, he said; and since his last
passionate kiss

He has scarcely been out of my thoughts, day or night, for a
moment, from that day to this.

When I wrote to him how I thought it would be, and he
answered so full of love;

Ah! there was no angel happier than I, in all the bright chorus
above;

And I seem'd to be lonely no longer, the days slipp'd so swiftly
away;

And the March winds died, and the sweet April showers gave
place to the blossoms of May.

And then came the sad summer eve, when I sat with the little

frock in the sun,
And Annie ran in with the news of the ship. Ah, well! may
His will be done!
They said that all hands were lost, and I swoon'd away like
a stone,
And another life came ere I knew he was safe, and that mine
was over and gone.

So now I lie helpless here, and shall never rise up again,
I grow weaker and weaker, day by day, till my weakness itself
is a pain.
Every morning the creeping dawn, every evening I see from
my bed
The orange-gold fade into lifeless grey, and the old evening
star overhead.

Sometimes in the twilight dim, or the awful birth of the day,
As I lie, not asleep nor awake, my soul seems to flutter away,
And I seem to be floating beyond the stars, till I thrill with
an exquisite pain,
And the feeble touch of a tiny hand recalls me to life again.

And the doctor says she will live. Ah! 'tis hard to leave her
alone,
And to think she will never know in the world the love of the
mother who's gone!
He will tell her of me, by and by, – she will shed me a childish
tear;
But if I should stoop to her bed in the night, she would start

with a horrible fear.

She will grow into girlhood, I trust, and will bask in the light of love,

And I, if I see her at all, shall only look on from above —
I shall see her, and cannot help, though she fall into evil and woe.

Ah! how can the angels find heart to rejoice when they think of their loved ones below?

And Francis, he too, will forget me, and will go on the journey of life,

And I hope, though I dare not think of it yet, will take him another wife.

It will scarcely be Annie, I think, though she liked him in days gone by;

Was that why she came? – but what thoughts are these for one who is going to die?

I hope he will come ere I go, though I feel no longer the thirst
For the sound of his voice, and the light of his eye, that I used
to feel at first:

'Tis not that I love him less, but death dries, like a whirlwind
of fire,

The tender springs of innocent love, and the torrents of strong
desire.

And I know we shall meet again. I have done many things
that are wrong,

But, surely, the Lord of Life and of Love, cannot bear to be angry long.

I am only a girl of eighteen, and have had no teacher but love;
And, it may be, the sorrow and pain I have known will be counted for me, above;

For I doubt if the minister knows all the depths of the goodness of God,

When he says He is jealous of earthly love, and bids me bow down 'neath the rod.

He is learnèd and wise, I know, but, somehow, to dying eyes God opens the secret doors of the shrine that are closed to the learnèd and wise.

So now I am ready to go, for I know He will do what is best, Though he call me away while the sun is on high, like a child sent early to rest.

I should like to see Francis look on our child, though the longing is over and past —

But what is that footstep upon the stair? Oh! my darling — at last! at last!

ECHOES

On Thursday I sat in the choir of Canterbury Cathedral and watched the Bishops, Deans, Canons, and other clergy as they walked up in procession, leading the new Archbishop. The Archbishop seemed, I thought, to look with sheepish glances at two young men in full ball-room dress, who walked behind, holding up his long train; and I am satisfied that nothing but the proprieties of the place prevented his Grace from kicking them both, and carrying his tail in his own hands. The clergy, in their white gowns, with their various University colours, presented a rather pleasant appearance in the aggregate, and, with the environment of the old Cathedral arches, I thought they must have appeared to the best advantage. But while I gazed upon the old Archbishop and those who were doing him homage, the first notes of a distant chant broke faintly through the air. The choristers had just entered the western door far away, and as they slowly moved at the end of the long procession, they uttered a sweet old Gregorian chant. At first, as I listened, I thought how very sweet it was; then I thought it was in danger of becoming monotonous; nevertheless, the little cherubs had not consulted me about the length of it, and so continued their chant. But then the old music began to strike me with subtle effects, like the strain of some long sound-seasoned Cremona violin. And at length it began to work some strange spell upon

me, and weave for my ear echoes caught up as it were from the dead past which before had seemed sleeping in its many tombs around. The echoes of wild pagan song, uttered with the tramp of mystic dances, gathering at last to the dying groan of some poor wretch perishing on a rude altar that a complacent smile may be won to the face of his god. The echo of the voice of a monk who finds that altar, and raises the crucifix above it. His voice blends with the outcry of the people for their old gods, and the loud command of the baptized King. What wild echoes are these hiding under that outburst of young voices? The echoes of a thousand savage martyrs who will not bow down to the Pope. Their protest is stifled with their blood; they pass to Valhalla for whose All-Father they have died; and the howling tempest marks his passage over the scene. Echoes again; the sounds of war. Hark! a tumult – words of anger – a hoarse cry – an Archbishop's last sigh as his life ebbs away on the floor – there on the spot near the choir's gate, where Archbishop Tait now gazes as if he could see the stark form of à-Becket lying there. Yes, plainly I heard that groan in the Gregorian chant. Then there were the echoes of stripes. A King in the dark crypt, beneath the shrine of the murdered Archbishop, now canonized, is being scourged in penance for his sins. Blended with these, the echoes of the voices of the great prelates and princes of many kingdoms, who have come to build a shrine for the martyr: their exclamations before the shrine decked with all the gleaming gems owned by the monarchs of Europe. One of them, Louis of

France, has refused to offer a diamond, the finest in the world, but when the shrine is uncovered, the stone leaps from his ring and sets itself in the centre of the brilliants. The people shout, nay, weep with excitement at this miracle. All these I heard again in the chant. Then came pathetic echoes out of many ages: the tones of mourners as they followed here their honoured dead; the prayers of souls here aspiring towards the mysteries of existence; voices of hearts that found peace; the sobs of those who found it not; the low-toned benediction or exhortation of confessors. The voices of priests from pulpits, and of those who responded. All are hushed in death; but I heard their awakened echoes. The echoes of tolling bells, of marriage chimes. The tones of marriage vows. The startled cry of the infant wondering at the holy water sprinkled upon it. The echoes of Chaucer's merry or sad pilgrims with their gracious or wanton stories, beguiling their way to the old inn near Christ Church Gate, which one seeks now only to find it has been burnt down. The echoes of their prayers for health at St. Dunstan's or St. Thomas's Shrine, and that other shrine where the stones are worn deepest with the knees of pilgrims, but whose saint is unknown. All these echoes were awakened for my ear by the sweet chant of the boys in Canterbury Cathedral; and unreal as they were, I confess they still seem to me more real than the actual prayers for the confusion of Dr. Tait's imaginary enemies, or the ceremony of his enthronement. To sit upon fourteen centuries and see a London gentleman in a coat so much too large for him that his friends have to hold up its skirts

for him, and to see plethoric Englishmen, suggestive of sirloins, on their knees praying that the snares set for their feet shall be broken, – produced in me feelings, to say the least, of a mixed character; such as those which may have been experienced by the landlady in the Strand, when she found that her lodger Mr. Taylor (the Platonist) had sacrificed a bull to Jupiter in her back parlour. There is something not undignified in an old Greek sacrificing a heifer, laurel-crowned, to Zeus; and there is something not unimpressive in old missionaries of the Cross struggling with pagan foes, and symbolizing their faith in their vesture and in their candles which lit up the caves to which they often had to fly. But to the crowd that went down between business and business, to see so long as a return-ticket permitted this effigy of a real past, there must have been more absurdity than impressiveness in it. From the whole pageant I recall with pleasure only the long sweet chant, – a theme ensouled by genius and piety, – which, between the doorway and the altar, filled the old Cathedral and made it a vast organ, with historic tones breathing the echoes of millions of heaven-seeking pilgrims whose prayers and hymns began at that spot before the advent of Christianity, and may perhaps remain there after it has passed away.

EXPEDIENCY

Thus to his scholars once Confucius said:
Better to die than not be rich: get wealth.
He who has nothing, trust me, nothing is;
Nay, tenfold worse than nothing. Not to be
Is neither good nor bad; but to be poor! —
'Tis to be nothing with an envious wish,
A zero conscious of nonentity.
To get wealth, and to keep it – this is all,
And the one rule of life, expediency.

This was the lesson that the master taught,
And then he gave some rules for getting wealth:
Happy, who once can say, I have a thing.
All things are given us, all things to be had,
Except, alas! the faculty of having.
If you are sated with one dish of fruit,
Why, no more fruit have you, to call it having,
Though a whole Autumn lay in heaps about you.

How to *have*, this, my scholars, would I teach.
Yet who can teach it? it is great and hard.
This one thing dare I say. Be not deceived,
Nor dream that those called rich *have* anything;
Who think that what the pocket treasures up,
And jealous foldings of the robe, is theirs;
Theirs all the plate the burglar cannot reach,

Theirs all the land they warn the traveller off:
Fools! Because we are poorer, are they rich?
What is none other's, is it therefore theirs?

Endeavour, O my scholars, to be rich,
Scheme to get riches when you wake from sleep,
All day pursue them, pray for them at night.

As when one leans long time upon his hand,
Then, moving it, finds all its strength is gone
And it can now grasp nothing, so the soul
Loses in listlessness the grasping power,
And in the midst of wealth, *has* nothing still.

I know not, O my scholars, how to bring
The tingling blood through the soul's palsied limbs,
But when 'tis done how rich the soul may be
How royal in possessions, I can tell, —
One half of wisdom – seek elsewhere the other.
The gods divorce knowledge of good from good.
He who is happy and rich does seldom know it,
And he who knows the true wealth seldom has it.

Not only all this world of eye and ear
Becomes his house and palace of delights
Whose soul has grasping power; so that each form
To him becomes a picture that is his,
The light-stream as a fountain in his court,
The murmur of all movement music to him,
And time's mere lapse rhythmical in his heart.
Not only so; a greater treasure still,
The lives of other men, by sympathy
Incorporated with his own, are his.

Get wealth, my scholars, this wealth first of all.
One life is beggary; live a thousand lives.
In those about you live and those remote;
Live many lives at once and call it country,
And call it kind; in the great future live
And make it in your life rehearse its life,
And make the pallid past repeat its life.
Be public-hearted and be myriad-soul'd,
So shall you noble be as well as rich,
And as a king watch for the general good.
Raised to a higher level, you shall find
With large enjoyments vast constraints, vast cares.
Be swayed by wider interests, be touched
By wiser instincts of the experienced heart,
And, since all greatness is a ponderous weight,
Be capable of vaster sufferance.
Your joys shall be as heaven, your griefs as hell.

Rise early, O my scholars, to be rich,
And make Expediency your rule of life.

Then, when the utmost scale of wealth is gain'd,
And other lives are to your own annex'd
By the soul's grasping power, this guide of life,
This sure Expediency, shall suffer change.

When appetites shall tame to prudences
And Prudence purge herself to Sacred Law,
When lusts shall sweeten into sympathies,
And royal Justice out of Anger spring,
When the expanding Self grows infinite,
Then shall Expediency, the guide of life,

In Virtue die, in Virtue rise again.

REST. ¹

Dearest Friend,

The subject of your meeting of to-morrow is so suggestive that I would gladly join you all, and write an essay on it, if I had health and time. I have neither, and, perhaps, better so. My essay, I candidly avow, would tend to prove that no essay ought to be written on the subject. It has no reality. A sort of intuitive instinct led you to couple "Ghosts and Rest" together.

There is, here down, and there ought to be, no Rest. Life is an *aim*; an aim which can be *approached*, not *reached*, here down. There is, therefore, no rest. Rest is immoral.

It is not mine now to give a definition of the *aim*; whatever it is, there is one, there *must* be one. Without it, Life has no sense. It is atheistical; and, moreover, an irony and a deception.

I entertain all possible respect for the members of your Club; but I venture to say that any contribution on Rest which will not exhibit at the top a definition of Life will wander sadly between wild arbitrary intellectual display and commonplaces.

Life is no sinecure, no "*recherche du bonheur*" to be secured, as the promulgators of the theory had it, by guillotine, or, as their less energetic followers have it, by railway shares, selfishness, or contemplation. Life is, as Schiller said, "a battle

¹ Although Mazzini was not a member of Pen and Pencil, he wrote this letter at the request of the President.

and a march;" a battle for Good against Evil, for Justice against arbitrary privileges, for Liberty against Oppression, for associated Love against Individualism; a march onwards to Self, through collective Perfecting, to the progressive realization of an Ideal, which is only dawning to our mind and soul. Shall the battle be finally won during life-time? Shall it on Earth? are we believing in a Millennium? Don't we feel that the spiral curve through which we ascend had its beginning elsewhere, and has its end, if any, beyond this terrestrial world of ours? Where is then a possible foundation for your essays and sketches?

Goethe's "Contemplation" has created a multitude of little sects aiming at Rest, where is no Rest, falsifying art, the element of which is evolution, not re-production, transformation, not contemplation, and enervating the soul in self-abdicating Brahmanic attempts. For God's sake let not your Club add one little sect to the fatally existing hundreds!

There is nothing to be looked for in life except the uninterrupted fulfilment of Duty, and, not Rest, but consolation and strengthening from Love. There is, not rest, but a promise, a shadowing forth of Rest in Love. Only there must be in Love absolute *trust*; and it is very seldom that this blessing depends on us. The child goes to sleep, a dreamless sleep, with unbounded trust, on the mother's bosom; but *our* sleep is a restless one, agitated by sad dreams and alarms.

You will smile at my lugubrious turn of mind; but if I was one of *your* Artists, I would sketch a man on the scaffold going to

die for a great Idea, for the cause of Truth, with his eye looking trustfully on a loving woman, whose finger would trustfully and smilingly point out to him the unbounded. Under the sketch I would write, not Rest, but “a Promise of Rest.” Addio: tell me one word about the point of view of your contributors.

Ever affectionately yours,

Joseph Mazzini.

REST

Poor restless heart! still thy lament,
Crave not for rest, refusèd still,
There is some struggle, – discontent,
That stays thy will.

Be brave to meet unrest,
Nor seek from work release,
Clasp struggle close unto thy breast,
Until it brings thee peace.

Seek not in creed a resting-place
From problems that around thee surge,
But look doubt bravely in the face,
Till truth emerge.

Work out the problem of thy life,
To no convention chainèd be,
Against self-love wage ceaseless strife,
And thus be free.

Then, if in harmony thou livest,
With all that's in thy nature best,
Who "Sleep to his beloved giveth,"
Will give thee rest.

REST

His Mother was a Prince's child,
His Father was a King;
There wanted not to that proud lot
What power or wealth could bring;
Great nobles served him, bending low,
Strong captains wrought his will;
Fair fortune! – but it wearied him,
His spirit thirsted still!

For him the glorious music roll'd
Of singers, silent long;
Grave histories told, in scrolls of old,
The strife of right and wrong;
For him Philosophy unveil'd
Athenian Plato's lore,
Might these not serve to fill a life?
Not this! he sigh'd for more!

He loved! – the truest, newest lip
That ever lover pressed,
The queenliest mouth of all the south
Long love for him confess'd:
Round him his children's joyousness
Rang silverly and shrill;

Thrice blessed! save *that* blessedness
Lack'd something – something still!

To battle all his spears he led,
In streams of winding steel;
On breast and head of foeman dead
His war-horse set its heel;
The jewell'd housings of its flank
Swung wet with blood of kings;
Yet the rich victory seem'd rank
With the blood taint it brings!

The splendid passion seized his soul
To heal, by statutes sage,
The ills that bind our hapless kind.
And chafe to crime and rage;
And dear the people's blessing was,
The praising of the poor;
But evil stronger is than thrones,
And hate no laws can cure!

He laid aside the sword and pen,
And lit the lamp, to wrest
From nature's range the secrets strange,
The treasures of her breast;
And wisdom deep his guerdon was,
And wondrous things he knew;
Yet from each vanquish'd mystery
Some harder marvel grew!

No pause! no respite! no sure ground,
 To stay the spirit's quest!
In all around not one thing found
 So good as to be "best;"
Not even love proved quite divine;
 Therefore his search did cease,
Lord of all gifts that life can give
 Save the one sweet gift – Peace!

Then came it! – crown, sword, wreath – each lay,

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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