

Poetry.

CHILD READING THE BIBLE.

Thou art bending, little pilgrim,
With the bright, unclouded eye,
O'er a page whose wondrous story
Angels choirs have sung on high.
Still above the rainbow'd heaven,
Where the morning stars are hung,
For that sacred page is given
Praise, from scrapp, harp, and tongue.

Yet methinks I see thee glancing,
With a wearied look, aside;
Would'st thou with the breeze be dancing,
Where the shining brooklets hide?
Or perchance that thou art dreaming
Of thy treasured fairy lore;
Do those tales, with wonders teeming,
Haunt thy little spirit o'er?

Well, thou hast a child-like vision;
Go and sport thee with the flowers!
Beautiful as dreams Elysian,
Guide away thy morning hours!
And yet listen! see how brightly
Beam the skies above thee now,
And a glory sitteth lightly,
Thron'd on hill and mountain brow.

But a torch thou bearest, burning,
That shall gleam when all is night;
Guard it then, with ceaseless yearning,
Holy, heavenly, is the light!
Would'st thou bear it, trimmed and beaming,
To the realms of endless day,
Where the shadow and the seeming
Melt for aye in light away?

Bring again the Bible near me—
Lo! it is voice from every page,
"Weary wanderer, wilt thou hear me?
Streight I give, from youth to age;
Streight to make each earth-born sadner,
Speed thee to thy heavenward gain;
Streight to pass with songs of gladness
Upward through the gates of pain."

Oh, how have the heavy-hearted
Taken hope from words like these,
Journeyed on, and then departed,
Where sweet anthems fill the breeze.
Early heed that call, young pilgrim,
For to thee by Him 'twas given,
Who hath likened little children
Unto those who dwell in heaven.

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