

What wouldst thou give to pierce the unknown Dark
That lies before thy feebly tossing bark,
And *know* what anchor in that unknown sea,
Or wreck disastrous, there awaiteth thee ?

Dost trembling cling to this frail thread of life,
Through pain, and doubt, and weariness, and strife,
Rather than trust thy dimly groping hand
Its hold to fasten on that unknown land
Whence none return, its secrets to declare,
And tel what bliss or ruin waits thee there ?

Well mayst thou cling to Earth, unless thy ear
Opened has been, the voice from Heaven to hear,—
To hear the Christ, amid Earth's wearying strife,
Its toil and tumult, say "*I am the LIFE !*"
"*I am THE LIFE !*"—oh, then, undo thy clasp
On this frail being, and with deathless grasp
Lay hold on Him, in whom, by whom alone,
The bliss of Life Eternal may be known !—
Failing in this, how deep must be the gloom—
The unpierced darkness of the lonely tomb !—
In this succeeding, what exultant day
O'er all thy future pours its blissful ray !

Is light a blessing ?—He's the soul's clear LIGHT—
The blessed DAY-STAR, scattering the night !
Is peace the sweetest boon to mortals given ?—
Jesus is PEACE made manifest from Heaven !
Is love the bond of life, beneath, above,
In Earth, or Heaven ?—His highest name is LOVE !

ROCK, REFUGE, REST : a SHIELD in conflict dire ;
Around His saints A WALL OF LIVING FIRE ;
STRENGTH, HOPE, REDEMPTION, RIGHTEOUSNESS divine ;
FAIREST AMONG TEN THOUSAND fair that shine
On hills of light by high archangels trod ;
Judah's stern LION, spotless LAMB OF GOD ;