

**Poetry.****THE PASS OF DEATH.**

It was a narrow pass,  
Watered with human tears,  
Not Death but kept the outer gate  
Almost six thousand years  
And the restless tread of a world's feet  
Was ever in the earth.  
Thronging, jostling, hastening by,  
As if they were only back to die.

A stately king draw near,  
This narrow pass to tread,  
Around him three a mournful moan,  
And a man was on his bier,  
But Death with a look of withering scorn,  
Arrived him, and said,  
"Is humbler stress than the king draw near,  
For the crown and the purple are useless here."

Next came a man of wealth,  
And his eye was proud and bold,  
And he bore in hand a lengthy scroll,  
Telling of some untold,  
But Death who death not for rank,  
Catched at little for gold—  
"Here that scroll I eat not allow,  
For the gold of the richest is powerless now."

Another followed fast,  
And a book was in his hand,  
Filled with the flashes of burning thought  
That no known in many a land;  
But the child of genius quailed to bear  
Death's pitiless demand.—  
"Here that book cannot enter with thee,  
For the bright flash of Genius is nothing to me."

Next came a maiden fair,  
With the eyes so deeply bright,  
That shone within you strange sweet care,  
Should you meet on a summer night;  
But Death, as the gentle maid passed through,  
Snatched away its light.—  
"Beauty is power in the world," he saith,  
"But what can it do in the Pass of Death."

A youth of sickly mien  
Follow'd in thoughtful mood,  
Whose heart was filled with love to God  
And the early brotherhood;  
Death felt he could not quench the heart  
That lived for other's good,—  
"I own," cried he, "the power of love,  
I must let it pass to the realms above!"

—*Scottish Guardian.*

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