

FATHER !—dear name, to thought and feeling dear !
 Thrice-precious ever in the Christian's ear !—
 An earthly father trials may estrange,
 " The Everlasting Father " knows no change !
 With tireless patience and unslumb'ring care,
 Watching wherever His earth-children are,
 Opening his hand to shelter, clothe, and feed,
 To comfort, guide, protect in time of need,
 Nor failing e'en the faintest cry to hear,
 By His weak children breathed into His ear.

BROTHER !—our Eldest—first-born of the dead,
 Of all the glorified the Living HEAD !
 Yet condescending to the youngest child,
 With tenderest looks and accents sweet and mild ;
 Who feels a wrong done to the feeblest one,
 Keenly as though unto Himself 'twere done ;
 Who sees no kindness to the humblest shown,
 But 'tis as though 'twere to Himself alone ;
 And who will judge the wrong, the kindness bless,
 With all a brother's truth and tenderness—
 Nay, more ; an earthly brother faints and dies,
 Or, faithless oft, forget's : fiction's ties ;
 His love, enduring as the eternal throne,
 No change, decay, or loss have ever known.

FRIEND !—there is music in that simple word,
 Which through all time the human heart has stirred.
 Earth cannot be a desert, joy-hereft,
 To any heart if but one friend be left ;—
 Yet friends oft change, and friendship proves a name,
 And death, at last, must ever quench its flame.

Yet there's a Friend, than brother closer far ;—
 One whose affection changes cannot mar ;
 One tempted, tried, and grieved as you have been ;
 Long a lone wand'rer through this world of sin ;
 Himself without a fiend whose steadfast heart
 Of His deep cup of anguish shared a part.