



AND so, my darling, you will kneel to-day
 For the first time before God's holy altar.
 And I will pray, as only mothers pray,
 That He will never let your footsteps falter,
 But always stay with thee.

It seems a little while since first you lay
 Within my arms, and nestled oh ! so tender,
 And brought the joy which but a first-born brings ;
 Still far more joyful, dear, if you'll surrender
 Your heart and soul to-day.
 Forgetting even me.

And I will throw all worldly care aside,
 And think of nothing save the guest we cherish,
 And He will see my heart, and know I tried.
 To keep you from the love of things that perish,
 For those that last, for His dear sake,
 And He'll remember.

" Oh, may He guide and bless and keep you, dear,
 And give you strength to battle with life's sorrow ;
 And when your last Communion day draws near,
 Your trust in Him will lead to glad to-morrow,
 Where love and joy and gladness will await thee.
 Beyond the skies."