

# All Hallows in the West.

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ASCENSION-TIDE, 1901.

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### Our Master.

**B**Ecometh not a king to reign; the world's long hope is dim;  
The weary centuries watch in vain the clouds of Heaven for Him.  
Death comes, life goes; the asking eye and ear are answerless;  
The grave is dumb, the hollow sky is sad with silentness.  
The letter fails, and systems fall, and every symbol wanes;  
The Spirit overbrooding all, Eternal Love remains.  
And not for signs in Heaven above or Earth below, they look,  
Who know, with John, His Smile of love, with Peter, His rebuke.  
In joy of inward peace, or sense of sorrow over sin,  
He is His own best evidence, His witness is within.  
No fable old, nor mythic lore, nor dream of bards and seers,  
No dead fact stranded on the shore of the oblivious years;  
But warm, sweet, tender, even yet a present help is He;  
And faith has still its Olivet, and love its Galilee.  
The healing of His Seamless robe is by our beds of pain;  
We touch Him in life's throng and press, and we are whole again.  
Through Him, the first fond prayers are said our lips of childhood frame,  
The last low whispers of our dead are burdened with His Name.

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O Love! O Life! our faith and sight Thy presence maketh one;  
As through transfigured clouds of white we trace the noonday sun,  
So to our mortal eyes subdued, flesh-veiled, but not concealed,  
We know in Thee the Fatherhood and Heart of God revealed!  
We faintly hear, we dimly see, in differing phrase we pray;  
But dim or clear, we own in Thee the Light, the Truth, the Way!

*Whittier.*

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*I am He that liveth, and was dead;  
and behold, I am alive for evermore.*

**W**HEN Job entreated God for favour because of the shortness of life and the certainty of death, we find him asking "If a man die, shall he live again?" and it is a question of tremendous importance, well worth the asking.

Does life close with the parting of the breath, and are we severed from all created things with the

closing of the grave? Does death end all? or is this life the mere forecast and entrance hall of an eternal life? and is death only the crossing of the threshold which separates the life that now is from a life which is to come?

These are in no sense trifling questions. And we may ask them once again in another form. Shall we and those who are dearer to us than even this earthly life, shall we and they meet again after life has closed for us here? shall we