

"I scarce had hoped to see this day," he cried,  
"Though longing in my heart; but now my soul  
Doth overflow with joy, and praise the Lord,  
That we so long and painfully estranged,  
Are brought together in one loving bond!"  
Thus, having spake, their hearts were quickly calmed,  
And all in tones subdued conversed with him.  
Sweet was the council all their souls enjoyed,  
While thus united after many years,  
And Joseph mindful of his father lone,  
Enquired tenderly of him and said,  
"My brethren haste! To Canaan quick repair,  
And tell our father all the glory here,  
That I am ruler over all this land,  
And bid him journey here with all his house,  
For I will nourish you, your flocks and herds,  
And children's children in this bounteous land."  
When Joseph rode in triumph through the realm,  
A scene of splendor dazzled every eye,  
But that, before his brethren, weeping full  
Forgiveness he had yearned so long to give,  
Transcended all that royalty displayed.

### III.

Forgiveness is God's own prerogative,  
But joined to Him are those who exercise  
Its benign power o'er their friends and foes.  
Without it, Heaven's portals would be closed  
Against the purest of the world, and earth