



LINES TO THE MEMORY OF MY MOTHER.

Many years has she been sleeping
In the cold and silent earth—
Many years have I been weeping
Over her who gave me birth;
When young childhood's buds were springing,
And all things seemed full of joy—
When life's morning stars were singing,
I was left an orphan boy.

Soft and easy was my pillow,
Cradled on a mother's breast,
Till beneath the weeping willow,
She was laid in endless rest:
Soft and easy is her slumber,
In that lowly couch of gloom;
From the cares which life encumber,
Finding refuge in the tomb.

In that dark and dreary dwelling,
Many moulder by her side—
Death's broad river, ever swelling,
Launch'd her soul upon its tide—
There the babe of her affection,
Early from her torn away,
Lies among the vast collection,
Mingling with its mother clay.

Blending with the dust of ages,
Young and old together lie;
Human life in all its stages,
Meets a common doom—to die;
But the tyrant in his prison
Cannot keep the spirit bound—
That on upward wing has risen,
That another rest has found.

See the infant young and tender,
From the mother torn apart—
What relief has earth to render,
That can heal her wounded heart?
Shall the fond and doating mother,
As an angel kind and mild,
Loving better than a brother,
E'er forget her bosom child?

See the link forever broken,
Joining wife and husband here—
Love surrenders back each token,
Which the vows of youth made dear;
What shall soothe the husband's sorrow,
Dry his tears, or stay his sighs?
There is no relief to borrow—
Seek thy partner in the skies.

Though from early home long banish'd,
Memory often travels back,
Through the years which since have vanish'd,
O'er life's desolating track—
Though long miles of separation
Shut me from my native land,
Yet in pleasing contemplation
Oft upon its soil I stand.

Thither will my fancy wander,
Lingering at my mother's grave—
There in silent thought I ponder,
On the lessons which she gave:
On the virtue she was teaching,
While her tears were on me shed,
When upon her knees beseeching
Blessings on my helpless head.

Where the wicked cease to trouble,
And the weary rest in peace;
Where this life seems but a bubble,
Floating on earth's stormy seas;
Where no sighs or sorrows enter,
From the paths her feet have trod—
There in heaven her pleasures centre,
There her spirit rests with God.

Sainted spirit! hover o'er me,
Guard my actions, guide my way;
Keep thy precepts still before me,
Let me thence no farther stray—
May I be prepared to greet thee,
When this transient life is o'er;
May I hope in fear to meet thee—
Meet where we can part no more.

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