

Poetry.

GOING HOME.

We said that the days were evil,
We felt that they might be few,
For low as our fortune's level,
And heavy the winters grew:
But one who had no possession
Looked up to the azure dome,
And said, in his simple fashion,
"Dear friends, we are going home

"This world is the same dull market
That wearied its earliest sages;
The times to be wise are dark yet,
But so hath been many an age,
And rich grow the tolling nations,
And Red grow the battle spears,
And dream the desolations,
Roll on with the laden years.

"What need of changeless story,
Which time has so often told,
The spectre that follows glory,
The canker that comes with gold,
That wisdom, and strength, and honour
Must fade like the far sea foam,
And Death is the only winner!
But, friends, we are going home.

"The homes we had hoped to rest in
Were open to sin and strife,
The dreams that our youth was blest in
Were not for the wear of life,
For care can darken the visage,
As well as the palace hearth,
And blithights are sold for postage,
But never redeemed on earth

"The springs have gone by in sorrow,
The summers were grieved away,
And ever we feared to-morrow,
And ever we blamed to-day
In the depths which the searcher sounded,
On hills which the high hearts climb,
Have trouble and toil abounded—
But, friends, we are going home!

"Our faith was the bravest builder,
But found not a stone of trust,
Our love was the fairest gilder,
But lavished its wealth on dust,
And time hath the fabric shaken,
And fortune the clay hath shown,
Nor much they have changed and taken,
But nothing that was our own.

"The light that to us made baser
The paths which so many choose,
The gifts there was no place for,
The riches we could not use,
The heart that when life was wintry
Found summer in strain and tone,
With these to our kin and country,
Dear Friends, we are going home!"

—Frances Brown.

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