

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## COURAGE.

CELIA THAXTER.

*Because I hold it sinful to despond,  
And will not let the bitterness of life  
Blind me with burning tears, but look beyond  
Its tumult and its strife ;*

*Because I lift my head above the mist,  
Where the sun shines and the broad breezes blow,  
By every ray and every rain-drop kissed  
That God's love doth bestow ;*

*Think you I find no bitterness at all,  
No burden to be borne, like Christian's pack,  
Think you there are no ready tears to fall  
Because I keep them back ?*

*Why should I hug life's ills with cold reserve,  
To curse myself and all who love me ? Nay !  
A thousand times more good than I deserve  
God gives me every day.*

*And in each one of these rebellious tears,  
Kept bravely back, He makes a rainbow shine.  
Grateful I take His slightest gift ; no fears,  
Nor any doubts, are mine.*

*Dark skies must clear ; and when the clouds are past,  
One golden day redeem a weary year.  
Patient I listen, sure that sweet at last  
Will sound His voice of cheer.*

*Then vex me not with chiding. Let me be.  
I must be glad and grateful to the end.  
I grudge you not your cold and darkness — me  
The flowers of light befriending.*