

POETRY.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

BY CATARINE PRINGLE CRAIG.

We will not say the former days
Were better than our own—
That softer fell the dews of heaven,
Or the sun more brightly shone—
That the stars look'd down with a sweeter light
Through the depths of the azure sky—
Or that wand'ring zephyrs touch'd the notes
Of a richer harmony;

For we know Jehovah's word is pledged.
For the sunshine and the dew—
The flowers may fade, but the breath of spring
Shall their wasted life renew;
And the anthem of nature's praise is hymn'd
Through changing years the same,
And to countless ages the stars of night
Their story shall proclaim.

But we miss, oh! we miss in the homes of men
The holy song of praise—
The sweet and solemn strain is hush'd,
And we sigh for the former days.
Is the smile of heavenly love withdrawn?
Is the time of blessing o'er?
Have we no more a God in heaven—
A Father to adore?

Not silent are our blessed dead,
Though their work on earth is done,
The struggle and the gloom is past,
And the glory has begun.
The beauty of the sinless land
Shines radiant on each brow,
And a song of joy and happiness
Is the song they are singing now.

Awake, ye children of them who sleep
In the bed of peaceful rest,
And let your voices blend again
With the anthems of the bless'd!
We know ye learn'd at your fathers' hearth
The hymn of love and praise,
Let us hear your song with your children now—
The songs of your early days!

Oh! so sweet on the breath of the balmy air
Shall the sound of such music be,
That passing angels may pause to hear,
And rejoice in the melody!
And soft as evening dews that fall
When no rude wind is stirr'd,
Shall the peace of Heav'n on that home descend,
Where the worship of God is heard.

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Montreal, September, 1849.

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GEORGE ROMANES,
Secretary to the Senatus.

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