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SELECTIONS FROM THE WORK.

THE LINKS THAT BIND US.

Oh! the fond links that bind us to this earth,
Strong as bands of iron—yet fine as gold;
Partings and tears oft mingle with our mirth,—
If loving much love never can grow cold!

Ah! were it not for partings now and then,
Love of home and friends were never tested,—
Hardship and trial make the noblest men:
Present pain is future joy invested!

The patriot's wistful eyes are dimm'd with tears
When parting from his much lov'd native soil,
His heart doth throb with many doubts and fears,
Yet Hope points FORWARD though his soul recoil!

But when the weary years have come and gone,
And o'er the sea he homeward ploughs his way,
He finds his former doubts and fears have flown,—
Midnight with him hath changed to dawn of day!

A mother parts with one—her only son,
Each shows but half the anguish that they feel,—
The voyage finished, or the battle won,
What depths of love the meeting doth reveal!

Methinks such joy is ours when God, at last,
Shall find us gathered 'neath Heaven's azure dome;
Our journeys, tears, and partings of the past,
Will be as naught if we but reach our home!