

POETRY.

LAST WORDS OF MRS. SMITH,
OF THE SYRIA MISSION.

"I am not sorry that I came to Syria, though it
be but to die."

THE voices of her early home
Were not around her there,
She heard no mother's gentle tone,
She knew no sister's care.
Yet on the bed of death she lay,
Calm, as when to the sea,
A deep stream in its hidden way,
Glides onward silently.

A ruined shrine her mind had been,
Wandering in sadness back
To the fresh hopes and rainbow dreams
That graced her childhood's track.
Her mother's low, hushed vesper hymn,
Sweet as an air-harp's strains,
Was mingling with the memory dim,
Of Syria's vine-wreathed plains.

But the long-tangled chain of thought
Was clear, and to her now
The fearful consciousness was brought,
That death had marked her brow.
But the bright wings that came to bear
Her spirit to its rest,
A holy light threw o'er her there,
And thus her lot she blest:

"No terror dwells within the grave,
No shadows o'er it lie,
Though I have come across the wave,
Away from friends to die.
No bitter anguish here hath part,
No sorrow that I laid
Upon the altar-shrine, my heart,
For I have been repaid.

In the blest hope that Bethlehem's star,
Which rose in eastern skies,
When I am in the sepulchre,
Again shall brightly rise
In the far east, and men shall come
To worship here again,
As when, above the shepherd's home,
That star shone o'er the plain.

In heathen darkness now it lies—
But if our souls is won,
Though my life be the sacrifice,
It is a glorious boon.
And now farewell; it is the last,
The last adieu: I know
The valley dark will soon be past,
That I am entering now.

When the last tribute ye shall pay,
That sorrowing love can show,
Before ye bear me hence away,
Unto my dwelling low,
Take thou in faith this infant charge,
Which God to us hath given,
And consecrate him unto Christ,
And train him up for heaven."

The low voice ceased, yet lingered there
A heavenly radiance still—
A smile that angel faces wear,
When lip and brow are chill—
And, by her words of holy trust,
Shall other hearts be fed
To seek the land where she hath found
Her dwelling with the dead.

Not with the dead, the spirit dwells,
Of that devoted one,
For where the seraph's anthem swells
Through heaven's eternal dome,
Her soul hath found the place of rest
It ne'er might find below;
O, was not hers an errand blest,
The way of life to show!

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THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR,

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