

Poetry.

LOVE.

"THE GREATEST OF ALL IS CHARITY."

Love! Immortal love! Heaven's richest feast,
 Fairest of Eden's fruits! Essence divine!
 No tongue can tell thy length, and breadth, and depth.
 Unfathomable and exhaustless spring,
 Of joys supernal, and of peace divine.
 Bright light! thou dost kindle the light of heaven,
 And glow in every breast that burns above.
 For want of thee, hell is a hell indeed;
 For love is heaven, and heaven is love. Thy bonds
 Are ties, which link all angel bands, and men,
 Firm and secure in holy brotherhood.
 Harmonious concord! gift of God to man.
 Thy mild benignant sway, to heaven extends;
 And renders earth as beautiful as heaven.
 A golden chain, fast by the throne of God;
 Connecting earth to heaven. The mystic steps,
 By which we do ascend, and gain the skies.
 The voice divine that hushes angry storms,
 Sweeping in fury o'er the tender heart.
 The music sweet of peace, for thou art peace.
 The sunshine bright of heaven, for thou art heaven.
 The golden day of bliss, for thou art bliss.
 Heaven's all disposed to man, and that is *love*.
 The fairest scenes of earth resemble heaven;
 When love is found to harmonize and bless.
 The strongest, dearest, tend'rest ties of earth
 Are bound by love—it tames the fiercest spirits;
 'Tis mightiest power to subjugate the soul,
 And bring to earth the joys of heaven above.
 Fountain of blessedness, perennial stream,
 'Tis thine to give which none can take away,
 And thine to bless when none can bless besides.
 That heart is rich, where thou dost surely dwell,
 And poor indeed if unpossess'd of thee.
 Faith! Hope! Love! triune gifts divine,
 The last, the noblest, greatest, and the best.
 The tongue shall find no utterance in the grave;
 The wisdom of the wise shall be no more;