

The Starless Crown.

THEY that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever.—Dan. xii. 3.

Wearied and worn with earthly cares, I yielded to repose,
And soon before my raptured sight, a glorious vision rose :

I thought, whilst slumbering on my couch in midnight's solemn gloom,

I heard an angel's silvery voice, and radiance filled my room.

A gentle touch awaken'd me—a gentle whisper said,
"Arise, O sleeper, follow me ;" and thro' the air we fled.

We left the earth, so far away that like a speck it seem'd,

And heavenly glory, calm and pure, across our pathway stream'd.

Still on we went—my soul was wrapt in silent ecstasy ;

I wondered what the end would be, what next should meet mine eye.

I knew not how we journey'd thro' the pathless fields of light,

When suddenly a change was wrought, and *I was clothed in white.*

We stood before a city's walls most glorious to behold ;

We pass'd thro' gates of glistening pearl, o'er streets of purest gold ;

It needed not the sun by day, the silver moon by night ;

The glory of the Lord was there, the Lamb Himself its light.

Bright angels paced the shining streets, sweet music fill'd the air,

And white-robed saints with glittering crowns, from every clime were there ;

And some that I had loved on earth stood with them round the throne,

"All worthy is the Lamb," they sang ; "the glory His alone."

But fairer far than all beside, I saw my Saviour's face :

And, as I gazed, He smiled on me with wondrous love and grace.

Lowly I bow'd before His throne, o'er-joy'd that I at last

Had gain'd the object of my hopes ; that earth at length was past.

And then in solemn tones He said, "Where is the diadem

That ought to sparkle on thy brow—adorn'd with many a gem ?

I know thou hast believed on me, and life through me is thine.

But where are all those radiant stars that in thy crown should shine ?

"Yonder thou seest a glorious throng, and stars on every brow ?

For every soul they led to me they wear a jewel now!

And such *thy* bright reward had been if such had been thy *deed*,

If thou hadst sought some wand'ring feet in path of peace to lead.

"I did not mean that thou should'st tread the way of life *alone*,

But that the clear and shining light which round thy footsteps shone,

Should guide some other weary feet to my bright home of rest,

And thus, in blessing those around, thou hadst thyself been blest."

The vision faded from my sight, the voice no longer spake,

A spell seemed brooding o'er my soul which long I fear'd to break.

And when at last I gazed around in morning's glimmering light,

My spirit fell o'erwhelm'd beneath that vision's awful might.

I rose and wept with chasten'd joy that yet I dwelt below,

That yet another hour was mine, my faith by works to show ;

That yet some sinner I might tell of Jesus' dying love,

And help to lead some weary soul to seek a home above.

And now, while on the earth I stay, my motto this shall be,

"To live no longer to myself but Him who died for me !"

And graven on my inmost soul this word of truth divine,

"They that turn many to the Lord, bright as the stars shall shine."