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THE BAPTIZER.

By Esther Throwbridge Catin.

It is a word that costs us most to speak For which God listens, and doth wait to bless. Our acts gain worth when paid in coin of self, And self gains largess when 'tis sacrificed.

Behold a man sent forth of God, to be Forerunner, Baptist, and great Witnesser Of that true Light, whose path should be made straight, Whose advent, and Whose Kingdom, were at hand! Across the plains of Jordan rang his cry: "There cometh One more worthy after me, Fall down before Him, and prepare His way, Repent ye all, and be baptized this day."

O, wonder-working words! The desert heard: The mountains answered. Souls no longer veiled Felt dimly hope and peace new-born in them; But, wrapped in awe, they harkened to his voice, Enkindling their benighted minds with light, And called him "Baptist," name for ever dear.

A desert place his home; uncomraded, And at the end prison and death-the price Of saving souls from their sad death-in-life. Strong heart of courage and of sacrifice, The world awaits her new baptismal day, And voice to cry: "I will prepare His way."

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