


"A DREAM OF FORGIVENESS."

Luke vii. 48, 50.

 had been musing on the Saviour's love
 That brought Him from His heavenly home above,
 For on the morrow we were called to sit
 Around His table to remember it.
 But now 'tis night, I lay me down to rest,
 With this one longing wish that I were blest
 With words of full forgiveness, as of old,
 From lips of Jesus, when, as we are told,
 These precious words of grace and peace were given,
 Go thou in peace: thy sins are all forgiven.
 I slept, (THOUGH strange it seemed not then,)
 It seemed to be the olden time again,
 When Jesus was on earth in mortal guise,
 Him I ne'er thought to see with mortal eyes:
 Yet it was Jesus, loving, gentle, kind,
 Ready to heal the sick, or cure the blind.
 Just then He spake to one these words of peace:
 "Thy sins are all forgiven, go in peace."
 Methought, as still I gazed upon his face,
 I said to one who lingered near the place:
 "How often have we wished to hear the Lord
 Say to *ourselves* this great and blessed word;
 Come let us try, methinks he will not spurn
 Us hence in wrath; come, we may lose our turn.
 I thought ere now His eye did rest on us,
 Perchance He knows our wish, and waits for us."
 And so we went, nor did we go in vain,
 We heard the same most blessed words again;
 For now to us the loving words were given,
 "Go thou in peace, thy sins are all forgiven."
 And with the words, a smile so radiant bright,
 As seem'd to clothe all things around with light,
 That neither pen can write, nor tongue can say,
 But seemed to chide and chase my fears away,
 I woke, but not as if from common rest,
 I felt that I had been in Presence blest,
 His loving words still sounded in my ears,
 His smile of Heavenly sweetness dried my tears.
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 When seated at His holy Feast that day,
 A sense of sin forgiven—borne away—
 For ever cast into the depths of sea—
 By shedding of His precious blood for me,
 So filled my soul, as if a voice from heaven
 Had whispered still "Thy sins are all forgiven."
 And since, if sight of sin has made me fear,
 That memory has made all bright and clear—
 Telling of Jesus, ready now as ever,
 Pardon and peace to give and rest for ever.