

But lo ! as we look, through a rift in the cloud,  
The sunlight streams in from 'above,  
And with life's cheering presence removes the dark shroud,  
Filling nature with joy, peace and love.

The landscape is clothed in bright mantle of green,  
The desert blooms forth with the rose,  
Enraptured we gaze on the wondrous scene,  
While hourly new wonders disclose.

By passing through darkness we come to the light,  
Which brighter and brighter shall glow ;  
The sunlight must follow the dark shades of night  
To dispel earth's deep shadows and woe.

By such slow advances, by such measured tread,  
And hearts oft o'erburdened with care,  
We've pressed toward the beacon-light shining ahead,  
Led on by its brilliant glare .

But a yet brighter aspect the past years reveal,  
In the friendships and social ties,  
Which bind kindred natures 'neath unity's seal,  
And bid hope and promise arise.

If dark dreary shadows have shrouded our way  
And oftentimes the gloom of the night  
Filled the heart with despair, yet the sun's cheering ray  
Shed around us its comforting light.

The precious truths here imbibed at the fount,  
Have inspired hearts with lofty desires—  
To press ever onward and upward to mount  
Where the soul's fond ambition aspires.

But what of the future ? The years yet before,  
Though shrouded in mystery dark,  
With prophecy's eye we would fain now explore,  
And the course of our lives' changes mark.

But the great Master Hand which the universe formed,  
And measured life's swift-fleeting span,  
Has strangely His great works of wisdom performed  
And hidden the future from man.

And yet we would gaze o'er this broad open field,  
Which the future yet hides from our view. —  
The great busy world yet in darkness concealed  
To be moulded by lives great and true.

This broad field of labor employment can give  
To all willing workers who try  
To make life-giving agencies ever to live  
And death-working powers to die,