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RETROSPECTION.

Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee. Deut. 8:12.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. --
Heb. 10:35.

He was better to me than all my hopes,
 He was better than all my fears ;
He made a road of my broken works,
 And a rainbow of my tears.
The billows that guarded my sea-girt path,
 But carried my Lord on their crest ;
When I dwell on the days of my wilderness march,
 I can lean on His love for the rest.

He emptied my hands of their treasured store,
 And His covenant love revealed,
There was not a wound in my aching heart
 But the balm of His breath had healed.
O! tender and true was the chastening sore,
 In wisdom, that taught and tried,
Till the soul that He sought was trusting in Him
 And nothing on earth beside.

He guided by paths that I could not see,
 By ways that I have not known,
The crooked was straight and the rough made plain,
 As I followed the Lord alone.
I praise Him still for the pleasant palm,
 And the water-springs by the way ;
For the glowing pillars of flame by night,
 And the sheltering clouds by day.

And if to warfare He calls me forth
 He buckles my armor on ;
He greets me with smiles and a word of cheer,
 For battles His sword has won ;
He wipes my brow as I droop and faint,
 He blesses my hands to toil ;
Faithful is He as He washes my feet
 From the traces of earthly soil.