

THE EASTER GOSPEL.

It is not in a world beyond our own
Man life eternal wins ;
Nor need he cross Death's silent bridge of stone
Before that life begins.

Eternity is first with man below,
E'en from his very birth ;
A heaven hereafter can he only know
By making one of earth.

Christ rose by triumph over sin and wrong
When in the desert tried,
Not that third day when vainly sought the throng
His body crucified.

So when all evil dies, and base desire,
Our souls are sanctified,
Upraised, and purged by God's consuming fire ;
And this is Easter-tide.

While for the rest, O man, thy faith still keep,
And know Death ends not all :
The Lord our shepherd is, and we his sheep,
Who humbly wait his call.

We wander here awhile and widely roam,
Set down on Earth's domain ;
But God will bear us, when night's shadows come,
Safe to his fold again.