

[Supposed to be written by one at

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the point of death]

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Give me my scallop shell of quiet,

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My staff of faith to walk upon,

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My scrip of joy, immortal diet,

---

My bottle of salvation,

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My gown of glory, hope's true gage,

---

And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.

---

Blood must be my body's balmer,

---

No other balm will there be given,

---

Whilst my soul, like a white palmer,

---

Travels to the land of heaven;

---

Over the silver mountains,

---

Where spring the nectar fountains;

---

And there I'll kiss

---

The bowl of bliss,

---

And drink my eternal fill

---

On every milken hill.

---

My soul will be a-dry before,

---

But after it will ne'er thirst more;

---

And by the happy blissful way

---

More peaceful pilgrims I shall see,

---

That have shook off their gowns of clay,

---

And go apparelled fresh like me.

---

I'll bring them first

---

To slake their thirst,

---

And then to taste those nectar suckets,

---

At the clear wells

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Where sweetness dwells,

---

Drawn up by saints in crystal buckets.

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And when our bottles and all we

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Are fill'd with immortality,

---

Then the holy paths we'll travel,

---

Strew'd with rubies thick as gravel,

---

Ceilings of diamonds, sapphire floors,

---

High walls of coral, and pearl bowers.

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From thence to heaven's bribeless hall

---

Where no corrupted voices brawl,

---

No conscience molten into gold,

---

Nor forg'd accusers bought and sold,

---

No cause deferr'd, nor vain-spent journey,

---

For there Christ is the king's attorney,

---

Who pleads for all without degrees,

---

And he hath angels, but no fees.

---

When the grand twelve million jury

---

Of our sins and sinful fury,

---

'Gainst our souls black verdicts give,

---

Christ pleads his death, and then we live.

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Be thou my speaker, taintless pleader,

---

Unblotted lawyer, true proceeder,

---

Thou movest salvation even for alms,

---

Not with a bribed lawyer's palms.

---

And this is my eternal plea

---

To him that made heaven, earth, and sea,

---

Seeing my flesh must die so soon,

---

And want a head to dine next noon,

---

Just at the stroke when my veins

---

start and spread,

---

Set on my soul an everlasting head.

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Then am I ready, like a palmer fit,

---

To tread those blest paths which before I writ.

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I was a Poet!

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But I did not know it,

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Neither did my Mother,

---

Nor my Sister nor my Brother.

---

The Rich were not aware of it;

---

The Poor took no care of it.

---

The Reverend Mr. Drewitt

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Never knew it.

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The High did not suspect it;

---

The Low could not detect it.

---

Aunt Sue

---

Said it was obviously untrue.

---

Uncle Ned

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Said I was off my head:

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(This from a Colonial

---

Was really a good testimonial.)

---

Still everybody seemed to think

---

That genius owes a good deal to drink.

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So that is how

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I am not a poet now,

---

And why

---

My inspiration has run dry.

---

It is no sort of use

---

To cultivate the Muse

---

If vulgar people

---

Can't tell a village pump from a church steeple.

---

I am merely apologizing

---

For the lack of the surprising

---

In what I write

---

To-night.

---

I am quite well-meaning,

---

But a lot of things are always intervening

---

Between

---

What I mean

---

And what it is said

---

I had in my head.

---

It is all very puzzling.

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Uncle Ned

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Says Poets need muzzling.

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He might

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Be right.

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Good-night!

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Rise, O my soul! with thy desires to heaven,

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And with divinest contemplation use

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Thy time, when time's eternity is given,

---

And let vain thoughts no more

---

thy thoughts abuse;

---

But down in darkness let them lie;

---

So live thy better, let thy worse thoughts die.

---

And thou, my soul, inspired with holy flame,

---

View and review with most regardful eye

---

That holy cross whence thy salvation came,

---

On which thy Saviour and thy sin did die!

---

For in the sacred object is much pleasure,

---

And in that Saviour is my life treasure.

---

To Thee, O Jesu! I direct mine eyes,

---

To Thee my hands, to Thee my humble knees;

---

To Thee my heart shall offer sacrifice;

---

To Thee my thoughts, who thoughts only see;

---

To Thee myself, myself and all I give;

---



Steer the ship of my life, Lord, to your

---

quiet harbor, where I can be safe from

---

the storms of sin and conflict.

---

Show me the course I should take.

---

Renew in me the gift of discernment, so that I

---

can see the right direction in which I should go.

---

And give me the strength and the courage to

---

choose the right course, even when the sea is

---

rough and the waves are high, knowing that

---

through enduring hardship and danger in your

---

name we shall find comfort and peace.

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Amen.

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And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying,

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All power is given unto me in heaven

---

and in earth.

---

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,

---

baptizing them in the name of the Father,

---

and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

---

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever

---

I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you

---

always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

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And he said unto them, Go ye into all the

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world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

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He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;

---

but he that believeth not shall be damned.

---

And these signs shall follow them that believe;

---

In my name shall they cast out devils;

---

they shall speak with new tongues;

---

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink

---

any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them;

---

they shall lay hands on the sick,

---

and they shall recover.

---

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them,

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he was received up into heaven, and sat

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on the right hand of God.

---

And they went forth, and preached every where,

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the Lord working with them, and confirming

---

the word with signs following. Amen.

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But ye shall receive power, after that the

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Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be

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witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all

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Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost

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part of the earth.

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