

STANZAS.

BY ERNEST HELFENSTEIN.

O God! that we should live, the dull pulse beat,
When all that should be life is cold and sere—
When thought, which angel-like is high and fleet,
Is crushed to earth, what doth the spirit here!
And yet, and yet I would not feebly shrink
From this dread cup of suffering—let me drink.

For in this darkest hour there cometh yet
A soothing ministry, unseen but felt—
An inward prompting—Thou wilt not forget—
And tears gush forth—the eyes that would not melt,
Trained in the school of grief, at thought of Thee
Pour forth their pent-up fountains, fast and free.

Life Giver! who hast planted in the soul
This seed-time dread of hopes too high for earth,
Emotions, yearnings time may not control,
In heaven alone, O! hath the harvest birth?
Oh wherefore doth the heart, deluded still,
Its broken urn from earth's dark fountains fill?

Not at the gory wheel, the fiery stake—
 Not where the rack gives forth the lingering breath—
 Not there alone do martyred spirits break,
 Not there alone dost thou find such, O Death!
 Another test; crushed by a hidden weight,
 There are who martyrs live to their dark fate.

STANZA

BY MISS [illegible]

O God! that we should live, the dull pulse beat,
 When all that should be life is cold and dead—
 When thought, which angel-like is high and free,
 Is crushed to earth, what dost the spirit here?
 And yet, and yet I would not feebly shrink
 From this dread cup of suffering—let me drink.

For in the darkest hour there comes a yet
 A soothing ministry, unseen but felt—
 An inward prompting—Thou wilt not forget—
 And tears gush forth—the eyes that weid not meet;
 Trained in the school of grief, in thought of Thee
 Pour forth their pent-up fountains, fast and free.

Life Giver! who hast planted in the soul
 This seed-time dream of hopes too high for earth,
 Emotions, yearnings that may not control,
 In heaven alone, O! hast the harvest birth?
 Oh! wherefore dost the heart, deluded still,
 Its broken urn from earth's dark fountains fill?

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