EVENING PASTIMES, PP. 5-61

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Evening Pastimes, pp. 5-61 by W. A. Havener

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Evening Pastimes



W. A. HAVENER

1916 CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO

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Havener, W.a. 6/ 20/10

CONTENTS

												P	AGE
PRELUDE		34	•	÷.	1 2	×	88	•	13	÷	6	8	5
ONWARD			•	•	÷		2	\sim				÷	5
THE ROSES		<u>.</u>				×	×						6
THE CLOUDS	•			5		3		÷.					7
No Rose WITHOUT	r In	rs 1	Гно	ORN	٢.	×	×					*	8
YOUTH AND AGE		25			÷					•		਼	10
THE DREAMS OF Y	ou	гн		•		×					- 20		12
WIFE AWAY	4	4		1		4	8	22		2	43	3	14
Our Loved Ones (Gon	NE]	Bei	POR	E	×	×		3.63	•	x	×	16
A HUNDRED YEARS	A	WA	Y	-	- 22				848			÷	17
WHEN I AM GONE	۰.	15	3.8				æ				•		18
POVERTY	÷		84	•			32			-83		÷	20
LINES ON AN OLD	MA	NS	ION	١.	•					•			20
AN OLD STUMP .			 58	363			*	38					22
THE RIVER			,	۲									24
THE MEADOW .						*		a.					27
THE MORNING SUN	۷.			•	÷	8			3	•			29
A WAYSIDE RAMBI	E					÷			3			÷	30
OAKLAND	2	4	8		÷	÷.	12	51	Ξ.	•	23	ŝ,	33
WHEN THE SUN G	OE	s D)ow	N	ŝ		×		59.			*	34
A Memory	2	ų.	÷.			2		S.	4	848	4	æ	36
THE OLD HOME .	×		38				×			1907	•:		42
AN OLD DIARY .	8	545	ĩ		4		Si.		ંક	- 2		*	45
THE SEASONS													47

PAGE WIFE AND I 47 THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT PALACE 4 49 51 THE UNKNOWN 53 2 THE ZEPHYR 53 GOVERNMENT 55 . The Isles of Rest 56 . My Old Friend Tom 56 . . THE HIDDEN HAND. 58 . 59 10 R. 60 Regret

PRELUDE

Come, Muse, and help me pass the time away And bring the harp of some wise bard along, Sweet truths in music rhymes for me to play— For poetry is but wisdom set to song.

And sing no idle lay about the stars, Nor wildly scribble with a half crazed pen About the far-off moon and moon-lit bars, But come and let us chat of hearts and men.

And as we stroll recline upon mine arm, Suggest some olden truths for me to say,— For poetry is the pleasing, magic charm Of saying old things in a sweeter way.

ONWARD

Onward, ever onward, 'Tis a song I love to sing, Cheering all the weary hearted Onward to some higher thing.

Onward to the golden, To the happy and the true, Not to fame and hoarded riches But some deed of good to do.

Onward to the righteous, All who go at duty's call, Here I write them down as heroes, Though they battle but to fall.

Onward to the noble, With a spirit not to yield, With a heart for any weather And the truthful for a shield.

THE ROSES

In the garden bright With the sunny light The roses through their tiny buds are peering; In those lonely places Sad with sickly faces They'll gladden drooping hearts with gentle cheering.

O'er each painted crest, In each leafy nest Lie artist touches with His love adorning, And bright emblem tints, And sweet sacred hints As lightly resting as the dews of morning.

In the scented air 'Mong the flowers there, How sweet the fragrant breath the rose imparts, And where'er we go, May we ever throw Such sweetness kindly o'er all human hearts.

THE CLOUDS

Beneath a tangled spread Of foliage overhead, Here on the tufted grass I lie, My thoughts at idle dreaming, The far-off clouds now seeming Like snowy mountains in the sky.

How beautiful they sail, O'er purple crag and vale, Like vessels on the placid blue; Ten thousand sunbeams tint, Ten thousand emblems hint, The good, the noble and the true.

Now comes the cruel breeze, With playful lulling ease, And tears the saffron clouds apart, As other winds have torn, And far away have borne Some cherished idol of my heart.

The splendors stream in gold, The clouds like cares of old Are melting in the smile of day; O, could I but forget, The grief remembered yet, And learn to laugh the pain away.

Their sombre shadows fall, Alike on hut and hall, They float in mid-air like a feather; And may thy sorrows rest, As lightly on thy breast, As clouds tossed on the windy weather.

NO ROSE WITHOUT ITS THORN

There fall in ripples from the magic string These sacred truths of all experience born, The sweetest honey has some bitter sting, There is no rose without its hidden thorn.

Many a pretty rose of fairest hue Blooms lovely but to hide its prickly spear; Many a pleasing smile that seemeth true Is closely wedded to some hidden tear.

O, may thy every tear of hidden pain That falls upon thy troubled bosom make, Like flowers brightened, freshened with the rain, Thy manhood brighter, fresher for its sake.

Again I hear it sounding on the lyre, A truth that all who strive to win must learn, The rugged ore that passes through the fire Is rendered far more useful for its burn.

The cross, though once the hated type of shame, In triumph now adorns the jeweled breast,

A star plucked from the wreathing, scorching flame Becomes a thing of pride forever blest.