

**THE TRUE
LIGHT: A POEM**

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The True Light: A Poem by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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LIGHT: A POEM**

Manuscript

THE TRUE LIGHT.

A Poem,

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the Light of the world."

St. John, vii. 12.

PRINTED BY REQUEST.

HARTFORD:
S. HANMER & CO.—CALENDAR PRESS.
1850.

TO THE
REV. ARTHUR CLEVELAND COXE, A. M.
IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS KINDNESS, AND AS A TOKEN OF
RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP,
THIS POEM
IS
(BY PERMISSION)
GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED.

withdrawn
~~477605~~

THE TRUE LIGHT.

I.

“Let there be Light” :—and o’er the waters’ face
The golden ripples flash’d in bright array.
“Let there be Light” :—and Earth’s chaotic base
Was lit for order on her primal day.
Soon strode the Giant Sun his royal way :
Soon smiled the Moon to greet her glitt’ring band :
Fast fell the liquid Stars through space away,
As drops o’erflow’d from brimming urns that stand,
Fill’d with perennial Beauty, close at God’s right hand.

II.

New chaos rests on man’s demolish’d soul :
New darkness reigns within his shatter’d mind :
Hoarse waves of Passion, bursting all control,
Now rage and toss before each sensual wind.
“Let there be Light” :—and God with man combined
In awful oath, His morning star to send ;
A ‘Sun of Righteousness’ for man to find,
With glorious rays the soul’s thick night to rend,
And rainbow tints of Hope o’er every cloud to blend.

III.

As soft and gentle as the trembling note
 That forms the prelude to some richer strain :
 As calm and clear as rosy clouds that float
 In morning's skies where comes the sun again :
 So gleam'd the Promise o'er the soul's broad plain
 That heralded the day of man's new birth.
 Bright harbinger of that triumphant reign
 Which Christ should 'stablish for his Saints on earth,
 While angels shout in joy the great Redeemer's worth.

IV.

A Light flow'd backward from th' accursed tree,
 That yet should rise on Calv'ry's quaking hill,
 Spreads o'er th' internal world and conscious sea,
 A harbinger of Hope, and God's good will.
 Small was the stream at first, as when the rill
 With struggles bursts the mountain's harsh embrace,
 Yet louder shout the waves as nearer still,
 With growing strength, and ever quick'ning pace,
 They draw to ocean's home, and swell the wat'ry race.

V.

Nor yet all light, nor yet all peace for man ;
 In sin's dread battle must his Will contend,
 Far o'er the plain, its Leader's course to scan,
 And to His constant Law obedient bend.
 Far do the warriors' shouts their echoes send,
 Which roll along the various paths of Life :
 Fierce clash the swords as hostile shields they rend :
 Fierce swell the cries that stir the angry strife,
 As mortal souls essay the battle-field of Life.

VI.

They strive for Truth;—the Soul's internal Light;
 The Face of God obscured by man's sad fall;
 The Soul's accord all crush'd by Satan's might,¹
 Its heavenly music muffled by a pall;
 The Beautiful, where God is all in all,
 Since Beauty is but 'Oneness' in the whole;
 Th' eternal Light that, at th' Almighty's call,
 Through fairest Eden its bright floods did roll,
 And fill'd with *innate joys* Man's thinking loving Soul.

VII.

The Earth is curtained round with folds of night;
 The murmuring tempest wails along the lea:
 The Powers of Air are marshalling their might
 To witness Nature's awful mystery.
 The opening skies and fountains of the sea
 Pour forth their waters and entomb the Earth;
 But Justice yields to Mercy's tender plea—
 Binds o'er the world the rain-bow's mystic girth,
 And grants to men the sign of Nature's second birth.

VIII.

Hope's pledge appear'd, when seven at Noah's side
 Knelt 'round the altar rear'd of unhewn stone:
 It curl'd the smoke Moriah's pile supplied
 When Abraham came to offer up his son:²
 'Twas writ in blood the Hebrew's door upon,
 When Death's black pinions swept o'er Egypt's land:
 It wrought salvation when the Serpent shone,
 In brazen coils, above the Desert's sand:
 And when through Jordan's waves went Israel's wand'ring
 band.

IX.

Tradition's Phantoms fill'd th' Egyptian mind ;
 A subtle science formed their mental store—
 Th' influence hidden that impell'd the wind—
 The force unseen by which the Earth still wore
 Her verdant robe,—the waters on the shore,
 The sleepless guards that watch the bounds of space—
 Eternal Fire whose life is evermore ;
 Each cleansing wand'ring souls in every place.³
 Such Science Moses learn'd when captive with his race.

X.

In the dim East, beneath its dreamy sky,
 From his lone cave peers forth the mystic Sage,
 And sees his God, with Fancy's color'd eye,
 Reveal Himself in Nature's every page :
 The same, yet changing still from age to age ;
 The Essence Infinite in form enshrined ;
 The Lord, now thund'ring in the tempest's rage—
 The Father now, in gentle zephyrs kind ;
 The all-embracing Pan—the all-informing mind.

XI.

A Protean Light, it fill'd the Grecian's hall :
 A languid flame it burnt on Altars wide :
 It sparkling fell where Indus' waters fall ;
 And blanch'd the Lotus on the Nile's broad tide.
 In China's Reason did its force abide ;
 The Hebrews' Will lay conquer'd by its power ;
 In India's Visions did its beauty hide ;
 By its fixt lines did Egypt's Science tower ;⁴
 On all its influence fell unseen, a mystic shower.

XII.

At length the 'Sun of Righteousness' arose,
 Light, Life and Immortality to bring.
 Fast flees the night;—the stars their eyelids close,
 While Heaven's angelic hosts break forth and sing,
 And Earth prolongs the joy re-echoing,
 "Glory to God on High, on Earth be Peace :
 Good Will to Men appears with Heaven's High King."
 Let ne'er from mortal tongues the Anthem cease,
 But as still Time grows old, so let its powers increase.

XIII.

The Church went forth. Endued with sovereign right
 Man's Will to curb—she stood on Earth confess'd :
 And haughty Kings, and Tyrants in their might,
 Bent to her Law, and to her service press'd.
 By ransom'd serfs her Holy Name was bless'd ;⁵
 Kings saw their subjects mild with filial fear ;
 The State's foundations found in her their rest ;
 For all were born to her, and all were dear,
 And where her Witness came, Christ's Presence did appear.

XIV.

Where License reign'd, and Lust held boundless sway,
 Now 'rose the sacred walls of each dear home ;
 The resting-place for man in Life's long day ;
 The Heaven-lit place where holiest angels come ;
 The tie that binds all kindred hearts in one ;
 The golden link where Love and Law unite ;
 Key-note of Life that spreads through Life its tone ;
 Celestial ray that ever grows more bright,
 Till in th' Eternal Morn it blends with Heaven's clear Light.