

THE DYING FRIEND.

What do you say to a friend who is dying,
Passing from this life into the next;
What do you say when your heart is wrenching
And tears are blinding the script of the text.

What do you say to those brave eyes undaunted,
That have so loved the life they were given to see,
How can you utter mere words for their comfort
How then soften the parting to be

Stretch forth your hand, brother, and clasp within thine
The hand of thy friend fast chilling in death
For him the journey is ended, he knows it,
Be brave in his passing as he draws his last breath.

A smile from his eyes, a low gasp in farewell,
He has left you alone, passed on with the tides
Down on your knees brother, thank God for his love
Your friend has passed on but his spirit abides.

H. L. T.,
December 78

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Passing from this life into the next
What do you say when your heart is wrenching
And tears are blinding the script of the text.

What do you say to those brave eyes undaunted
That have so loved ^{the} life they were given to see
How can you utter mere words to their comfort
How can you soften the parting to be

Stretch forth ^{your} hand protect and ^{within} cherish

And halt not a second at the cold feel of death

~~For him the journey is ending he knows it~~

The hand of thy friend fast chilling in death

For him the journey is ended he knows it

Be brave in his passing and bid him farewell
fear not ^{his death} ^{we} ^{for}

A smile from his eyes a low gasp for breath

He has left you alone pained on with the tide

Down on your knees brother thank God for his ^{living} love

Your friend has passed on but until you will abide

your friend has " " his spirit abides

Death is not of our planning, but another design

We plan not the race nor down the course

He's the new life grows the remembrance

As in life so in dying the hand of a friend

The hand that you hold so close clasp'd in thine

Will soon lose its feeling for things of this earth

To a dying friend

1 You are so very often thought about
And every thought a prayer
No matter how the years lie in between
There is memory everywhere.

2 In the crocuses blooming on the hills
Or prairies of the plain
Your voice returns reminding
That spring has come again

3 The winds of change in passing time
Have touched you, that I know
But have not changed my love for you
Oh friend of long ago

4 For true true love is not possession
Nor will to change from what you are
Born in mutual deep confession
~~Love~~ ^{Love} brings no parting at the bar.

5? When loneliness and grief surge o'er us
And rising tides of fear come on the tide
He who made and moves the mighty waters
Shall at His bidding set all thy fears aside
_{in His mercy}

Then tho' you pass before me ^{from mortal sight of man} (Oh friend of long ago)
This my faith has always told me
To this I hold come whatever be the
From this world His Great Creation
He shall call you to His side.

6? When from the clouds of weary passing
I hear ^{your} feet ~~the~~ ^{the} sun of Coming Day
Then do not grieve for those behind you
They too are marching on the way.
_{marched on}

At His bidding shall all thy fears be cast aside

are entering
You have entered life before us
And as you awfully pass
Softly draws the entry curtain
Like spring winds o'er prairie grass.

Ours the loss in your due parting
Ours the loneliness and pain
Still the sun is rising on the morrow
When our spirits meet again

So, my friend, my friend, God bless you
Keep you in His loving care
And may those long gone before you
In His love most deeply share.

Greet you with their loving care
Greet you with outstretched arms uplifted
As you pass beyond the veil

5⁽²⁾ When loneliness and grief surge o'er us
And rising tides of fear come on the tide
He who made and moves the mighty waters
Shall in mercy set all thy fears aside

6⁽²⁾ When from ~~the~~ cloudy pain of weary passing
Shines forth your sun of coming Day
Do not grieve for those who went behind you
They too, are marching on the way
shall follow