

HYMNS

59

By hymns that swell and soar above,
By Christian doctrine duly taught,
By tender tales of that dear love,
And death whereby our life was bought.

And if some words be hard and cold,
And young lips falter o'er the line,
They are but rugged husks that hold
A fruit of savour most divine.

And if our eyes no harvest see,
Still, Christ in heaven! Thy word has might;
And still the cup we give for Thee
Is brimm'd with beads of living light.

O Shepherd of the wandering sheep!
O Lover of the Lambs! We pray,
The learners and the teachers keep
Safe in Thy sheltering arms always.

50.* ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE.

I BIND unto myself to-day
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.

* Translated for the *Irish Church Hymnal*. Used as a processional in York Minster at the enthronement of William C. Magee, Archbishop of York.

I bind this day to me for ever,
By pow'r of faith, Christ's Incarnation ;
His baptism in Jordan river ;
His death on Cross for my salvation ;
His bursting from the spicèd tomb ;
His riding up the Heav'nly way ;
His coming at the day of doom ;
I bind unto myself to-day.

I bind unto myself the power
Of the great love of Cherubim ;
The sweet "Well done" in judgment hour ;
The service of the Seraphim,
Confessors' faith, Apostles' word,
The Patriarchs' prayers, the Prophets' scrolls,
All good deeds done unto the Lord,
And purity of virgin souls.

I bind unto myself to-day
The virtues of the star-lit heaven,
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,
The whiteness of the moon at even,
The flashing of the lightning free,
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
The stable earth, the deep salt sea,
Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself to-day
The pow'r of God to hold, and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.

The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, His shield to ward ;
The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

Against the demon snares of sin,
The vice that gives temptation force,
The natural lusts that war within,
The hostile men that mar my course ;
Or few or many, far or nigh,
In every place, and in all hours,
Against their fierce hostility,
I bind to me these holy powers.

Against all Satan's spells and wiles,
Against false words of heresy,
Against the knowledge that defiles,
Against the heart's idolatry,
Against the wizard's evil craft,
Against the death-wound and the burning,
The choking wave, the poison'd shaft,
Protect me, Christ, till Thy returning.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,
 The strong Name of the Trinity ;
 By invocation of the same,
 The Three in One, and One in Three.
 Of Whom all nature hath creation :
 Eternal Father, Spirit, Word :
 Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
 Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

51. PRAISE.

WE lift our song with one accord,
 Do Thou lift up our hearts, O Lord,
 And let Thine angels Heav'nward bear
 The incense of our praise and prayer.

We praise Thee, Lord, of all the earth,
 For love and joy, for light and mirth,
 For every charm of sense and right,
 And blessings boundless as Thy might—

For golden suns that rise and sink
 Behind the hills' empurpled brink,
 For flowers that paint the summer shade,
 And rivers wandering down the glade.

But most we praise the love that gave
 Thine own dear Son to seek and save,
 For joy all other joys excelling,
 For purest light and life indwelling ;

P O E M S

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