



- Across the ages they
 have reached us from afar;
 than the bright gold more golden thy,
 purer than purest star.
- 3. More durable they stand than the eternal hills; far sweeter and more musical than music of earth's rills.
- 4. Fairer in their fair hues than the fresh flowers of earth; more fragrant than the fragrant climes where odours have their birth.
- 5, Each word of thine a gem from the celestial mines; a sunbeam from that holy heaven where holy sunlight shines.
- 6. Thine, thine, this book, though given in man's poor human speech, telling of things unseen, unheard, beyond all human reach.

- 7. No strength it craves or needs from this world's wisdom vain; no filling up from human wells, or sublunary rain.
- 8. No light from suns of time, nor brilliance from its gold; it sparkles with its own glad light, as in the ages old.
- 9. A thousand hammers keen with fiery force and strain, brought down on it in rage and hate, have struck this gem in vain.
- 10. Against this sea-swept rock ten thousand storms their will of foam and rage have wildly spent; it lifts its calm face still.
- 11. It standeth and will stand, without or change or age, the word of majesty and light, the Church's heritage.

Words: Horatius Bonar. Music: Johannes Thomas Rüegg.
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