THANKFUL MEMORIES



- 2. Not always gladness and prosperity, but always goodness from thy patient hand; always the love that, even in saddest day, traced its clear prints upon time's silent sand.
- 3. I thank thee for a holy ancestry;
 I bless thee for a godly parentage;
 for seeds of truth, and light, and purity,
 sown in this heart from childhood's earliest age.
- 4. For word, and church, and watchful ministry, the beacon and the tutor and the guide; for the parental hand, and lip, and eye, that keeps me far from snares on every side.
- 5. I thank thee for a true and noble creed, for wisdom, poetry, and gentle song; for the bright flower, and for the wayside weed, the friendship of the kind, and brave, and strong.
- 6. I thank the love that kept my life from sin, even when my heart was far from God and truth; that gave me, for a lifetime's heritage, the purities of unpolluted youth;
- 7. that kept my eyes from gazing on the wrong, and taught them all the sweetness of the right; that made me in my quiet hours to long to get beyond this darkness into light;
- 8. that showed me that the world was not a rest, even when it looked the loveliest, and its face shone with the gladness of the glowing east, when it foretells a noon of cloudlessness;
- 9. that told me that all pomp was but a name, that gold and silver were not life and joy; that what today bestowed of love and fame, tomorrow's breath would wither and destroy;

- 10. that kept me from the riotous and rude, the oath, the lust, the revel, the lewd song; that drew my footsteps to the wise ans good, and bid me shun the pleasure-loving throng;
- 11. that made me feel, even amid scenes most bright, at times a strange dark void and vacancy, a longing for the real and infinite, for something that would fill and satisfy;
- 12. for suns that would not set; for stars and skies o'er which no sorrow-laden cloud would sweep; beauty that lives, and love that never dies; a deeper and diviner fellowship.
- 13. If earthly beauty, said I, be so fair, how fairer far the beautiful above! If creature love be so exceeding dear, how dearer far the uncreated love!
- 14. O birth-place of the loveliness and light, that shine so sweetly over earth and sea!How excellent must thou, the infinite, Eternal Source of all that beauty, be!
- 15. Show me thyself, then all is well with me, Being of beings, fullness evermore; then shall my soul posses, my God, in thee its never-emptying, everlasting store.
- 16. So shall the world be crucified to me, so to the world shall I be crucified; thy face in righteousness, Lord, I shall see; when I awake, I shall be satisfied.