

A Father's Advice
to His Children



By GEORGE MANCHA,
Lancaster, Pa.

1850

O, my beloved children dear
Come hear my last address,
Which I can give you while I'm here,
My feelings I'll express:—

Because upon this earth, my time,
May be but very short;
I have a hope, I am resign'd,
My trust is in the Lord.

So, to this end, I wrote these lines,
To you, beloved ones.
That you may fear the Lord betimes,
Abstain from all the wrongs.

Because, the fear of God, is said,
By Solomon the wise,
Is knowledge gained and wisdom's head,
It makes us truly wise.

My dearest ones, O, do repent,
From all your evil ways,
Before the Lord your hearts do rent,
While in your youthful days.

Remember what your mother said,
Upon her dying bed:
O, may it on your hearts be laid,
Yea, never to forget.

Her last advice to you was so,
The worldly lusts to flee,
To seek the Lord, his will to know,
To Him converted be.

Sincerely I do wish and pray,
That you may do the same;
O, that the Lord His mercy may,
Grant you in Jesus' name.

That you may willingly submit
Yourself unto the Lord,
And then receive, as you may yet,
The promise in His word.

How many are the dangers all,
I see the young are in;
So many ways that they may fall,
In wickedness and sin.

Now, if for worldly things we strive,
As John doth plainly say;
Lust of the flesh and pride of life,
Shall with it pass away.

But he that seeks God's will to do,
Forever shall abide;
In glory and in honor too,
Shall walk in His true light.

Once more, I must upon you call,
My children, take advice,
That by neglect you may not fall,
In wickedness and vice.

Come, hear your father's best adieu,
This testament I give,
In hope that it may be to you,
A rule whereby to live.

O, do forsake all sin and say,
To all the world farewell;
For death will take you all away,
How soon you cannot tell.

O, seek the Lord, and Him do fear,
And in His love remain;
Though death a while may part us here
Yet we will meet again.

That is, if you shall willingly,
Repent of all your sin;
Unto the Lord converted be—
Then we can meet again.

In everlasting happiness,
Which never eye has seen;
Which mortal tongue cannot express,
Ne'er heard by ears of men.

Now, for my younger ones, keep this,
When they grow up to know;
Then teach them also, that this is,
For them as well as you.

That they may also know my will,
And love to them so dear;
So that they may my wish fulfill,
That is, the Lord to fear.

And to the last I will commend
You all, as well as me,
To God, that we a happy end
In Jesus Christ may see.



A Remarkable Work of Grace

I composed the following verses after our return home from Medway, Ohio, January 19, 1872, at which place, in a short time, about fifty souls had given themselves up to serve the Lord, their God. Amos K. Herr was with me:-

When from our journey we came home,
And thought of what the Lord had done
How He preserved us night and day—
His grace was with us on the way.

The grace of God and it alone,
A great and wondrous work has done;
For many souls were moved by grace,
In righteousness to run their race.

The fear of God upon them fell,
In sinful home no more could dwell;
They did resolve from wrath to flee,
And with their Lord and Savior be.

This choice they made with one accord,
To serve their Master, King and Lord;
To love Him with both heart and mind,
Because He is a savior kind.

Their friends and neighbors did forsake
Who would not with them warning take,
For them they pray, that they might live
That Christ might save them and forgive.

Each heart was filled with love and joy ;
In things above was their employ ;
With Christ their Lord they did agree,
In union, love and harmony.

They did confess Him as their Lord,
Were willing to obey His word ;
And also for to suffer loss,
Thro' love to Christ and bear the cross.

My heart was filled with joy and peace,
When I beheld this work of grace,
I had to praise the Lord above,
For His redeeming grace and love.

My feelings I cannot express,
My peace of mind and happiness
Which I did feel while I was there,
And with them did this blessing share.

I hope the Lord may have a way,
For many of their friends to say :
To God the honor we will give,
No longer in our sins to live.

This choice we will now make today,
In sinful home no longer stay;
With Moses, rather suffer shame
For Jesus' ever blessed name.

Dear friends, my council unto you,
Is, be sincere in all you do,
For God, he looks upon the heart;
Therefore sincerely do your part.

In works His praises forth do show,
In thought and mind and all you do,
That we united here may be,
In love, and peace, and harmony.

To serve our God with all our heart,
And never from His love depart,
United with Him to remain,
Through grace eternal life obtain.

O, may the Lord His love impart,
To fill each soul and every heart;
That we through love united be,
And thus remain eternally.

That we in love may run our race,
Here in this sinful wilderness;
Until we land on Canaan's shore,
Where death and sorrows are no more.

—John Kohr.