

# Charity

Charity, decent, modest, easy, kind,  
Softens the high, and rears the abject mind,  
Knows with just reins, and gentle hand to guide  
Betwixt vile shame and arbitrary pride.  
Not soon provoked, she easily forgives;  
And much she suffers, as she much believes.  
Soft peace she brings wherever she arrives;  
She builds our quiet, as she forms our lives;  
Lays the rough paths of peevish nature even;  
And opens in each heart, a little heav'n.  
Each other gift which God on man bestows  
Its proper bounds and due restriction knows;  
To one fix'd purpose dedicates its power,  
And finishing its act, exists no more.  
Thus, in obedience to what Heav'n decrees,  
Knowledge shall fail, and prophecy shall cease (sic):  
But lasting charity's more ample sway,  
Nor bound by time, nor subject to decay,  
In happy triumph shall forever live;  
And endless good diffuse and endless praise receive.

~Almira Pollard (1805 - 1871)