ONCE TO EVERY MAN AND NATION

1. Once to ev'ry man and na-tion Comes the mo-ment to de-cide,
   In the strife of truth with false-hood, For the good or e-vil side;
   Some great cause, come great de-ci-sion, Of-fring each the bloom or blight,
   And the choice goes by for-ev-er, Twixt that dark-ness and that light.

2. Then to side with truth is no-ble, When we share her wretch-ed crust,
   Ere her cause bring fame and prof-it, And 'tis pros-perous to be just;
   Then it is the brave man choos-es While the cow-ard stands a-side,
   Till the mul-ti-tude make vir-tue Of the faith they had de-nied.

3. By the light of burn-ing mar-tyrs, Christ, Thy bleed-ing feet we track,
   Toil-ing up new Cal-v'ries ev-er With the cross that turns not back;
   New oc-ca-sions teach new du-ties, An-cient val-u-es test our youth;
   They must up-ward still and on-ward, Who would keep a-breast of truth.

4. Tho the cause of e-vil pros-per, Yet the truth a-lone is strong;
   Tho her por-tion be the scaf-fold, And up-on the throne be wrong;
   Yet that scaf-fold sways the fu-ture, And, be-hind the dim un-known,
   Stand-eth God with-in the shad-ow, Keep-ing watch a-bove His own.

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