

MS Hendrix¹

This manuscript is an untitled funeral hymn, written on the two sides of a single sheet of paper. The title given the manuscript here reflects that it was formerly in the possession of Methodist bishop Eugene Russell Hendrix (1847–1927). Frank Baker includes a holograph of the front side of the manuscript in *Representative Verse*, 377. Baker has suggested that it was written about 1785.

The manuscript is now part of the E. R. Hendrix papers held in the Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University, Durham, NC. The transcription below is provided with permission of Duke University Libraries.

¹This document was produced by the Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition under the editorial direction of Randy L. Maddox, with the diligent assistance of Aileen F. Maddox. Last updated: August 1, 2010.

[Untitled.]²

[1.] Soft! attend that awful Sound!
 Earth receives the borrow'd Clay,
 But the sky-born Soul is found
 In mansions of Eternal Day:
 Borne thro' the Open Fount of Jesus' blood
 He springs! he flies! he 'scapes into the arms of God!

2. Joys all earthly joys transcending
 Never-fading, never-ending,
 Inconceivable below,
 Rivers of celestial pleasure,
 Bliss redundant above measure
 From Jehovah's Presence flow!

 There the pure inraptur'd Spirit
 Doth his Lord's delight³ inherit,
 Doth the Father's Glory see!
 There in hymns or silent praises
 Blest on the Redeemer gazes
 Blest thro' all Eternity!

3. Mourners for ourselves alone,
 O when shall we or'take
 The saint to earlier glory gone,
 And win the prize by Jesus won,
 And given for his sake!

 Jesus, Lord, to Thee we sue,
 Still thy foes with pity view,
 Vilest of the sinful race,
 Still in mercy's [arms] embrace
 And bless with pardon from above
 The Objects of thy dying Love.

4. When Thou hast thy Love reveal'd
 In every panting heart,
 Conscious of our pardon seal'd,
 And ready to depart,⁴

²Published posthumously in *Representative Verse*, 377–78; and *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:371–72.

³“Reward” is written in the margin, as an alternative to “delight.”

⁴A series of vertical lines is drawn through the last six lines of stanza 3 and the first four lines of stanza 4. Thus the next five lines are likely intended to complete a revised stanza 3.

Jesus, manifest thy grace
And pity from above,
Vilest of the apostate race
Us in thy mercy's arms embrace
And crown⁵ us with thy Love.

[4.] Happy in thy love reveal'd
To the expanded heart,⁶
Conscious of our pardon seal'd,
And thus made ready to depart
Our souls to that triumphant soul unite
And plunge in the full blaze of Everlasting Light.

⁵Ori., "bless."

⁶Ori., "Diffus'd throughout the heart."