

MS Sarah Bulgin¹

William and Sarah (Colmer) Bulgin, married in 1780, were active Methodists in Bristol. William was a printer, who served as a trustee of the New Room chapel. Sarah died on March 14, 1787. John Wesley preached her funeral sermon (see *Works*, 24:8) and published an extract from an account of her Christian experience and “happy death” in the *Arminian Magazine* 10 (1787): 301–303, 351–54, 410–12. At some point prior to her death, while she was in a state of decline, Charles Wesley composed a hymn requesting God’s support, which he likely sent to Sarah. The hymn, slightly revised, was published in the introduction to the extract of the account of her life, pp. 302–03.

This first draft of the hymn is present on a looseleaf page in the Methodist Archive and Research Centre, accession number MA 1977/583/24 (Charles Wesley Notebooks Box 4). The transcription below is provided with permission of the Librarian and Director, The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester.

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

For Mrs. B[ulgin].²

- [1.] Lord, in whom I fain woud trust,
Nearest Them who need thee most,
See, thy helpless Creature see,
Touch'd with my infirmity:
2. While I sensibly decline,
Unassur'd that Thou art mine,
Sick of life, of death afraid³
Let me feel thy present aid.
3. Calmly and submissive⁴ mourn
For the Comforter's⁵ return,
For the Reconciling Kiss
Seal of my eternal bliss.
4. When his Coming from above
Certifies me of thy Love
Stamps thine image on my heart
Ready am I to depart:
5. Or, if so my Lord ordain
Still I in the flesh remain
Neither life, nor death request
Sure, whate'er Thou wilt is Best.
6. Till thy welcom will is done,
I hang on my Lord alone,⁶
Happy Thine in life to be,
Happier still to die in Thee.

²Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Verse 1786, 8–9 (identified for Mrs. Bulgin). Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:299–300 [cited as MS CW I (p), x].

³Ori., "~~Lean on Thee my languid head.~~" This was line 4 of the stanza originally, but CW put the replacement line (in shorthand) above the prior line. The alternative "Tired with life" for "Sick of life" is also suggested in shorthand; MS Miscellaneous Verse adopts this alternative.

⁴Ori., "~~in thy bosom.~~" Next changed to "and resign'd I," and finally changed to "and submissive."

⁵Ori., "my loving Lord's." The substitution is in shorthand, in the margin.

⁶Ori., "~~Thee my only Lord I own.~~" Next changed (in shorthand) to 'hangs my soul on thee alone', and finally to 'I hang on my Lord'.