

The last Tear I Shed.

The last Tear I shed was the warm one that fell
As I kissed thee dear mother and bade thee farewell-
When I saw the deep anguish impressed on thy face
And felt for the last time a mother's embrace
And thy choked accents impassioned and wild
God bless thee forever - God bless thee my child.

I thought of my boyhood thy kindness to me
When youngest and dearest I sat on thy knee
Of thy love to me ever so fondly expressed
As I grew up to manhood unconscious how lost
Of thy praises when right and thy chidings when wrong
Thine wayward with passion unyielding and strong

I thought of the counsels unheeded or spurned
As mirth had enlivened or anger had burned
And how when by sickness all helpless I lay
Thou didst nurse me and soothe me by night and by day
How much I had been both thy sorrow and joy.
And my feelings overpowered. I wept like a boy

Years. Years of endurance have vanished and now
There is pain in my heart there is care on my brow.
The visions of hope and fancy are gone
And cheerless I travel life's pathway alone
Alone! age-alone though some kind ones there be
There are none here to love me to love me like thee.

My Mother! Dear Mother, cold hearted they deem
Thy offspring, but oh! I am not what I seem;
Though calmly and fearless all changes I bear
Could they look in my bosom, the feeling is there!
And now sad and lonely as memory recalls
Thy blessings at parting 'Again the Tear falls-

Shirley Daniel Wood
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