

1850

RING OUT, WILD BELLS

(From In Memoriam A.H.H.)

Alfred Tennyson

Tennyson, Alfred (Lord) (1809-1892) - English poet, appointed Poet Laureate in 1850. The most popular poet of the Victorian era, he remains one of the most frequently quoted English writers. Ring Out, Wild Bells (1850) - Extracted from "In Memoriam A.H.H." (written between the years 1833 and 1850), a long poem inspired by the death of Tennyson's friend Arthur Henry Hallam. Opening lines: Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, / The flying cloud, the frosty light: ...

RING OUT, WILD BELLS

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

THE END