

1678

TO MY DEAR AND LOVING HUSBAND

Anne Bradstreet

Bradstreet, Anne (1612-1672) - English-born American Puritan poet, the first professional American woman writer. In 1647 she became the first AngloAmerican poet to be published in England. Both her father and husband became governors of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. To My Dear And Loving Husband (1678) - One of four poems addressed to her husband in a posthumous edition of her work. Opening lines: If ever two were were one, then surely we; / If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;

TO MY DEAR & LOVING HUSBAND

If ever two were one, then surely we;
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee;
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare with me, ye women, if you can.

I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold,
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
Nor aught but love from thee give recompense.

Thy love is such I can no way repay;
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
Then while we live in love let's so persevere
That when we live no more we may live ever.

THE END