

**1864**

**“HIS TENDER MERCIES ARE OVER ALL  
HIS WORKS”**

**William Cullen Bryant**

**Bryant, William Cullen (1794-1878) - American poet and editor of the New York Evening Post who practiced law before devoting his life to writing. A master of blank verse, Bryant's earliest works are considered his best. "His Tender Mercies Are Over All His Works" (1864) - A hymn. Opening lines: Our Father! to thy love we owe / All that is fair and good below....**

## **HIS TENDER MERCIES ARE OVER ALL HIS WORKS**

Our Father! to thy love we owe  
 All that is fair and good below.  
 Life, and the health that makes life sweet,  
 Are blessings from thy mercy seat

Oh Giver of the quickening rain!  
 Oh Ripener of the golden grain!  
 From Thee the cheerful day-spring flows,  
 Thy balmy evening brings repose.

Thy frosts arrest, thy tempests chase  
 The plagues that waste our helpless race,  
 Thy softer breath, o'er land and deep,  
 Wakes Nature from her winter sleep.

Yet, deem we not that thus alone  
 Thy bounty and thy love are shown,  
 For we have learned with higher praise  
 And holier names to speak thy ways.

In woe's dark hour our kindest stay,  
 Sole trust when life shall pass away,  
 Teacher of hopes that light the gloom  
 Of Death, and consecrate the tomb.

Patient with headstrong guilt to bear,  
 Slow to avenge and kind to spare,  
 Listening to prayer and reconciled  
 full soon to thy repentant child.

**THE END**