

**1856**

**IN MEMORIAM**

**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. In Memoriam (1856) - A hymn. Opening lines: Two hundred times has June renewed / Her roses since the day...**

**IN MEMORIAM**

Two hundred times has June renewed  
 Her roses since the day  
 When here, amid the lonely wood,  
 Our fathers met to pray.

Beside this gentle stream that strayed  
 Through pathless deserts then,  
 The calm, heroic women prayed,  
 And grave, undaunted men.

Hymns on the ancient silence broke  
 From hearts that faltered not,  
 And undissembling lips that spoke  
 The free and guileless thought.

They prayed, and thanked the Almighty One  
 Who made their hearts so strong,  
 And led them, towards the setting sun,  
 Beyond the reach of wrong.

He made for them that desert place  
 A pleasant heritage,  
 The cradle of a free-born race,  
 From peaceful age to age.

The plant they set- a little vine  
 Has stretched its boughs afar,  
 To distant hills and streams that shine  
 Beneath the evening star.

Their fields are ours- these fields that smile  
 With summer's early flowers;  
 Oh, let their fearless' scorn of guile,  
 And love of truth, be ours.

**THE END**