

1853

SOLITUDE

Lewis Carroll

Carroll, Lewis (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) (1832-1898) - English novelist, poet, photographer, and mathematician, best known for his fantastical childrens' classics. He was a mathematical lecturer at Oxford. Solitude (1853) - One of Lewis Carroll's poems. This poem marked the first use of the "Lewis Carroll" pseudonym. Opening lines: I love the stillness of the wood: / I love the music of the rill:...

SOLITUDE

I LOVE the stillness of the wood:
 I love the music of the rill:
 I love to couch in pensive mood
 Upon some silent hill.

Scarce heard, beneath yon arching trees,
 The silver-crested ripples pass;
 And, like a mimic brook, the breeze
 Whispers among the grass.

Here from the world I win release,
 Nor scorn of men, nor footstep rude,
 Break in to mar the holy peace
 Of this great solitude.
 Here may the silent tears I weep
 Lull the vexed spirit into rest,
 As infants sob themselves to sleep
 Upon a mother's breast.

But when the bitter hour is gone,
 And the keen throbbing pangs are still,
 Oh, sweetest then to couch alone
 Upon some silent hill!

To live in joys that once have been,
 To put the cold world out of sight,
 And deck life's drear and barren scene
 With hues of rainbow-light.

For what to man the gift of breath,
 If sorrow be his lot below;
 If all the day that ends in death
 Be dark with clouds of woe?

Shall the poor transport of an hour
 Repay long years of sore distress
 The fragrance of a lonely flower
 Make glad the wilderness?

Ye golden hours of Life's young spring,

Of innocence, of love and truth!
Bright, beyond all imagining,
Thou fairy-dream of youth!

I'd give all wealth that years have piled,
The slow result of Life's decay,
To be once more a little child
For one bright summer-day.
March 16, 1853.

THE END