

Sarah Fuller Flower Adams, 1805-1848.

Born: February 22, 1805, Harlow, Essex, England.

Died: August 14, 1848, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Middlesex, England, of tuberculosis.

Buried: Foster Street, near Harlow, Essex, England.

Benjamin Flower, politician and editor of *The Cambridge Intelligencer*, jailed in 1798 at the instigation of Bishop Watson for an article defending the French Revolution, and criticising the Bishop's political course, was visited by several ladies, one of whom was Miss Eliza Gould. The young lady's first acquaintance with him there in his cell led to an attachment and marriage. Of that marriage Sarah Fuller Flower was born. Sarah married William Bridges Adams in 1834. She had hoped to be an actress, but God had other plans for her. Her stage career was cut short by poor health (though she did get to play Lady Macbeth in 1837), so she turned to writing. Her works included a children's catechism; many magazine articles; a poem about early Christian martyrs called *Vivia Perpetua* (1841); 13 entries in *Hymns and Anthems*, published in 1841 by minister William Johnson Fox; and *The Flock at the Fountain* (1845). Adams attended Fox's South Place Unitarian Church, Finsbury, London. At her funeral another of her hymns was sung, ending:

When falls the shadow, cold in death
I yet will sing with fearless breath,
As comes to me in shade or sun,
"Father, Thy will, not mine, be done."

Hymns

Words and Music from *Hymns and Anthems*, 1841.

Creator Spirit! Thou the First

Darkness Shrouded Calvary

Gently Fall the Dews of Eve

Go, and Watch the Autumn Leaves

He Sendeth Sun, He Sendeth Shower

Nearer, My God, to Thee (1840) (1) (2) (3)

Tune: *Bethany (Mason)*; 1856 arrangement by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

O Hallowed Memories of the Past

O Human Heart! Thou Hast a Song

O I Would Sing a Song of Praise

O Love! Thou Makest All Things Even

Part in Peace: Is Day Before Us?

Sing to the Lord! For His Mercies are Sure

The Mourners Came at Break of Day

1) Theron Brown and Hezekiah Butterworth. *The Story of the Hymns and Tunes*. (New York: Oliver Ditson & Co., 1906.)

2) In *The Methodist Hymnal*, 1932 (1939 Edition), Whitmore & Smith with the tune, *Bethany* set in G Major (1 Sharp) in 4/4-time; where Lowell Mason was shown as the composer.

3) In *The American Hymnal*, 1933, The Broadman Press set in 6/8-time; where Mason was shown as an arranger. The latter is most likely the truth. If Rev. Fox's publication was a hymnal in 1841, it had to have music. There are two possibilities that come to mind: The 1841 music was replaced by Mason's 1856 work, or Mason only arranged a, by then, 15-year old tune. However, the source of the tune name, *Bethany* is unknown. The tune, *Bethany (Mason)*, which maybe should be called Bethany (Adams), has the parenthetical to distinguish it from another later Bethany: *Bethany (Smart)*; 1857 music by Henry Thomas Smart, 1813-1879.