

NO SECT IN HEAVEN.

Talking of sects till late one eve,
Of the various doctrines the saints be-
lieve.
What might I stand, in a troubled dream,
By the side of a darkly flowing stream.
And a "church-man" down to the riv-
er came:
When I heard a strange voice call his
name,
"Good father, stop; when you cross
this tide,
You must leave your robes on the oth-
er side."
But the aged father did not mind;
And his long gown floated behind,
As down to the stream his way he
took,
His pale hands clasping a gilt-edged
book.
"I'm bound for heaven when I'm
there,
I shall want my book of Common
Prayer;
And, though I put on a starry crown,
I should feel quite lost without my
gown."
Then he fixed his eye on the shining
track,
But his gown was heavy, and held him
back,
And the poor old father tried in vain,
A single step in the flood to gain.
I saw him again on the other side,
But his silk gown floated on the tide;
And no one asked, in that blissful spot,
Whether he belonged to the "Church"
or not.
Then down to the river a Quaker
strayed;
His dress of a undergarment was made
"My coat and hat must be all of gray;
I can not go any other way."
Then he buttoned his coat straight up
to his chin,
And steadily, solemnly, waded in,
And his broad-brimmed hat he pulled
down tight
Over his forehead so cold and white.
But a strong wind carried away his hat;
A moment he silently over that;
And then, as he gazed to the further
shore,
The coat slipped off, and was seen no
more.
As he entered heaven, his suit of gray
Went quietly sailing away;
And none of the angels questioned him
About the width of his beaver's brim.
Next came Mr. Watts, with a bundle
of Psalms
Tied nicely up in his aged arms,
And hymns as many, a very wise thing.
"That the people in heaven, 'all sound,'
might sing.
But I thought that the heavens an anx-
ious sigh,
As he saw that the river ran broad and
high,
And looked rather surprised as one by
one,
The Psalms and Hymns in the wave
went down.
And after him, with his MSS.,
Came Wesley, the pattern of godliness;
But he cried, "Dear me! what shall I
do?
The water has soaked them through
and through."
And there on the river far and wide,
Away they went down the swollen tide;
And the astonished, passed through
alone,
Without his manuscripts, up to the
throne.
Then, gravely walking, two saints by
name
Down to the stream together came;
But, as they stopped at the river's
bank,
I saw one saint from the other shrink.
"Sprinkled or plunged, may I ask you,
friend,
How you attained to life's great end?"
"Thus, with a few drops on my brow,
But I have been dipped, as you will see
me now."

"And I really think it will hardly do,
As I'm close communion," to cross
with you;
You're bound, I know to the realms
of bliss.
Then straightway plunging with all his
might,
Away to the left—his friend to the
right,
A part they went from this world of
sin,
But at last together they entered in.
And now, when the river was rolling
on,
A Presbyterian church went down;
Of women there seemed an innumerable
throng,
But the men I could count as they pass-
ed along.
And, concerning the road, they could
never agree,
The old or the new way, which it could
be,
Nor ever a moment pause to think
That both would lead to the river's
bank.
And a sound of murmuring, long and
loud,
Came ever up from the moving crowd:
"You're in the old way, and I'm in
the new;
That is the false, and this is the true;"
Or, "I'm in the old way, and you're in
the new;
That is the false, and this is the true."
But the brethren only seemed to speak;
Modest the sisters walked, and meek,
And if ever one of them chanced to
say
What troubles she met with on the
way
How she longed to pass to the other
side,
Nor feared to cross over the swelling
tide.
A voice arose from the brethren then:
"Let no one speak but the 'holy men';
For have ye not heard the words of
Paul?
"Oh, let the women keep silence all."
I watched them long in my curious
dream
Till they stood by the borders of the
stream;
Then, just as I thought the two ways
met;
But all the brethren were talking yet,
And would talk on, till the heaving tide
Carried them over side by side—
Side by side, for the way was one;
The tedious journey of life was done;
And all who in Christ the Savior died
Came out alike on the other side.
No form or crosses or books had they;
No gowns of silk, or suits of gray;
No creeds to guide them, or MSS.;
For all had put on Christ righteousness.

—She had just returned from
Vassar and papa was stroking her
hair fondly. "I hope, my dear,"
said the old man, "that you haven't
acquired any of the slang phrases
which so many Vassar young la-
dies are said to use." "You bet I
haven't papa," she answered bright-
ly. "When anybody catches me
talking slang, he is especially invi-
ted to slug me in the seventh rib."
"That is right my daughter, never
indulge in slang." "It gives a young
lady dead away."

—A conductor on one of the
Eastern railroads cried out, as the
train was about to pass through a
tunnel: This tunnel is one mile
long, and it takes four minutes to
go through it." The train dashed
through into daylight in four sec-
onds, and such a scene! Five
young ladies were closely pressed
by five pair of masculine arms, ten
pair of lips were glued together,
and ten inverted whisky flasks
flashed in the air.



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