

STAND TOGETHER, MEN, AS BROTHERS.

To the Editor of the Australian Workman.

Sir, . . . I take the liberty of asking you to insert the poem which follows in the WORKMAN, should they meet with your kind approval. The lines, if devoid of particular merit, are at least sincere, and original. It is on the prestige of a name great in Australian literature—Henry Kendall (my father)—that I venture to hope you will accept this poor tribute to the noblest cause.—Yours, &c.,

F. C. KENDALL.

Stand together, men, as brothers,
 While the last long battle rages;
 Nobler far our fight than others,
 Than the selfish strife of ages.
 Now no robber's tower defending,
 Now about no cruel throne;
 Not with brother slaves contending,
 Purposeless, oppressed alone.
 No! Our battle-field is vaster,
 And around the changing world
 Now our armies gather faster
 Faster round the flag unfurled,
 Hearts that feel for hearts of others,
 Count the distances as dreams;
 And when men seek their brothers
 Oceans are but little streams.
 Land to land the watchword passes,
 Freedom flashes zinc by zinc,
 As the armes of the masses—
 Stand together for their own,
 Stand together, men, as brothers—
 Shall we look behind us now
 At the past that blinds and smothers?
 Not! The light is on our brow.
 While he smears, see! Mammon shivers;
 While he lies, ah! Mammon fears;
 For the blood he shed in rivers
 Floats up to the fuller years.
 Often to the heart a hollow,
 Sinking voice may seem to say:
 "Favored man, the dream you follow
 Leads you but an endless way."
 "Bitter journey of the ages!"
 "Ever gleams the mirage sweet,
 And along the stricken stages
 Ye must drag your bleeding feet."
 But a pulse of high sensation,
 Nurtured in us, spurns the lie:
 We can make a civilization—
 Hunger, toil for it and die.
 Though the deep, dark, hidden river,
 Plunges in the cavern gloom—
 Where the long, loud echoes quiver,
 Dying in the depths of doom—
 Soon beneath the bright day gleaming,
 Lo! it lingers lit with love,
 And the cool, white moonlight, streaming,
 Trickleth through the leaves above.
 But from out the past of sorrow
 On we roll into the light,
 While the music of the morrow
 Breaks into the dark to-night.
 Stand together, men, as brothers!
 Lo! the light is on our brow.
 Skeer and doubt we leave to others;
 Ours to conquer Mammon now.

Sydney, 1891.

A Few Thoughts on Early Closing.