

**Classic Poetry Series**

**John Liddell Kelly**  
**- poems -**

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## John Liddell Kelly(19 February 1850-1926)

Born near Airdrie, Scotland, 19th February, 1850. John Liddell Kelly left school at the age of eleven and was self-educated afterwards. He married in 1870 and emigrated to New Zealand in 1880.

He worked as a Sub-editor for the Auckland Star and as editor for the Auckland Observer. Mr Kelly also has served as assistant editor for the Lyttelton Times and editor of the New Zealand Times.





# The Christian Philosopher's A.B.C.

Alone and hopeless in a world of woe,  
By friends deceived, and spurned by many a foe,  
Can man exist, and think, and act, nor feel  
Despondency o'er all his being steal?  
E'en faith in God and His all-gracious plan  
Fails when we lack man's sympathy for man.  
'Give us,' we cry, 'friends faithful and sincere—  
Happy our present, and our future clear ;  
In peace, oh God, our cups with plenty fill,  
Join earth to heaven, all sin and sorrow kill;  
Kill want and woe, then we shall gladly own  
Love rules the earth, and God doth reign alone—  
Mercy His crown, and Righteousness His throne!'  
Nay, speak not so, it ill becomes a clod  
Of lowly earth to dictate to his God !  
Put down rebellion in thee, and no more  
Question those gifts God poureth from his store.  
Remember whence thou art, and whither bent ;  
Say not 'tis evil which the Lord hath sent  
To serve His gracious ends. He shall hold sway  
Until each soul shall love him and obey.  
Virtue brings peace. Seek her and thou shall find  
What arms 'gainst griefs the philosophic mind.  
Xantippe might scold, yet Socrates pursued,  
Year in, year out, his philosophic mood—  
Zealous for God, and for the cause of good.

John Liddell Kelly