

# Who fathoms the eternal thought?

A.L. Peace, 1844-1912

Green Hill  
CM

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music is in common time (CM). The first staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the second staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece with two staves. It begins with a measure rest in the treble clef, followed by a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The bass clef continues with a steady accompaniment of chords and moving lines.

Who fathoms the eternal thought?  
Who talks of scheme and plan?  
The Lord is God! He needeth not  
The poor device of man.

I see the wrong that round me lies,  
I feel the guilt within;  
I hear, with groan and travail-cries,  
The world confess its sin.

I long for household voices gone,  
For vanished smiles I long:  
But God hath led my dear ones on,  
And He can do no wrong.

I know not what the future hath  
Of marvel or surprise,  
Assured alone that life and death  
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak  
To bear an untried pain,  
The bruised reed He will not break,  
But strengthen and sustain.

No offering of my own I have,  
Nor works my faith to prove;  
I can but give the gifts He gave,  
And plead His love for love.

And so beside the silent sea  
I wait the muffled oar;  
No harm from Him can come to me  
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift  
Their froned palms in air;  
I only know I cannot drift  
Beyond His love and care.

John Greenleaf Whittier