

## VICTOR

To have toiled upward through the barren years,  
To have had courage to contend with wrong,  
And walked in silence when the victor's song  
Was justly thine, lest it should reach the ears  
Of the great, grieving host of vanquished ones;  
Showing Christ's mercy to the puny soul  
That would have kept thee from the longed-for goal  
All these are victories, O worthy son!

But to have battled bravely and have failed—  
Yet, failing, stood undaunted to the last,  
Cheering the ones who on to victory passed;  
Infusing hope to those by doubt assailed,  
Conquering self, beneath the chastening rod—  
Behold a victor worthy of his God!

By: Beth Slater Whitson

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