

ONCE TO EVERY MAN AND NATION

James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)

Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)

1. Once to ev - 'ry man and na - tion Comes the mo - ment to de - cide,
 2. Then to side with truth is no - ble, When we share her wretch-ed crust,
 3. By the light of burn-ing mar-tyrs Je - sus' bleed-ing feet I track,
 4. Though the cause of e - vil pros-per, Yet 'tis truth a - lone is strong;

In the strife of truth with false-hood, For the good or e - vil side;
 Ere her cause bring fame and prof - it, And 'tis prosp'-rous to be just;
 Toil - ing up new Cal - v'ries ev - er With the cross that turns not back;
 Though her por - tion be the scaf - fold, And up - on the throne be wrong,

Some great cause, some great de - ci - sion, Of - f'ring each the bloom or blight,
 Then it is the brave man choos-es, While the cow-ard stands a - side
 New oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties, Time makes an-cient good un - couth;
 Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture, And, be - hind the dim un - known,

And the choice goes by for - ev - er 'Twixt that dark-ness and that light.
 Till the mul - ti - tude make vir - tue Of the faith they had de - nied.
 They must up - ward still and on - ward Who would keep a - breast of truth.
 Stand-eth God with - in the shad - ow Keep - ing watch a - bove his own.