

where they lived in the shadow of the Minster. By his ninth birthday young Thomas was a pupil at the Beverley Grammar School where his literary gifts were encouraged by the headmaster. He later regarded his not having attended a public school as 'a providentially-ordered escape from the utter corruption of religious principle and evil company.'<sup>3</sup> His first published poem was written when he was only fifteen years of age, and displays his latent talent, concluding as it does:

The moon is up—she glances still  
On Kedron's brook and Zion's hill:  
The sparkling ripple on the wave  
Returned the silent glance she gave;  
On Salem's heights her splendours shine,  
The moonbeams kiss the sacred shrine,  
But all is love and silent here,  
No voice, no whisper meets the ear;  
Stern desolation's withering hand  
Broods like a demon o'er the land.

After leaving Beverley, Whytehead pursued a course of private reading in Cambridge under his brother Robert before going up to St John's College as a 'pensioner' in October 1833.<sup>4</sup>

In the course of his undergraduate career at St John's Whytehead enjoyed some considerable successes which testify equally to his diligence and his natural gifts. In 1834 he was awarded the first Bell Scholarship from more than one hundred candidates, and in two successive years gained the Chancellor's Medal for his poems 'The Death of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester', and 'The Empire of the Sea.' In rather lighter vein, he won Sir William Browne's Medal for Latin and Greek epigrams, and in the same year, 1836, took the Hulsean Essay Prize in theology for his typological interpretation of the similarity between Moses and Christ—an unusual honour for a second-year classics student.<sup>5</sup> To crown his undergraduate career he was, in February 1837, placed second in the first class of the Classical Tripos, and even more important, became the Chancellor's Medallist in Classics. He took his BA in 1837, and MA in 1840. Immediately after being admitted to the bachelor's degree he was elected a Fellow of St John's College and remained in residence there while lecturing in classics at Clare Hall.

Whytehead's early sense of vocation to the ministry of the Church of England never faltered, in spite of the attractions which an academic career must have held for the recipient of such distinctions. Ordained to the diaconate for the curacy of Freshwater, Isle of Wight, in December 1839, the new responsibility of ministry in a village community brought 'its own peculiar sorrows and heavinesses, as well as the dusty high road of life.' Writing to a friend at this time he states that there could not be a