

Let All the Heathen Writers Join  
Isaac Watts, 1719.  
Solomon Straub, 1874.

Let all the heathen writers join  
To form one perfect book;  
Great God! if once compared with Thine,  
How mean their writings look!

Not the most perfect rules they gave  
Could show one sin forgiv'n,  
Nor lead a step beyond the grave;  
But Thine conduct to Heav'n.

I've seen an end to what we call  
Perfection here below;  
How short the powers of nature fall,  
And can no further go!

Yet men would fain be just with God  
By works their hands have wrought;  
But Thy commands, exceeding broad,  
Extend to every thought.

In vain we boast perfection here,  
While sin defiles our frame,  
And sinks our virtues down so far,  
They scarce deserve the name.

Our faith and love, and every grace  
Fall far below Thy Word;  
But perfect truth and righteousness  
Dwell only with the Lord.