

WE HAVE AN ANCHOR¹

(words by **Priscilla Jane Owens** (1829-1899))

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

REFRAIN:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

It is safely moored, 'twill the storm withstand,
For 'tis well secured by the Saviour's hand;
And the cables passed from His heart to mine
Can defy that blast, through strength divine.

REFRAIN

It will firmly hold in the straits of fear
When the breakers have told that the reef is near;
Though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
Not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow.

REFRAIN

It will surely hold in the floods of death,
When the waters cold chill our latest breath;
On the rising tide it can never fail
While our hopes abide within the veil.

REFRAIN

When our eyes behold through the gath'ring night
The city of gold, our harbour bright,
We shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
With the storms all past for evermore.

REFRAIN

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- The Cyber Hymnal. **WE HAVE AN ANCHOR**. available at <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/w/e/h/wehavean.htm>

¹ When the hymn was introduced to Britain around 1891, verse 2 was omitted and verses 3 to 5 were altered respectively as follows (with alterations in bold):

*'Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
When the breakers **roar and** the reef is near?
While the surges rave, and the wild winds blow,
Shall the angry waves then your barque o'erflow?'*

*'Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,
When the waters cold chill our latest breath?
On the rising tide **you** can never fail,
While **your anchor holds** within the veil.'*

*'Will your eyes behold through the **morning light**
The city of gold **and** the harbour bright?
Will you anchor **safe** by the heavenly shore,
When life's storms **are** past for evermore?'*

In the British version of the hymn, the first verse and the refrain remained unchanged from the original.