

Speak Not of Bygone Years.

"Oh, never speak of bygone years,
To hearts those years have tried
It opens afresh the fount of tears
Which time had wellnigh dried.
It brings back to the heart too much
Of grief it yet can feel;
And mercy should forbear to touch
The wound it cannot heal.

Oh, never speak of one that's dead
When those he loved are near;
I will break the hearts that long have bled,
To miss that one so dear.
I will blanch the rose on beauty's cheek,
And check the joyous tone;
For lips of mercy should not speak
Of one for ever gone."