

To Richard Westlake Chadwick

My bright-eyed boy - my darling child
My first-born, only son.
Thy merry laugh, and actions wild,
Give joy to more than one.

I love to hear thy prattling voice,
So joyous, sweet, and free.
Loved almost as my heart's first choice,
Thou art most dear to me.

From all that's evil: Love and Truth
Thy faithful guides will be,
And throughout the days of youth
Bring happiness to thee.

Then blessings on thy steps attend,
My darling dearest boy,
My loss, bright child, my heart would rend
From almost every joy

"Papa's" Valentin
Feb 14th 1851