

Can I Leave You? / Yes, My Native Land

Samuel F. Smith, 1832

quoted here from the 1835 Kirtland Hymnal

1. Yes, my native land, I love thee,
All thy scenes I love them well,
Friends, connexions, happy country!

Can I bid you all farewell?

Can I leave thee—

Far in distant lands to dwell?

2. Home! thy joys are passing lovely;

Joys no stronger-heart can tell!

Happy home! 'tis sure I love thee!

Can I—can I—say Farewell?

Can I leave thee—

Far in distant lands to dwell?

3. Holy scenes of joy and gladness,

Ev'ry fond emotion swell,

Can I banish heart-felt sadness

While I bid my home farewell?

Can I leave thee—

Far in distant lands to dwell?

4. Yes! I hasten from you gladly,

From the scenes I love so well!

Faraway, ye billows, bear me:

Lovely native land farewell!

Pleas'd I leave thee—

Far in distant lands to dwell.

5. In the deserts let me labor,

On the mountains let me tell,

How he died—the blessed Savior—

To redeem a world from hell!

Let me hasten,

Far in distant lands to dwell.

6. Bear me on, thou restless ocean;

Let the winds my canvass swell—

Heaves my heart with warm emotion,

While I go far hence to dwell,

Glad I bid thee,

Native land!—FAREWELL—FAREWELL.

Another Version:

YES, MY NATIVE LAND

Yes, my native land, I love thee.

All thy scenes I love them well.

Friends, connections, happy country!

Can I bid you all farewell?

Can I leave thee,

Far in distant lands to dwell?

Holy scenes of joy and gladness,

Every fond emotion swell.

Can I banish heartfelt sadness,

While I bid my home farewell?

Can I leave thee,

Far in distant lands to dwell?

Bear me on, thou restless ocean:

Let the winds my canvas swell.

Heaves my heart with warm emotion,

While I go far hence to dwell.

Glad I bid thee,

Native land farewell.