

“Singing with Understanding”
(Edward Mote: “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”)

I. Edward Mote.

A. Dates.

1. *Born*: January 21, 1797, London, England.
2. *Died*: November 13, 1874, Horsham, Sussex, England.

B. Life and ministry.

1. “Mote spent his early career in the cabinetry business. One strong influence in his life was John Hyatt, who preached at Tottenham Court Road Chapel, one of the chapels run by Lady Huntingdon. Mote eventually became a Baptist pastor and served 26 years at Horsham, Sussex. He was so well loved that his congregation offered him title to the church building, but he said: ‘I do not want the chapel, I only want the pulpit; and when I cease to preach Christ, then turn me out of that.’”
2. Lady Huntingdon.



a. Dates.

- (i) *Born*: August 24, 1707, Astwell House, Nottinghamshire, England.
- (ii) *Died*: June 17, 1791, London, England.

b. Life.

- (i) “The Countess’ title comes from her 1728 marriage to Theophilus Hastings, Ninth Earl of Huntingdon.
- (ii) “At an early age, Selina received serious religious impressions, which remained with her all her life. She was a member of the first Methodist Society, in Fetter Lane, London, and the first Methodist Conference was held at her house in 1744. Her sympathies, however, were with the Calvinism of George Whitefield, and when the breach occurred between Whitefield and the Wesleys, she chose Whitefield.
- (iii) “She spent her money freely building chapels, founding Trevecca College, South Wales (now Cheshunt), and supporting her preachers. For use in her chapels she compiled *A Select Collection of Hymns*. There are also a few hymns attributed to her own hand.”

C. “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less.”

1. “One morning it came into my mind as I went to labour, to write a hymn on the ‘Gracious Experience of a Christian.’ As I went up Holborn I had the chorus, ‘On Christ the solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand.’”

2. "In the day I had four first verses complete, and wrote them off. On the Sabbath following I met brother King as I came out of Lisle Street Meeting... who informed me that his wife was very ill, and asked me to call and see her. I had an early tea, and called afterwards. He said that it was his usual custom to sing a hymn, read a portion, and engage in prayer, before he went to meeting. He looked for his hymn-book but could find it nowhere. I said, 'I have some verses in my pocket; if he liked, we would sing them.' We did, and his wife enjoyed them so much, that after service he asked me, as a favour, to leave a copy of them for his wife. I went home, and by the fireside composed the last two verses, wrote the whole off, and took them to sister King... As these verses so met the dying woman's case, my attention to them was the more arrested, and I had a thousand printed for distribution. I sent one to the *Spiritual Magazine*, without my initials, which appeared some time after this. Brother Rees, of Crown Street, Soho, brought out an edition of hymns [1836], and this hymn was in it. David Denham introduced it [1837] with Rees' name, and others after... Your inserting this brief outline may in future shield me from the charge of stealth, and be a vindication of truthfulness in my connection with the Church of God" (Mote, Letter to the Gospel Herald).
3. "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest upon unchanging grace; (alt. I rest on His unchanging grace)
In every rough and stormy gale (alt. In every high and stormy gale)
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

3 His oath, His covenant, and His blood
Support me in the sinking flood; (alt. Support me in the whelming flood)
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

4 When I shall launch in worlds unseen, (alt. When He shall come with trumpet sound)
O may I then be found in Him; (alt. O may I then in Him be found)
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.