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HE UNDERSTANDS

I do not know why Marah's water flow
Before the place where Elim's palm
trees grow,
To cool the desert sands,
Nor why, when Canaan looks so sweet
and fair,
Strong deadly foes are waiting every-
where;
But, then, He understands.

I cannot see why Jacob, all night long,
Must put his feeble arm against the
Strong
To reach his soul's demands;
Nor why e'en now some souls in ang-
uish plead
When God is waiting to supply each
need;
But, then, He understands.

We can but wonder why some lives
are bound
With chains of steel nor hear a sweeter
sound
Than toil's severe commands,
While Time makes melody for other
ears,
As perfect as the music of the spheres;
But, then, He understands.

There is a purpose in our pain and
strife,
And when rue mingles with the wine
of life,
For these are from His hands;
So when I cannot conquer with the
strong,
I do not with the vanquished suffer
long,
Because He understands.

Sometimes I look upon the glowing
west,
And think I see some shining mountain
crest
In distant Eden lands,
And, grateful for the ways my feet have
trod
Try not to ask too soon the rest with
God,
And know He understands.

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