

PEACEABLE FRUIT.

“Nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness.”—HEB. xii. 11.

What shall Thine ‘afterward’ be, O Lord,
For this dark and suffering night?
Father, *what* shall Thine ‘afterward’ be?
Hast Thou a morning of joy for me,
And a new and joyous light?

What shall Thine ‘afterward’ be, O Lord,
For the moan that I cannot stay?
Shall it issue in some new song of praise,
Sweeter than sorrowless heart could raise,
When the night hath pass away?

What shall Thine ‘afterward’ be, O Lord,
For this helplessness of pain?
A clearer view of my home above,
Of my Father’s strength and my Father’s love?
Shall this be my lasting gain?

What shall Thine ‘afterward’ be, O Lord?
How long must Thy child endure?
Thou knowest! ’Tis well that I know it not!
Thine ‘afterward’ cometh, I cannot tell what
But I know that Thy word is sure.

What shall Thine ‘afterward’ be, O Lord?

I wonder and wait to see,
(While to Thy chastening Hand I bow,)
What ‘peaceable fruit’ may be ripening now,
Ripening fast for me!

F. R. H.