

(Published by request.)

"WAITING AT THE GATE OF HEAVEN."

Day is closing, aged Christian,
Brightly sinks the setting sun,
In thy quiet chamber lying,
Seems e'en now thy rest begun.
Waiting at the gate of heaven,
Ready for the call art thou,
With the peace that passeth knowledge,
Written on thy saintly brow.

Now the waves of earthly sorrow
Toss thy laboring bark no more;
Thou hast reached the calmer waters
Sparkling on the heavenly shore.
Thou art near the wished-for haven,
Shining ones are on the strand,
And beloved ones gone before thee
Wait to welcome thee to land.

Thou hast toiled, and hast not fainted,
Now thy work on earth is done;
Thou hast run the race with patience,
And the "crown of life" is won.
Waiting at the gate of heaven
Till the word at length shall come,
"Come, ye blessed of my father,
Enter thy eternal home."

Seest thou not the glory streaming
From the portals bright and fair,
As the white-robed ransomed spirits
One by one are entering there?
Hear'st thou not their songs of rapture,
And their golden harps' sweet tone,
Stealing through the silence round thee,
Caught by thee, and thee alone?

Minister of Christ's pure Gospel,
Silently thou teachest now,
As we read the blessed tidings
Traced in light upon thy brow.
Oh! When we our course are ending,
May such peace to us be given,
And the summons find us ready,
Waiting at the gate of heaven.

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