

Single-eyed
And single-hearted, many patient years
Over hard places where the way was rough,
And through deep waters where the shadows fell,
He led the flock committed to his care,
As Moses guided through the wilderness
God's chosen people, and like Moses fixed
His prayerful hopes upon a promised land
Of peace and plenty.

Came at last a day
When fair and grand, surpassing all his dreams,
His bright ideal realized uprose
Upon the calm horizon of his life,
But Jordan rolled between.

And on the day,
So long expected, when they entered in
And took possession of the goodly land,
The song of triumph rang in minor chords,
And chastened sorrow filled the hearts of all.
For him they loved, whose ear had heard instead
The call to enter into God's own rest.

And while hushed voices whispered of the sad,
Mysterious Providence, who within sight,—
Nay, almost touch, of the fulfilled desire,
Forbade his entering: there was entrance made
For him into a better country where
Above all sounds of earthly joy or grief
Would sweetly ring the Master's Welcome Home.

GERTRUDE WALLER.