

Why?

Why does man sorrow so? Not one knows why
God's child should suffer grief and pain and death :
His life, all told, is but a passing breath :
Why should that passing breath be one deep sigh?
Christ, crucified beneath a direful sky,
Speaks for all men in those wild words he saith—
Shows Himself man by this great shibboleth—
“Lama sabachthani.” Oh, woful cry!

No answer came : and still the heavens are dumb :
Still from wrung hearts doth this same question come :
So we must think 'tis nobler in God's sight
To do His will in darkness than in light :
Better be Christ than Croesus : and become
One of man's helpers e'en by martyrdom.