

"Hush every harsh and bitter word,
Quell each unkindly thought:
Add nothing to the misery
With which the world is fraught:
But rather strive by gentleness,
By patience, and by love,
Some portion, little though it be,
Of thy heavy load to move.

"Know ye of none, whose lot the weight
Of poverty doth bear;
For whom, e'en from a store,
A trifle thou can'st spare?
It may be that thou hast not gold,
But is there nought beside
That thou can'st freely give, if this
Be unto thee denied?"

"Is there not one whose weary bed
Of sickness thou may'st tend,
And with the offices of love
A holier mission blend?
Are there no mourners, sad and lone,
To whom thou can'st impart
Strong comfort, from the only source
That heals the broken heart?"

"Are there no erring spirits who
In sin and darkness roam,
Whom thou in meekness may win back
To their eternal home?
Are there not these? aye, more than these
Scattered throughout the land,
For thee to aid? Go, seek them out,
No longer idle stand!"

"Pause not for grateful thanks repaid,
For blessings by the way:
Speed thou along life's ragged paths,
For these thou must not stay!
Slack not because no fruit appear,
Where thou the seed hast sown;
But do thy master's work, and leave
The rest to him alone?"

"That, when awakened from the sleep
Which lasts thro' death's dark night,
The dawning of an endless year
May burst upon thy sight:
Thine high reward, denied on earth
Those blessed words may be,
'In that ye did unto these,
Ye did it unto Me!'"

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