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UNANSWERED

By H. Isabel Graham.

Long have I kept the incense burning
brightly,
But to my soul no answer comes as
yet,
Until, sometimes in weakness, I half
wonder
If God His blessed promise can forget;
Will he our cares and sorrows truly
share,
And safely keep the loved ones of our
prayer?

It is not much I ask—only to keep
them
So pure and white that sin can never
shame—
Perchance I've asked the hardest thing
in reason,
And God for his delays is not to
blame,
What if they in the far-off land must
learn
The love of Him, who sweetly saith,
"Return!"

My path would easier be, but I am
human,
So very human, Lord, and short of
sight,
That oft I lose my own way in the
darkness:
How then for others can I choose a-
right.
Thou lov'st them more than I, and so on
Thee.
I lay a load too heavy far for me.

'Tis in the desert waste the heart of
pilgrim
Turns to the comfort of his father's
home,
And in the dreary briar-land of sor-
row
The Shepherd seeks the stray lamb
wont to roam:
Though they may wander over land
and sea,
Thy love will bring them back to Thee
and me.

And then, when we are praying for the
dear ones
O'er whom our hearts in love and pity
yearn,
Our Father, too, is teaching us the
lessons
Of faith and patience that His loved
must learn;
And sweet songs rise upon the midnight
air
That never could be sung by answered
prayer.

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