The angels seemed to gather there from off the other shore,

And fold their wings in quietness, as the they'd been before.

There was no high-priced organ there, no costly singing choir.

To help you raise your hearts to God, and holiness inspire;

But sitting still in silence, we seemed to feel and know

The still, small voice that entered in and told the way to go.

The walls were free from painting and costly work of art,

That in our modern churches seems to play so large a part;

For it seems that each endeavors to please the eye of man,

And lose all thoughts of plainness in every church they plan.

The windows had no colored glass, to shed a gloom around,

But God's pale sunlight entered unrestrained and all unbound,

And centred in a little spot, so bright, it seemed to me

A glimpse of brightness, somewhat like our future home will be.

There was no learned minister, who read as from a book,

And showed that he had practiced his every word and look;

But a sermon, full of wisdom was preached by an old Friend,

That took right hold of all our thoughts, and held them to the end.

He used no long, high-sounding words, and had a sing-song way

In drawing out his sentences, in what he had say;

But told the truth, and told it so that everyone who heard,

Seemed to fee! the prompting spirit, more than just the spoken word.

There was no pulpit decked with flowers of beauty rich and rare,

And made from foreign costly woods, almost beyond compare;

But plain and simple as the truths that we had that day heard,

The common painted gallery did much to help the word.

There was no bustle, noise or stir, as each one took his seat,

But silence settled over all, so solemn, but so sweet.

As each one in his solemn way implored for strength to know

The right from wrong in everything, and asked the way to go.

It seemed when I was there, wife, so peaceful and so still,

That I was in God's presence, and there to do His will;

This simple peaceful quiet did more to move my heart

Than any worship yet had done, with all its show and art.

I'm going there again, wife, and you will like it, too;

I know what it has done for me—t'will do the same for you:

And you, when once you've entered through the plain, but open door,

Will wonder why you've never tried the simple church before.

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