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NOT SHUT IN

(The following lines were written by a sister who had been confined to a bed of extreme suffering for many years.)

"Shut in," did you say, my sisters?
Oh, no! Only led away,
Out of the dust and turmoil,
The burden and heat of the day,
Into the cool green pastures,
By the waters calm and still,
Where I may lie down in quiet,
And yield to my Father's will.

I am not shut in, my sisters,
For the four walls fade away
And my soul goes out in gladness
To bask in the glorious day;
This wasting, suffering body,
With its weight of weary pain,
Can never dim my vision,
My spirit cannot restrain.

Earth's ministering ones come 'round me,
With faces calm and sweet,
And we sit and learn together
At the loving Saviour's feet;
And we talk of life's holy duties,
Of the crosses that lie in the way,
And they must go and bear them,
While I lie still and pray.

I wait the rapturous ending,
Or rather the entering in
Through the gates that stand wide open,
But admit no pain or sin;
I am only waiting, sisters,
Till the Father calls "Come home!"
Waiting with lamp all burning,
Till the blessed Bridegroom come.

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