JESUS AT THE WELL OF SAMARIA



- 2. She comes alone, for good report her company would scorn; weary, degraded, desolate, at mid-day, not at morn: scorched by the blazing sun above, her conscience scorched within, Samaria's erring daughter proved the bitterness of sin.
- 3. But he, who sat by Jacob's well, was weary-hearted too; this earth he found a wilderness, in which no rest he knew: he toiled, he daily spent his strength, his loins were girded fast; there were but "twelve hours in the day;" he'd labour to the last.
- 4. From Zion's hill, and Judah's plains, to Galilee he moved, to seek and save the lost intent; this was the work he loved: love brought him down from heaven to earth, our mis'ries touched his heart; love made him take a human birth, with us to have a part.
- 5. Toil never out-wears love. Love toils and finds its rest in toil; love cannot rest, when those it loves are misery's sport and spoil; love rests in work; love joys in pain, if only it may bless the objects of its care, and save from suffering and distress.

- 6. The faithful Shepherd leaves the flock, his one lost sheep to find; follows its tracks o'er thorny wastes, to toil and danger blind: and when his lost one he has found, how great is his delight!

 He bears it on his shoulders home, and counts the burden light.
- 7. Hungry, and thirsty, weary too, he sits at Jacob's well; but the strong thirstings of his love, to rescue souls from hell, make him forget all but her need, all but his Father's will: his meat, his drink, his one delight, his mission to fulfil.
- 8. It was a task that needed all his gracious skill, to win that hardened heart and darkened mind, so long enslaved by sin: what wise and faithful tenderness in all his words we see! Each one of us, O Lord, confess, thou didst the same for me.
- 9. And still, O Lord, thou art the same, though seated on the throne, as when, on that eventful day, thy grace to her was shown: thyself, the precious gift of God, givest those waters free; and openest lips, like hers of old, to win fresh souls to thee.

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