The Ninety and Nine

Elizabeth Cecelia Douglas Clephane, 1868

Ira David Sankey, 1874

1. There were ninety and nine that safely lay In the shelter of the fold. But one was out on the hills away, Far off from the gates of gold. Away on the mountains wild and bare, Away from the tender Shep-herd’s care. Away from the tender Shep-herd’s care.

2. “Lord, Thou hast here Thy ninety and nine; Are they not enough for Thee?” But the Shepherd made answer: “This of Mine has wandered away from The Lord, whence are those blood drops all the way That mark out the mountain’s cross, Nor how dark was the night the Lord passed through Ere He found His sheep that was lost. Out in the desert He heard its cry, Sick and helpless and ready to die. They are pierced to-night by many a thorn; They are pierced to-night by many a thorn.”

3. But none of the ransomed ever knew How deep were the waters Me; And although the road be rough and steep, I go to the desert back.” “Lord, whence are Thy hands so rent and torn?” “They are pierced to-night by And the angels echoed around the throne, “Rejoice,—for the Lord brings back His own! Rejoice,—for the Lord brings back His own!”

4. “Lord, whence are those blood drops all the way That mark out the mountain’s steep, There arose a glad cry to the gate of heaven, “Rejoice!—I have found My track?” “They were shed for one who had gone a stray—Ere the Shepherd could bring him home!” And the angels echoed around the throne, “Rejoice,—for the Lord brings back His own!”

5. And all through the mountains, thunder-riven And up from the rocky crest. There were ninety and nine that safely lay In the shelter of the fold. But one was out on the hills away, Far off from the gates of gold. Away on the mountains wild and bare, Away from the tender Shep-herd’s care. Away from the tender Shep-herd’s care.

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