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“BEHOLD, HE PRAYETH.”

“Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth.”—ACTS IX. 11.

I

A SINNER, wrestling in his guilt,  
 “Forgive, Thou canst, Lord, if Thou wilt,  
 Whose life-blood for my soul was spilt” :—  
 Behold, he prays.

2

A child, compelled by love to press  
 Still nearer to Thy holiness,  
 Who cries “ Bless me, my Father, bless” :—  
 Behold, he prays.

3

A saint, whose heart's compassions yearn  
 To see the prodigal's return  
 And lost ones all Thy mercy learn :—  
 Behold, he prays.

4

A sufferer beneath the cross,  
 Whose gold is daily fined from dross,  
 The while he proves the world is loss :—  
 Behold, he prays.

5

A wayfarer whose course is run,  
 The Jordan flushed at set of sun,  
 And blessèd Canaan almost won :—  
 Behold, he prays.

6

Oh, voice of prayer ! Oh, voice of song  
 Borne through the gates of heaven along !  
 Amid the everlasting throng :—  
 Behold, he prays.

E. H. BICKERSTETH.

*Written at Damascus, April 3, 1881.*