

I Never Knew You

Elizabeth Needham, 1881.

Charles Case.

When the King in His beauty shall come to His throne,
And around Him are gathered His loved ones, His own;
There be some who will knock at His fair palace door,
To be answered within, "There is mercy no more."

Refrain

"I have never known you,
I have never known you,
I have never, I have never,
I have never known you."

They had known whence He came, and the grace which He brought;
In their presence He healed, in their streets He had taught;
They had mentioned His name and their friendship professed;
But they never believed, for of them He confessed:

Refrain

Now the righteous are reigning with Abraham there;
But for these is appointed an endless despair;
It is vain that they call: He once knocked at their gate,
But they welcomed Him not; so now this is their fate:

Refrain

O sinner, give heed to this story of gloom,
For the hour is fast nearing that fixes your doom;
Will you still reject mercy? still harden your heart?
Oh, then, what will you do as the King cries, "Depart!"

Refrain