

Not Now, but By and By  
James Elliot, 1888.  
John Sweney.

I saw the reapers one by one  
Their sheaves in triumph bear;  
I knew their labor at an end,  
And prayed their joy to share;  
"Be thou content, and bide thy time,"  
I heard a voice reply;  
"Thou too shalt go where they have gone,  
Not now, but by and by."

Refrain

"Not now, but by and by,"  
I heard a voice reply;  
"There's home and rest, and joy for thee,  
Not now, but by and by."

"Dear Lord," I said, "Thy precious words  
My waning strength renew;  
But O, I grieve and mourn to think  
My harvest sheaves are few."  
"Toil on," the same sweet voice replied,  
"Thy days are gliding by,  
And thou shalt join the reapers' song,  
Not now, but by and by."

Refrain

"No more, no more, dear Lord," I said,  
"Will I impatient be;  
But through Thy grace I'll do my work,  
And leave it all with Thee."  
Tho' gath'ring clouds may sometimes cast  
Dark shadows o'er the sky,  
My feet shall tread the fields of light,  
Not now, but by and by.

Refrain