

When Wilt Thou Save the People

Ebenezer Elliott, 1850.

Josiah Booth, 1888.

When wilt Thou save the people?  
O God of mercy, when?  
Not kings and lords, but nations,  
Not thrones and crowns, but men!  
Flowers of Thy heart, O God, are they;  
Let them not pass, like weeds, away;  
Their heritage a sunless day:  
O God, save the people!

Shall crime bring crime forever,  
Strength aiding still the strong?  
Is it Thy will, O Father,  
That man shall toil for wrong?  
"No," say Thy mountains; "No," Thy skies;  
Man's clouded sun shall brightly rise,  
And songs ascend, instead of sighs:  
O God, save the people!

When wilt Thou save the people?  
O God of mercy, when?  
The people, Lord, the people,  
Not thrones and crowns, but men!  
God save the people; Thine they are,  
Thy children, as Thine angels fair:  
From vice, oppression, and despair,  
O God, save the people!