PARTING HAND. L. M.

Key of G Major.

J. BLAIN. "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for we ourselves are taught of God to love one another." 1 Tim. 4:12.

William Walker, 1835.

1. {My Christian friends, in bonds of love, Whose hearts in sweetest union join,} Your company's sweet, your union dear,
   {Your friendship's like a drawing band, Yet we must take the parting hand;} Yet
   O could I stay with friends so kind,
   How would it cheer my drooping mind!

2. {How sweet the hours have passed away Since we have met to sing and pray;} O could I stay with friends so kind,
   {How loath we are to leave the place Where Jesus shows his smiling face.} How would it cheer my drooping mind!

3. And since it is God's holy will,
   We must be parted for a while,
   In sweet submission, all as one,
   We'll say, our Father's will be done.
   My youthful friends, in Christian ties,
   Who seek for mansions in the skies,
   Fight on, we'll gain that happy shore,
   Where parting will be known no more.

4. How oft I've seen your flowing tears,
   And heard you tell your hopes and fears!
   Your hearts with love were seen to flame,
   Which makes me hope we'll meet again.
   Ye mourning souls, lift up your eyes
   To glorious mansions in the skies;
   O trust His grace—in Canaan's land
   We'll no more take the parting hand.

5. And now, my friends, both old and young—
   I hope in Christ you'll still go on;
   And if on earth we meet no more,
   O may we meet on Canaan's shore.
   I hope you'll all remember me
   If on earth no more I see;
   An interest in your prayers I crave,
   That we meet beyond the grave.

6. O glorious day! O blessed hope!
   My soul leaps forward at the thought
   When, on that happy, happy land,
   We'll no more take the parting hand.
   But with our blessed holy Lord
   We'll shout and sing with one accord,
   And there we'll all with Jesus dwell,
   So, loving Christians, fare you well.

Copyright, 1903, by J. S. James.