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KEEPER OR BROTHER ?

Am I my brother's keeper ? No!
For if so I would be
His master instead of brother
And he would not be free.

A keeper is for criminals,
A child or man insane,
But if a man can rule himself
There's no need to restrain.

As each of us has human rights,
With which each one is born,
The equal right to liberty
Should never be foresworn.

But how can I aid my brother
If he is in distress ?
Why help him find the way again
To make his pain the less.

A man needs opportunity
To prove his innate worth:
A chance to learn, a chance to earn
His living on the earth.

For who would be dependent,
And lean upon another
If strong enough to stand alone
And add strength to each other ?

Beholden he should be to none
For privilege to live,
For each one's rights are just the same
To all that NATURE gives.

To brother I'd be a brother,
As he might be to me, -
Together we'd work for justice
And true equality.

The way to real prosperity
For one and all there'd be
With the birth of constant progress
Through the George economy.

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