

## THE MEETING

The blackness faded, the day was breaking,  
The road ahead was strange and bare.  
"Welcome, Sacco! Welcome, Vanzetti!"  
Cried three who met them there.

"Like you," said the old man, "I died for justice."  
"Like you," said the young man, "for brotherhood."  
"Like you," said the woman, "I died for heeding  
The voice of the highest good."

"We all have known the crowded courtroom,  
The lying charge, the doom of death,  
We have known the loneliness, the darkness,  
The pang of the parting breath.

But men learn slowly, comrades, slowly;  
Many must yet be sacrificed  
To teach them righteousness, love, and justice"—  
Said Socrates, Joan, and Christ.

—*Miriam E. Oatman*