

10/9/20

“Why should I feel discouraged ?”

That’s quite a query for these unsettling days in which we are living!! And there are any number of answers which might be given . . . ill health, the state of the nation, COVID, separation from family and friends, job loss etc. etc. etc.

Actually, those are the opening words to a hymn which dates back over 100 years –

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW. It was inspired in an unexpected way . . . Civilla Durfee Martin, Canadian-born school and music teacher, pastor’s spouse, and composer of hymns tells the story of how she came to write it:

“Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, NY. We contracted a deep friendship for a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle— true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for nigh twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheel chair. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittles, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle’s reply was simple: ‘His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me.’ The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me. The hymn HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW was the outcome of that experience.”



One day after she penned the words, she mailed it to the famous Gospel composer, Charles Gabriel, who wrote the music to the now famous hymn.

Put this link into your browser to listen and let your heart sing along!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CS5vKFSPtM>