

## *"The Final Inspection"*

*The policeman stood and faced his God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining.  
Just as brightly as his brass.*

*"Step forward now, policeman.  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My church have you been true?"*

*The policeman squared his shoulders and said,  
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't,  
Because those of us who carry badges  
can't always be a saint.*

*I've had to work most Sundays,  
and at times my talk was rough,  
and sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the streets are awfully tough.*

*But I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep....  
Though I worked a lot of overtime  
When the bills got just too steep.*

*And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.*

*I know I don't deserve a place  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around  
Except to calm their fear.*

*If you've a place for me here,  
Lord, It needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't.....I'll understand.*

*There was silence all around the throne  
Where the saints had often trod.  
As the policeman waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.*

*"Step forward now, policeman,  
You've borne your burdens well.*

*Come walk a beat on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in hell."*