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I doubt the pur - i - ty of sighs, I doubt the strength of tears; When


Mason \& Law
(1850)

George James Webb (1803-1887) was born at Rushmore Lodge, near Salisbury in Wiltshire, England. He trained early in England and was an organist in Falmouth, England. He emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1830. He was organist at the Old South Church in Boston for nearly 40 years and was organist at the Boston Church of the New Jerusalem. With Lowell Mason, he founded the Boston Academy of Music. He was president of the Handel and Haydn Society. In 1871, he left Boston, taught in New York from 1876-1885, and retired to Orange, New Jersey. He was an editor for the journals "The Music Library" and "The Music Cabinet." He published the books "Vocal Techniques" and "Voice Culture," and was editor and arranger of the collections "Young Ladies' Vocal Class Book," "The Glee Hive," "The New Odeon," "The Vocalist," the "Little Songster," and "Cantica Laudis." He composed organ music, choral music, songs, and hymns. His most well-known composition is his part-song "'Tis Dawn, the Lark is Singing." The original song was well received and later adapted as a hymn with the addition of sacred words "Stand up, stand up for Jesus."

Say not, because you see no tears, That tears can never flow; Ah, judge not by the light that plays On many a radiant brow;
For, oh! believe me, hearts can feel When careless they appear; And smiling eyes have often smiled To hide the gathering tear!

I doubt the purity of sighs, I doubt the strength of tears; When these are shed before men's eyes, Those rung into men's ears; But doubt I not the depth, the truth Of aching hearts, which wear A smile upon the pallid face, That none may see the tear!

Alicia Jane Sparrow (?-1858)

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