

When first I started thinking about a welcome talk,
I thought the matter over, and decided I would balk.
How could I say, with conscience clear,
'My friends, You're heartily welcome here'?
When deep down in my heart I knew,
We'd rather you'd be in Kalamazoo.

I wanted to write to you and say;
'Dear Chapter, please forget the day.
The Worthy Matron is out of town,
Even the Patron hasn't been round.
We practiced a play we thought was tops,
But all our efforts have been flops.

At practice time there's no one here.
Each day our prospects look more drear,
And frankly, we have not the sand,
To entertain the Worthy Grand.
When everything we've tried to do,
Has come to naught and fallen through.

But then my conscience said to me,
'You have two eyes, Why can't you see
That this is not a fancy show,
But a friendly visit from folks you know.
And all the worry that comes to you
Is just what other chapters go through?'

When they planned a special date,
And all the officers drag in late,
And, I'm sure your friend, the Worthy Grand,
Is just the type who would understand
About such things as this, and say!
I bet she's fashioned from human clay.

There was a time when even she,
Would quake and tremble at the knee,
When she, as Worthy Matron, knew,
The Grand Matron's visit soon was due.
Forget your frets, and make them say,
They're really glad they came your way.

And so, while our welcome is simple,
We want you to know that it's true:
I bring you a pledge of allegiance
From our chapters unto you.
We know you have caught a vision,
One that will not grow dim.

Of the Star that the Wise Men followed
To the Manger in Bethlehem.
To you, who have worked with ardor,
For our beautiful Eastern Star,
We bid you a glad, good morrow,
And our hope that you travel far.

And may you, when you wake in the morning,
With the beautiful sunrise, say,
'I'm glad that I made that visit;
I hope I go back, someday.'

And Neighbors, too, we're glad you're here!
Relax and smile and have no fear.
And if your shoe gets sort of tight,
Just slip it off, you have the right.
Your visit makes us feel just grand.
It makes us want to grip your hand,
And say, 'Hello Neighbors!' with a smile,
'We're glad you came to sit a while!'

(This reading could be given by a member by changing some of the wording a bit. It could be given in place of the welcome by W.M. and therefore her greeting to the W.G.M. could tie up with this poem. - Just a suggestion. d.j.)

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