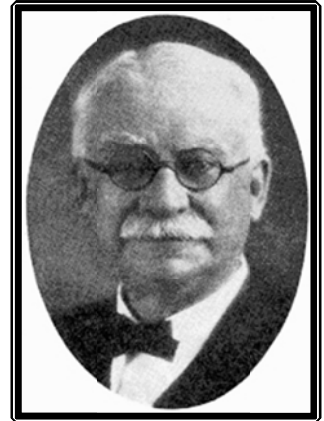


# GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

*Civilla D. Martin, Lyrics; Walter S. Martin, Music; 1904*

Walter and Civilla Martin were a husband and wife team of Baptist evangelists who were in active ministry primarily in northeastern United States in the late 1880's through the 1930's. Walter was a preacher, and composed tunes for many of the poems his wife wrote. In 1904, they had an invitation to go to New York City and for him to preach. However, his wife was too ill to accompany him on the journey; perhaps too ill to be left behind while he went away. Walter considered canceling the trip until his wife recovered, not wanting to leave her side. While it was being discussed, their nine year old son said, *"Father, don't you think that if God wants you to preach today, He will take care of Mother while you are away?"*



Walter kept his appointment, and when he returned that evening, he found his wife greatly improved. Mrs. Martin had written a new hymn based on her son's faithful remark earlier that day. The Reverend Martin placed the words on the music stand of the organ and in a short time had composed a tune which suited his wife's words perfectly. That very evening a couple of other teachers at the school came by, and they all sang the song together. Later in the week it was sung at one of the school assemblies, and the suggestion was made to include it in the new hymnbook, *"Songs of Redemption"*, compiled by Martin and John A. Davis, and published in 1905.



Civilla wrote the words for over one hundred hymns, throughout her lifetime. One of the most memorable was, *"His Eye is On the Sparrow"*.

~Tull