

"The great soul of Dante, homeless on earth, made its home, more
"and more, in that awful other world." That, surely, is the lesson
exile should teach us; "Our citizenship is in heaven."

As to what else may be said, read Carlyle for yourselves; read— as I trust you will the authors, the poems, it has been my very pleasant task, in these wholly-inadequate papers, to commend to your study and attention. You will find, in each and all, if you will seek for it, some utterance of the human soul, one, it may be, that shall be in harmony with thoughts, desires, aspirations to which you, also, would fain give utterance, but cannot, lacking words. It is Dante's glory, as it is that of all great poets, to have been the voice of silent thousands, silent centuries. So, Carlyle, as a final quotation:

"And so in this Dante, as we said, had ten silent centuries, "in a very strange way, found a voice. The "*Divina Commedia*" "is of Dante's writing; yet, in truth, it belongs to ten Christian "centuries, only the finishing of it is Dante's. So always... Dante "is the spokesman of the Middle-Ages; the thought they lived by "stands here, in everlasting music. These sublime ideas of his, "terrible and beautiful, are the fruit of the Christian Meditation "of all the good men who had gone before him. Precious they; "but also is not he precious? Much, had he not spoken, had been "dumb; not dead, but living voiceless." And, further on, he speaks of Dante as "sent into our world to embody, musically, the Religion of the Middle Ages." Does this, from a non-Catholic, an enemy of Holy Church, need any comment? This, at all events, needs none, wherewith we end:

"In some sense it may be said that this glorious Elizabethan "Era, with its Shakspeare as the outcome and flowerage of all "which had preceded it, is itself attributable to the Catholicism "of the Middle Ages."

F. W. G.

