

Which veils the azure sky ; while, like a dove,
The Holy Spirit, visibly disclos'd,
Descending lighted on him ; and a voice,
Loud speaking from the dazzling glory, said,
"This is my well beloved Son, in whom
My soul delighteth; and, through whom well pleas'd,
Unto myself I reconcile the world."

Behold the Son of God attested thus,
And thus prepared for conflict, issue forth
To the lone wilderness himself to meet,
And overthrow, that enemy who first subdu'd
The human race to bondage, by his wiles
Lusnaring, leading them to sin against
Their gracious Maker, and from Paradise
To be outcast. But though our father fell
By strong temptation tried, not so God's Son
On whom man's help was laid ; he firmly stood
Defying all the tempter's subtile arts ;
And after forty days' and forty nights'
Hard contest in the desert, he return'd