

is sweeter, whose grace is more ravishing than any one to whom he could be compared ; ” to Him “ at whose touch the sick are healed, and by the odor of whose virtue the dead are awakened. ” By this vow she sacrificed the right even to lawful pleasures, and put herself in opposition to every passion and appetite of human nature. No wonder that her pagan judge, her pagan lover, and her pagan audience thought the young enthusiast insane. They could not understand Christian self-abnegation. She could have been dispensed from the vow, and every means was used to change her purpose. Her wooer, Procopius, offered her lawful marriage. His friends and his father seconded his suit. He was the son of the prefect of Rome—the highest judge in the city, except the emperor. Procopius was young and handsome. He appealed to every motive that has influence in the human heart—to ambition, natural cupidity, and sympathy. He offered her great wealth, a palace, high rank, and the love of a devoted heart. Where is the woman of the world who would have refused such an offer of marriage ? Was not the refusal of Agnes divine ?

We know that even the ordinary forms of