

the rich, the proud, the ambitious, the worldly, he sends away empty. For even should they receive in their unhallowed bosoms, the flesh and blood of Jesus, they retire from the banquet of the Lord, empty and destitute of grace. Let us then, with gratitude, for this mystery of overwhelming love, again join the canticle of the Virgin in describing this new favor of Almighty goodness. Let us sing, "He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty."

**HE HAS RECEIVED ISRAEL HIS SERVANT,
(or as it is otherwise read, HIS CHILD)
BEING MINDFUL OF HIS MERCY.**

Here is a continuation of the virgin's description of the attributes of God. He has with the outstretched arms of affection, received and clasped to his bosom, the people of Judea, who were always emphatically termed his chosen people.—We find the Lord, in the prophet Ossee, bestowing the same appellation upon them. "Because Israel was a child, and I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt." At the time the Virgin spoke, the Jews were in subjection to the Romans; but when the Messiah appeared, he delivered them, not from temporal slavery, but (what was of more importance,) from the long and cruel tyranny of sin and hell. And therefore, according to the import of the Greek expression in this passage, he with outstretched arms, supported his disconsolate child, Israel, at a time when his temporal and eternal prospects were cheerless and

gloomy; "being mindful of his mercy," or, as the Greek has it, "that he might be mindful of his mercy," to shew he had not forgotten that darling ornament of his perfections.

**AS HE SPOKE TO OUR FATHERS, TO
ABRAHAM, AND HIS SEED FOR
EVER.**

Thus, he displayed his mercy, in order to fulfil the promises which he had made to the patriarchs of old. For to them he promised the birth of that Redeemer, whose distinguishing characteristics are mercy and love. Whence the psalmist, speaking of Christ's approach to earth, says, "Mercy and truth have met together; justice and peace have kissed." The Virgin declares, that his mercy was promised to her forefathers in general, but she particularly mentions Abraham, who was the parent of all true believers. Listen to the promises of heaven in his regard:—"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and magnify thy name, and thou shalt be blessed. I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee, and in thee shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed."—And again, when he had given proofs of his faith and obedience to the commands of heaven, concerning his son Isaac, he heard a repetition of those promises from the mouth of an angel. "By my own self I have sworn, saith the Lord;