

use that power in our behalf as her children, wayfarers, as she herself once was upon earth. She was like to us in all but in sin, from which she was preserved, even from the first moment of her conception, not through her own, but through the merits of Jesus Christ who was to be conceived in her chaste womb. She had ample opportunity of seeing the moral and physical misery of all who were "exiles in this valley of tears," and by close contact with sorrow and suffering, she must needs have learnt to sympathize with all the sons of Adam, who were allotted to her by adoption on Calvary as her own children. That same comprehensive phrase "Mater Dei mater mea," suggest the mode of honouring her most, by taking her as our model, like a child who all unconsciously imitates its mother, for what mother is not to her child a pattern without flaw or blemish?

Mary is Mother of God, this is a dogma of our faith. It was promulgated long ago, for the consolation of all Christians, in the great Council of Ephesus. But from the first it was held by the church, for its reality is grounded in the essential concept of the Incarnation. When heresy carps at the Catholic belief of the Divine Maternity, it is from sheer ignorance of what Jesus our Saviour really was. That Mary was mother of Christ, all who lay claim to the name of Christian admit. But Christ was the Second Person of the adorable Trinity, co-equal with His Father in all things, and God from eternity. Though in Him there are two natures, the human and the divine, there is, as our catechism teaches us, but one person in Christ, and that a divine person. Mary was the mother of that person — not human but divine — and consequently Mother of God.

As well might we deny that our gracious Queen is the mother of him who, should God spare him, will one day ascend the throne of England, as deny that Mary is rightfully termed Mother of God. The son who is begotten in the flesh, receives from his parents his mortal body, but the noblest part of him, his soul, he owes not to the mother who