

What you loose upon earth, shall in Heav'n be free."

Those wonderful words, unto Peter, He spoke,  
Who holds the whole universe under His yoke;  
For Peter was first to confess, what all now  
As the chief corner-stone of salvation avow—  
That Jesus is Christ, and the Son of that God,  
Whose feet on the bounds of the boundless have trod;  
Whose life is Eternity, and at a glance,  
Takes in all eternity and all expanse.

"I will give thee the keys." And when were they given?  
And when did they open the kingdom of Heaven?

Peter first used the keys on the Great Pentecost,\*  
When he opened the door to the first redeemed host;  
And he left the door open that Jews of all times,  
Who believe in the Lord and repent of their crimes,  
And in Christ are "baptised for remission of sin"†  
The kingdom of Heav'n may all enter in.

But the *Gentiles* as yet, have no part in the grace—  
It only is opened to *Israel's* race.

But a light to the *Gentiles*, Christ must be, as well  
As the glory and saviour of old *Israel*.

So Peter while fasting, falls into a trance,‡  
And sees altogether at one loathsome glance,  
All reptiles and beasts and all foul creeping things,  
And birds with carnivorous talons and wings.

"Peter slay them and eat, and thine hunger allay."

"Not so for in this I'd the Law disobey;  
For all I see there, Moses says are unclean,  
And such in my mouth, Lord, there never has been."

"What God has made clean, do thou not common call;"

And straight back to heaven the Lord took them all—  
Cornelius has prayed, and his alms have been given;  
An angel has come with a message from Heaven,

"Thy prayers and thine alms are recorded for thee;

Now send men to Joppa, and there by the sea  
You'll find Simon Peter, He'll come unto you,  
And then he will tell what thou oughtest to do."

Simon Peter has come, and perceives with surprise

That men of all nations to life may arise;  
Who fear the true God and righteousness do;  
And he speaks now to Gentile as first to the Jew.

He tells them of Christ and remission of sins;  
As he preaches the *Gentiles'* salvation begins.  
The Spirit comes down, as they hear of Christ's blood,  
And they speak with new tongues and magnify God.

And Peter then saw he must open the door,  
To those, as he did to the Jews once before.

He again used the keys, and the gate open flew—  
It is ever since open to Gentile and Jew.

And at once, in accordance with Christ's sacred word,  
He said be "baptised in the name of the Lord."

Thus Peter alone had the right to each race  
To open the door of the kingdom of grace.

\*Acts ii. †Acts ii. 38. ‡Acts x.