

Church concerning the reverence and practical love of the poor.

The Church of Christ has always treated them with reverence and an affection reaching into tenderness. They have been her precious jewels. Time and again she opened her altars and sanctuaries of their ornaments and precious vessels in order to supply food to the hungry and clothing to the naked. She has devoted to them her chosen lives, the maidens and valiant women who have renounced the comforts and affections of home to make Jesus Christ, poor, for their spouse. She has consecrated such the mothers of the orphan and the homeless, of the sick and the wretched, of the blind and the ignorant.

The world, on the other hand, turns with aversion from the poor, and treats them with cruelty and contempt. By its maxims, its pride, its worship of power, display and wealth it is their great oppressor.

The orphan and the helpless, the sick and the unfortunate, are thrust into state asylums, hospitals, reformatories, whence the priest and sister of charity are excluded by law, or can be admitted only at intervals, or when there is danger of death. Thus the miserable and the wretched are snatched from the tender nursing hand of religion and denied her consolations when they stand most in need of them and are best disposed to receive them with profit.

With characteristic hypocrisy the world, while it forms