

Should e'er be allowed the Lord's temple within,  
To use them in worship—profanity, sin!  
Ah! little they know of the Lord or His laws!  
Or the means best adapted to forward the cause  
Of true, fervent, devotional worship in man,  
Whose nature mysterious they know not to scan!

More wisely inspired is the "*pillar of truth*,"\*  
The Church, which tho' old, is still blooming in youth!  
The "Spouse of the Lamb,"† without "*wrinkle or spot*,"‡  
Or "*blemish*," or failing, or error or blot  
Whatsoever!—kept perfect by HIM who first made her,  
Whose *word that can't fail* is pledged "*ever*,"|| to aid her,  
And make her true Pastors "*forever*" inherit  
"*To teach them all truth*," His adorable "*SPIRIT*!"§

More wisely, I say, does she act; for she knows  
The nature of man;—his joys and his woes,  
His virtues and failings, his changing temperament,  
Now plunged in grief, now uplifted in merriment!—  
And like the Good Shepherd, her master, with joy  
Does she use all legitimate means, and employ  
All her wisdom, and efforts, and wealth, to recover  
The poor erring sheep, and preserve them forever  
For Jesus their Shepherd, secure in His fold!  
Hence all her exertions—her treasures, her gold,  
Her jewels of art, her eloquence thrilling,  
Her music, now joyous, now mournful, and filling  
The hearts of her children with joy or with sadness,  
With sorrow for sin, or if pardoned, with gladness!  
Her Sacraments, channels of grace from above,  
Blest, hallowed incentives of hope and of love!—  
All the riches of earth, all the treasures of Heaven,  
Of which she was made the dispenser—are given,  
Received, and employed in her temples! 'tis *there*  
Where her children assemble for penance, praise, prayer,  
Instruction and worship! Hence all she can do  
To embellish the holy place—all that to view,  
To the ear, the heart, soul, is delightful, combine  
To add to the splendour of God's holy shrine!  
So that poor weary mortals may find their delight  
*There* with God and His angels, from morning ~~til~~ night!  
That there, to encourage weak souls, may be given  
A glimpse as it were—a sweet foretaste of heaven!  
Besides, she considers that ~~nothing~~ on earth—  
Not the riches of mines, gifts of genius or birth,  
Achievements of talent in science or arts,

\* I Timothy, III. 15. † Ephesians V 31 32. ‡ Ephesians V. 27. || Isaiah LIX. 21. § John XIV., XV., XVI passim. Matthew XXVIII. 20.