

By word and deed, if God be God or no.
 Not once or twice, (as Evidence mongers say,)
 But unto everlasting from that day :
 To stand in heavenly purity before
 That world for which God's vengeance is in store :
 To shew the judgment and its cause declare ;—
 That men from God themselves had banished far ;
 But shew His perfect way revealed, that all
 Might bear to listen to the judgment call—
 Judgment by One, a Man whose honoured head
 For judgment God had lifted from the dead :—
 The gospel to the contrite heart to preach :
 The ways of truth and righteousness to teach :
 To shew, by deeds of power, the righteous One,
 Who will be sanctified in all that's done :
 To shew, by deeds of mercy, God come nigh,
 To wipe the bitter tear from sorrow's eye :
 The present God, though hidden, to declare,
 In that His power, and love, and truth were there :
 Not in abstractions, but in works of power,
 To raise from sickness, and from death restore :
 To cast out devils, and the lame to heal ;
 Deaf ears to open, and blind eyes unseal ;
 And thus to man's hard conscience carry home
 The premonitions of the world to come :—
 To preach the Kingdom, and the King's return :
 (His absence then was deemed a short sojourn ;
 Absence to sight :) ready the Bride to make,
 That, coming, her He to Himself might take,—
 His glorious Bride, prepared to meet His will,
 Spotless and pure. For her He tarries still.
 For when the throne of empire He ascends,
 Robes, crowns, and sceptres are for all His friends ;—
 Princes prepared in His right royal school,
 That when He reigns in truth, they may in judgment rule.

These things to Caesar and his friends to tell ;
 To ring (it might be,) nature's funeral knell ;
 To cast reproach on all the ways of man .
 Their condemnation shew by God's own plan ;
 The sure destruction of this world's whole scheme ;
 Its vain philosophy, its every dream ;—
 Its wicked works ; its cruelty ; its guile ;
 Its low pursuits and pleasures, base and vile ;—
 These to denounce. What then? The fiery brand,
 The sword, the torture—these were all at hand.
 The rage of Caesar, and the spite of hell—
 The rage of millions—Who that rage can tell?
 The force of rage, the craft of cruel spite,—
 Who could withstand them, and esteem them light?
 They were withstood ; they lightly were esteemed ;
 And they were borne as if they only seemed.
 And light they were, and briefly were endured.
 Compared with that which thus became secured.
 But soon the Church grew weary of her lot ;
 Her first love, life, strength, power, and works forgot ;
 Went back to flesh to perfect what began
 From God alone, though manifest by man.
 Divisions grew, and fleshly ways prevailed,
 Till, overwhelmed in flesh, she well nigh failed.
 In anger God His guardian hand withdrew ;
 Her hedge He broke, her wall He overthrew ;
 Permitted Satan to come in and sow
 His tares, and suffered briars and thorns to grow :
 The clouds above commanded not to yield
 Their blessing on the labours of the field.
 His covenant He did for a time make void,
 And give His vineyard up to be destroyed.
 The mystery of iniquity began
 Full soon to mar and hinder God's true plan ;

And grievous wolves assailed all the flock ;
 And doctors brought up Balak's stumbling block ;
 And Jezebel, false prophetess, came in,
 And taught for truth the wily ways of sin,
 Thus grapes of Sodom in the vineyard grew,
 Grapes of that bitter vine which God o'erthrew.

Forgetful of the gifts that God had given,
 Gifts filled with all the armature of heaven,
 The Church her course shaped to the world around,
 And in that course her own advantage found.
 Meantime relenting Caesar changed his hate ;
 But Caesar's friendship proved a scourge as great.
 The Church was ready to obey his nod,
 And Caesar sat before her as a god.
 His mantle o'er the naked one he spread ;
 His rod of rule he lifted o'er her head :
 His craft of state he added ; it did please her.
 The Jews once said—"We have no King but Caesar."
 But Caesar's Kingdom rose not on the base
 Of law from God, nor e'er to it gave place ;
 Nor will indeed such sure foundation own
 Till Caesar shall be judged and overthrown.
 But judgment upon Caesar must be done ;
 For judgment all committed is to One.
 For judgment came He, and the world shall know,
 If not the warning, yet the certain blow.
 Proud Caesar will not give the kiss of peace,
 And yield submission : hence his reign must cease ;
 And He the beastly Caesar soon shall tame,
 And give his carcass to the burning flame.*
 His truth and honour He will vindicate,
 Though long, as men account, His patience wait.
 By "Church and State" (how have we been beguiled!)
 Caesar to God has ne'er been reconciled.
 Law to His Church hath come from Caesar's crown,
 And thus God's vineyard hath been trodden down,
 "Dreadful and terrible and strong" was he
 When Daniel saw him rising from the sea,—
 The sea of every kindred, folk, and tongue ;
 For 'twas from thence the impious monster sprung.
 A beast he was and is, and will be when
 He sinks forever from the sight of men.

The Church degraded from her high estate,
 (For her own folly, not by Satan's hate)
 Robbed of her strength, her rich endowment gone,
 (For God revealing, guiding, had withdrawn)
 Sought to this Caesar in the gloomy hour,
 And found relief from Satan's outward power.
 So Saul, of God deserted, sought to find
 Relief from witchcraft for his troubled mind.
 Then soon, commingled with the outward state,
 The Church became confused and corporate ;
 And gave and took, exchanged, and bought, and sold,
 And valued sacred things by Caesar's gold.
 By Caesar's wisdom, arms, and arts she ruled :
 By Caesar's craft and wiles she was befooled :
 By Caesar's cruelty and thirst of blood,
 In terror clad, she kept the faith and stood.

But down the course of Time let's take our stand,
 And see what views from thence we may command,
 While underneath the mischief works which bring
 At last destruction on this scheme of things.

The church now mingled with the beast we see,
 The beast which rose from out the bitter sea,—
 The restless sea, that swells, and breaks, and roars,