

ORIGINAL POETRY. |

A VERSE MAY FIND HIM WHO A SERMON FLIES,
AND TURN DELIGHT INTO A SACRIFICE. ———HERBERT.

*Collect for the first Sunday in Advent.**

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. *Amen.*

METRICAL PARAPHRASE.

Almighty God! thy grace impart
To drive from each polluted heart
The love of darkness and of sin,
And let the love of light flow in.

Oft as some powerful subtle foe
Aims at our souls some fatal blow,
Thy aid,—thy sovereign aid extend,
And all thy heavenly armour lend.

Beneath thy banners let us fight,
Teach us to war like sons of light;
Give us the Spirit's sword to wield,
And Faith's impenetrable shield.

May we, thus armed amidst all strife,
In safety pass this mortal life,
Which Jesus kindly deigned to prove,
To show to man his matchless love.

When He in awful pomp shall come
To judge the world, and fix its doom,
May we through him to glory rise,
And life immortal be our prize.

Collect for the second Sunday in Advent.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

* Vide Page 55.