

SCENE I.

(Lady Frances discovered kneeling before her oratory)

(N. B.) "From that time forward Frances never wore any other gown than one of coarse dark green cloth."

(Lady Frances discovered kneeling before her oratory)

Oh happy Evangelista, son of my heart! A year has passed since you left your earthly home to be the companion of angels, and to rest at the feet of Jesus. My mother-heart may not forget you, my dear one, but I thank God who has taken you to Himself. Oft during the course of your short life on earth was I cheered by your tender affection and encouraged by the sight of your wondrous virtue—and yet I feared for you amid the many temptations and trials of this wicked world. But now you are safe and happy in the bosom of God, and my soul rejoices in this consoling thought. Blessed be the name of the Lord for He hath given and He hath taken away!

Enter vision of Evangelista and Archangel. Francesca's lips move, but in vain she seeks to articulate—the joy and the terror of that moment are too intense. Her son draws near to her, and with angelic expression of love and respect, he bows down his head and salutes her. Then the mother's feeling predominate. She forgets everything save his presence and opens her arms to him, but it is no earthly form she encloses within them, and the glorified body escapes her grasp. And now she gains courage and addresses him in broken accents indeed, but with trembling eagerness. (Soft low music a vision enters)

Lady Frances Is it indeed you, my Son? Why do you come? Angel of God, have you thought of your mother—of your poor father? Amidst the joys of Paradise, have you remembered earth and its sorrows?

Evangelista (Looking to Heaven with an utter expression of peace and joy; and then fixing his eyes on his mother) Mother loved, I come from God. I abide