

sometimes its significance can be easily and sadly misconstrued. Such a suspicion was caustically voiced by a visiting clergyman in a certain parish, upon accidentally overhearing a loud and cheerful discussion in Church between the rector and a lady-worker on the question of the flower-vases. The rector said they must on no account "interfere with or disturb the balance of the central almsdish!" The visitor afterwards composed the following parody of a well-known hymn:

Brightly gleams our Almsdish
Crowning the Altar pile,
Beckoning pilgrims onward
Up the central aisle.

Hail, thou dazzling emblem!
Sons of commerce see
All they think and pray for
Symbolized in thee.

Pure reformed religion,
Blest beyond St. Paul,
Glories in the Almsdish,
Counts it all in all.

Guard we thus our Gospel,
Thus its ensign wave:
"Full and free Subscription!
Works, not Faith, must save!"