

who desired only the goods of heaven, was afraid that those of this world would prove to him a burden, and put his soul in danger. He modestly declined the offer, wishing to remain in his humble state of life, as being more like that which our Lord chose for himself on earth, who came into the world not to be served but to serve.

LESSON X

SAINT JOSEPH.

Hail! Spouse of our Lady! dear Nurse of her Child!
Life's ways are full weary, the desert is wild:
Bleak sands are all round us, no home can we see;
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! we lean upon thee.

For thou to the pilgrim art father and guide,
And Jesus and Mary felt safe at thy side;
Ah! holy Saint Joseph! how blest should I be,
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! if thou wert with me!

O blessed Saint Joseph! how great was thy worth,
The one chosen shadow of God upon earth!
Of Christ the fond guardian—ah! then wilt thou be,
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! a father to me!

Thou hast not forgotten the long dreary road,
When Mary took turns with thee, bearing thy God!
Yet light was that burden, none lighter could be:
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! oh! canst thou bear me!