

And often did their lifted glances meet
 The Infant Jesu's eyes; and oft He smiled—
 So thought the children; sympathy so sweet
 Brought blessing to them from the Blessed Child!
 Until one day, when Frey Bernardo came,
 The little ones ran forth; with clasping hold
 Each seized his hand, and each, with wild acclaim,
 In eager words the tale of wonder told:

"O father! father!" both the
 children cried,
 "The Caro Jesu! He hath
 heard our prayer!
 We prayed Him to come down,
 and sit beside
 Us as we ate, and of our feast
 take share;
 And He came down, and tasted
 of our bread,
 And sat and smiled upon
 us, father, dear!"
 Pallid with strange amaze,
 Bernardo said:
 "Grace beyond
 marvel! hath
 the Lord been
 here?"

"The heaven of
 heavens His
 dwelling, doth
 He deign
 To visit little
 children? Fav-
 ored ye

Beyond all those on earthly thrones who reign,
 In this dread miracle and mystery!
 O lambs of His dear flock! to-morrow pray
 Jesu to come again to grace your board
 And sup with you; and if He comes, then say:
 "Bid us to Thy own table, blessed Lord!"

"Our master too!" Do not forget to plead
 For me, dear children! In humility
 I will entreat Him your meek prayer to heed,
 That so His mercy may extend to me!"

