

an idea. Instead of simply narrating the event in verse, he views it under some particular aspect which to the average reader is generally new, and working on this plan, his poems, instead of being uninteresting, often become exceedingly interesting. Thus in treating of the ten lepers who were cured by our Saviour and of whom only one returned to give thanks, he speaks of the woeful ingratitude of men, and to exemplify this more strongly, he says that it seemed as if Christ Himself, who rules men's hearts, was startled by this striking example of ingratitude on the part of these men.

Ten cleans'd, and only one remain !
 Who would have thought our nature's stain
 Was dyed so foul, so deep in grain ?
 E'en He who reads the heart,—
 Knows what He gave and what we lost,
 Sin's forfeit, and redemption's cost,—
 By a short pang of wonder cross'd
 Seems at the sight to start.

If there is one particular in which the poet must be distinguished from the religious it is the way in which Keble speaks of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was on this noble theme which has inspired the pens of so many of our greatest poets, that Keble excelled. He possessed a remarkably true conception of the nature of the Immaculate Queen, as it is understood by Catholics, and he never failed to bestow on her the praise which she deserves as Mother of the Redeemer. It seems remarkable that a Protestant minister should speak so enthusiastically of the Virgin Mary, applying to her such names as 'Mother undefiled,' and 'blessed maid,' but so it was, and as we are unable to explain this, we shall simply endeavor to prove our statements by a few quotations taken from the hymns. It would be much better were we able to quote in full the hymns on the Purification and the Annunciation, but as they are rather long we will have to content ourselves with a few selections taken from them. Our quotations may not be the most judicious selection, but we think they are among the most expressive. First in the hymn on the Purification we find :

His throne, thy bosom blest,
 O Mother undefiled—

The following quotations are from the hymn on the Annunciation :

Ave Maria ! blessed Maid
 Lily of Eden's fragrant shade :

and again :

Blessed is the womb that bare Him—blessed
 The bosom where His lips were press'd.

But the poet seems to reach the climax of his praise when he pens the following lines :

Ave Maria ! thou whose name
 All but adoring love may claim,
 Yet may we reach thy shrine :
 For He, thy Son and Saviour, vows
 To crown all lowly lofty brows
 With love and joys like thine.

We regret that Keble, who was the originator of that religious movement which is felt in England even at the present day, should have died in the Via Media, while so many of the most illustrious of his countrymen have pursued the journey to its close and at last found a sure guide and an end to all their doubts in the bosom of the Catholic Church. We are assured that Newman was a Catholic long before he made his formal entrance into the Church, and we think that there can be no exaggeration in hoping that the same may have been true of the gentle, loving, spiritual author of the *Christian Year*. It is true that he never made a formal profession of the Catholic faith, but we may hope that he was at heart a Catholic. Catholic doctrine "out of the church there is no salvation" is not so narrow as to include only those who bear the name of Catholic. The soul of the church is comprehensive enough to admit every noble christian who, in all honesty fights the good fight, and sincerely endeavors, according to his lights, to enlist himself under the true flag. Such a man, we have reason to believe, was gentle John Keble.

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