

thee in this state of humiliation? Yes, O Loving Heart! when we consider the object of thy coming, no transgressor or howsoever stained with crime, should be absent from the scene of mercy and love.

Approach, then, with confidence, O sinner! for He has come to call, not the just, but sinners; He has come to seek and to save that which had perished; He has come to restore the lost sheep of the house of Israel; He has come to unlock the gates of mercy—and to shew his extraordinary love for sinners, He assumes that frail, corrupted nature, which He has come to repair, to honor and to purify.

Return, then, thou strayed sheep—thou unhappy wanderer, to the arms of thy tender Shepherd, who comes to take thee on his shoulders to his peaceful and happy fold.

Return, thou prodigal child, with a tear of sorrow in thine eye, to the bosom of thy tender Father, who awaits thy arrival in anxious solicitude; return in haste, for he has prepared a fatted calf for thy entertainment. Sinner, I say, advance; enter the humble grot; behold there with amazement, gratitude, and confidence, your future victim. Repel the gloom of despair from your troubled bosom, when you contemplate the smiling Infant, who comes with a burning desire to wash away your crimes in his blood; and let not their enormity by any means weaken your confidence, for He is all sufficient. If you are polluted with sin, He is holy by excellence; if you are ambitious, He is humble; if you are rich in spirit, He is poor; if you are clothed in purple, He is covered with rags; if you are defiled by impurity, He is adorned with chastity; if you are disordered by intemperance, He comes the

Innocent Martyr of Repance for your sake, and the willing Victim of Mortification to atone for your many crimes.

Christian Matrons! behold your Model. Contemplate Mary, the Mother of God. See her respect for her husband the virtuous Joseph, and her most pure love for Jesus, the fruit of her womb; she kisses, with maternal tenderness, the divine face of her new-born Son; she at the same time adores him as her God, and her heart beats in silent response to his love; though crowned with honour, and dignity, and glory she is not elated; she is meek, and silent, and reserved; she treasures up in her heart all the wonders she beholds.

O ye unspotted virgins! chosen portion of the flock of Christ! enter and behold Jesus the King and Crown of purity. Behold Mary, his Immaculate Mother. Learn from this scene, how dear to him is a virgin life, and love it for his sake. Here contemplate that virginal flesh that knew no corruption, and that spotless creature, whose love for purity is rewarded by the dignity of Mother of Jesus; emulate her bright example that you may deserve to share in her reward; preserve the inestimable virtue of virginity with the utmost care, that you may be worthy, by faith, to conceive within your chaste minds Jesus 'the mirror without stain;' that you may have His name and that of His Father written on your foreheads; that with white robes, the emblems of your purity, and palms in your hands, the tokens of your triumph, you may sing a new canticle to the Lamb, and be permitted to attend him through the spacious mansions of heaven in his virgin walks.

O ye parents! behold Joseph and Mary, your models in the conjugal state: contemplate the holy Joseph, the head,