



## THE PURIFICATION.

"And to offer a sacrifice according as it is written in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons."—Luke 2:21.



I.  
**W**HITER than the wintry snow-drifts,  
 Or first blossoms of the Spring;  
 Welcome to thee, Blessed Mother,  
 And the treasure thou dost bring!  
 Light unto all Gentile nations,  
 As when shades of night unfold,  
 And fair beams of early morning  
 Glean as pure celestial gold.

II.  
 Yet the shadows darkly gather  
 O'er our gladness, Mother mild!  
 And the mournful Passion-embles  
 Twine around thy Holy Child.  
 For Simeon's words prophetic  
 Breathe a low and plaintive strain,  
 And thy gentle virgin-spirit  
 Shall be pierced with sword of pain.

III.  
 Sweet the lessons thou dost teach us  
 On His Presentation day:  
 Thou art purer than God's angels,  
 Yet, most humbly dost obey.  
 Jesus is the Priest and Victim,  
 And His Father's will divine  
 From thy loving hands receives Him  
 As a priceless gift of thine.

IV.  
 May we, when dark clouds o'ershadow  
 All our upward, homeward way,  
 Clasp, like thee, the Infant Saviour  
 Still more closely day by day.  
 Jesus' light, (though veiled,) is shining  
 Ever in the holy place,  
 Teach us to adore its beauty  
 'Till we see Him "face to face,"

ENFANT DE MARIE.