

MATER LUCIS DIVINAE.

TERNAL sunshine, uncreated light
 Diffus'd its hallow'd radiance 'round the place
 Where Power divine put off his robe of might
 To vest a virgin with maternal grace.

Its star-like lustre an unerring guide
 To regal envoys from afar became ;
 And e'en Judea's bleakest mountain-side
 Awoke to bliss beneath its cheering flame.

In its refulgent beams, the New-born lay
 Clasp'd in a virgin-mother's fond embrace ;—
 Few, few perceiv'd the Sun of Endless Day
 Curtain'd behind the feeble Infant's face !

Simplicity, among the few, was first
 To catch the glimm'ring of its heav'nly ray,
 To see its fulness on his vision burst,
 To revel in the glories of its day.

Then Wisdom next beheld the genial spark
 And felt the ardour of its glowing heat :
 Exultant sped he from the Levant dark
 To lay allegiance at its Author's feet.

But one had seen its all-transcendent blaze
 Long ere its beauty'd ravish'd human eye,
 Bask'd in the warmth of its unfailing rays
 Whilst yet their splendour lit but domes on high.

To Her alone 'twas giv'n to sound the deep,
 Unearthèd myst'ries in Her Babe's blue eyes ;
 To Her alone was giv'n to learn and keep
 The secrets lock'd behind these mortal skies.

The Shepherd and the Prince enraptur'd stood,
 Uncertain which deserv'd their homage mor.—
 The glitt'ring Fount that held the sacred flood
 Of light resplendent, or the Stream it bore.

Enraptur'd stood and gaz'd in rev'rent awe
 Upon Jehova's marvellous design—
 And bless'd Him for the wond'rous things they saw—
 A Creature mother made to Light Divine.

C. C. DELANY, '91.