

High, that He may open your eyes to the vanity of earthly wealth and pleasure. False spirit of the world, condemned by Jesus when on earth, thou art always the same in thy vain delusions! How oft hast thou led thy votaries to their own undoing. (*To the Children*)

Come, children, I will relieve your distress, only asking you in return to beseech our loving Father, who has so quickly answered your prayer for bread, to grant unto a starving soul, that bread which gives life everlasting.

CURTAIN

SCENE III.

(*Lady Frances kneeling before her oratory*)

Lady Frances (*Kneeling*) Oh my God! Thou hast indeed tried my mother-heart. Sweet little Agnes! Thou too hast flown from thy Mother's bosom, to join thy angel brother. . . . O my God, my poor heart bleeds beneath Thy chastening touch, but bruised and torn I offer it to Thee! Yet more if Thou wilt. Take all that I am, all that I have; but may I not ask something in return? O Thou who by a look did'st change the heart of Peter, and did'st cause the bitter tears to flow in torrents from his sorrowing eyes, look with love and mercy upon her whom Thou hast given to me to cherish as a daughter. Her soul is wandering in its pride and vanity, far from Thee. Recall her to Thy ways. O God, listen to the prayer of my poor heart, and in Thy love and mercy, send the beams of Thy divine light into the blinded eyes of her soul.

Archangel (*Approaching*) Grieve not, Francesca, thy prayers have been favorably received by the Most High and thy trial is about to end. Thy prayers and sacrifices have vanquished Satan, and the mercy of God