

When this had been done, the apostles were all  
 On a level and equal from Peter to Paul.  
 "Christ is your master and all ye are brothers;\*"

Let none of you then lord it over the others."  
 They sit on twelve thrones, no pre-eminence given  
 To one more than any they're equal in Heaven.  
 The Pope says that Peter was prince over all,  
 And he, the successor of Peter men call  
 The vicar of Christ and the head of the Church;  
 He wields both the spiritual sceptre and birch,  
 And he tells us that he is infallibly strong.  
 To fix for all nations the right and the wrong.  
 I'll mention some reasons why this cannot be,  
 And ask him some questions, if not thought too free;  
 And if with these reasons he fairly can cope,  
 I'll admit him to be a most clever old Pope.  
 History tells us that Peter was slain, crucified;  
 Of the *twelve* that he was not the last one who died;  
 And all will admit that at least there was one  
 Who long survived Peter—the loved loving John.  
 If the Pontiff's pretensions don't fade in the light,  
 He was prince over John and ruled him of right!  
 And is it not strange that the Lord should ignore  
 The Pope His own Vicar who must have felt sore,  
 To be so much slighted, for Christ came alone  
 To see and commune with his old beloved John.  
 If Peter were prince, and John his successor,  
 The Pope must be greater and John must be lesser.  
 Then why should John only receive revelations  
 That look through all time and the future of nations?  
 And Christ's mighty Vicar then reigning at Rome,  
 Never noticed at all, *unless as to come*!!  
 And again, I would ask, if St. Peter were Prince,  
 A question to make the Pope's votaries wince:  
 When the twelve had a strife, who should greatest be made,†  
 And this on the night when their Lord was betrayed,  
 Why did not Christ tell them, to quiet the strife  
 "I've made Peter Prince, I have crowned him for life;  
 And when I depart, he my vicar shall be,  
 And you all must submit unto him as to me."  
 And at the great Council, the first and the last‡  
 Ever held, till the age of Apostles was pass'd,  
 Why did not St. Peter, instead of St. James,  
 Deliver the sentence, deciding the claims  
 Of those who insisted, "They must be enslaved  
 To the law, or the Gentiles can never be saved."  
 The Council accepted the sentence so fair  
 From James who *presided*, tho' Peter was there!·  
 And if Peter were chief, what assumption in Paul §  
 To censure Christ's vicar, in presence of all;  
 And not only so, but besides to record  
 His censure and zeal in the work of the Lord,

\*Matt. xxiii. 8. †Luke xxii. 24. ‡Acts xv. §Gal. ii. 11, 14.