

**OUR CATHOLIC
INHERITANCE IN THE
LARGER HOPE; AN ESSAY**

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Our Catholic Inheritance in the Larger Hope; An Essay by Alfred Gurney

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Michael J. O'Connell

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AN ESSAY

BY

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AUTHOR OF 'THE VISION OF THE BUCHARIST' 'A CHRISTMAS PAGGOT' ETC.

TOGETHER WITH A HISTORICAL APPENDIX

BY H. H. JEAFFRESON, M.A.

'At last I heard a voice upon the slope
Cry to the summit, "Is there any hope?"
To which an answer pealed from that high land,
But in a tongue no man could understand:
And on the glimmering limit far withdrawn,
God made Himself an awful rose of dawn'—TENNYSON

'Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning'

'He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied'

LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, & CO., 1 PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1888

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'When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?'

Christ's question through the ages rings
Unanswered by His Lips ; His Eyes
Hold in their light of love replies
To all our silent questionings.

Ah ! silence is a sepulchre
Where faded lips wax eloquent ;
The question asked was surely meant
To make each soul a questioner.

Those silent Wounds, so dear and dread,
Are all the answer that we need ;
He is the Father's Word indeed,
So all things are interpreted.

Of old dwelt faith upon the earth ;
Men walked with God, in daily toil
Conversed with Him : who dares despoil
Mankind of rights that come from birth ?

'What rights?' the scoffer asks ; I say,
'Birthrights ;' my Father's child, with Him
I live my life ; my light is dim,
But hope anticipates the day

When, in the light of love revealed,
All questions shall be answered, then
Shall God be justified of men.
Alas ! for those who will not yield ;

Whom love repels, whose caitiff hearts
 Will no home-courtesies fulfil,
 Rebellious to a Father's Will,
 Rejecting what His Hand imparts.

Must then the children's ranks be thinned?
 God grant that on a coming day
 These too might tread the homeward way,
 Confessing 'Father, we have sinned.'

Then would He fold them to His Breast,
 Aweary of their wandering,
 And blithely would the angels sing--
 'The lost are found, and all are blest.'

From Manger, Cross, and Sepulchre,
 Christ's question through the ages rings;
 His children of all questionings
 Discern in Him the Answerer.

CAMPO SANTO, PISA, 1878.

The dead praise not Thee, O God, neither all they that
 go down into hell. The living, the living, he shall praise
 Thee.

O Lord, deliver my soul; the Lord is righteous, yea,
 our God is merciful. Deliver my soul from death, mine
 eyes from tears, and my feet from falling, that I may sing a
 new song unto Thee, and offer to Thee the sacrifice of
 Thanksgiving.

The Lord is my Strength, and my Song, and is become
 my Salvation.

The Right Hand of the Lord hath the pre-eminence, the
 Right Hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass.

I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord hath chastened and corrected me, but He hath not given me over unto death.

Thou hast broken my bonds in sunder; death is swallowed up in victory.

My soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowler. The snare is broken, and I am delivered.

I will give thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious, because His mercy endureth for ever. Amen, Amen.

Paradise of the Christian Soul: 'Prayer for deliverance from everlasting death.'

PREFACE.

THE following paper was read before a Society of Priests, gathered together for conference, at St. Paul's Chapter House, on May 15, 1888. At the request of some of those who heard it, and whose wishes I could not disregard, I have consented to publish it.

In any matter of controversy it is a consolation to reflect that the Truth, which we are seeking to discern and embrace, must be, since it is God's Truth, infinitely grander and lovelier than any conception of it which our minds are able to entertain. By Him Who is the Living Truth we are apprehended ; may He, by the illuminating unction of His Blessed Spirit, enable us more perfectly to apprehend. So shall we learn 'to abound in Hope by the power of the Holy Ghost.'

Whitsuntide : 1888.