

THE HOLY FACE

I

O Face divine of Jesus,
In ages long ago
Prophets and sages prayed that Thou ,
On earth, its light would show ;
Most holy Face, I cry to Thee,
Like them, that I its beams may see.

II

O radiant Face of Jesus,
Transfigured in the sight
Of Thy apostles, on the Mount,
Shining with heaven's own light ;
Most holy Face, I cry to Thee,
Thus to reveal Thyself to me.

III

O pitying Face of Jesus,
Thine eyes on Peter rest,
And bitter tears the Apostle sheds,
Contrite and sore distress ;
Most holy Face, I cry to Thee
Whene'er I sin, look so on me.

IV

O suffering Face of Jesus,
Bleeding, and soiled, and torn,
Its temples and its brow transpierced
By many a cruel thorn;
Most holy Face, I cry to Thee,
Offer Thy wounds to God for me.

V

O Face benign of Jesus,
The thief with sorrowing eyes
Gazed at it, and repentant went
With Christ to Paradise;
Most holy Face, I cry to Thee,
In loving kindness look on me.

VI

O dying Face of Jesus,
Upon th'accursed tree,
Crying aloud: Ah! why, my God,
Hast Thou forsaken me?
Most holy Face, I cry to Thee,
Plead by Thine agony for me.

VII

O risen Face of Jesus,
Never was face like Thine ,
Where Godhead joins with manhood,
In unity divine ;
Most holy Face, I cry to Thee,
Turn not away Thy gaze from me.

VIII

O awful Face of Jesus ,
How shall I bear Thy sight
When, at the judgment, all my sins
Reveal themselves to light ;
Most holy Face, I cry to Thee ,
In that dread hour to pity me.

IX

O glorious Face of Jesus ,
If, after I have died ,
My soul but in Thy likeness wake ,
I shall be satisfied ;
Most holy Face, I cry to Thee ,
More like Thee ever make Thou me.