

ABSENTE REO

BY

THE AUTHOR OF
'PRO CHRISTO ET ECCLESIA'

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
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1911

HYMNS OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Hymn of the Day of the Lord

THE day of the Lord, as comes a robber in the night, so cometh.

When men are saying, "All is peace and safety!"

Then on a sudden destruction looms over them,

As the birth-pang of a travailing woman :

There shall be no escape for them—none !

Hymn of the Watchers

Nor of the night are we, nor of the gloom !

Oh, then, let us not sleep, as do other men ;

But let us keep vigil and be sober.

* * * * *

Hymn of the Change

ALL of us, with face unveiled

Gazing on the mirrored glory of our Lord,

Are hourly being transformed into the same likeness,

From a mere reflected glory into an inherent glory,

As may well be, since it proceeds from the Lord, the Spirit.

From *The Letters of St. Paul*, translated by A. S. Way.

FOR LACK OF PREFACE

MY DEAR A—, -

I have acceded to F.'s wish to publish the letters I have written to you, although you decline to print your side of the correspondence on the plea—to put it briefly—that your arguments are too well known, too orthodox, in fact, to need fresh expression. It will appear ungracious on my part thus to publish my criticism of you without your defence, without your counter-criticism of me. Yet I think the sympathy of the reader may turn to you all the more because you do not appear in the public court to defend yourself, and my title draws attention to the fact

that you might say much for yourself which does not here appear.

No, of course I did not expect you to change your views and model them on mine ; neither did you wish to transform me. We have not been playing a game of ninepins ; we neither of us expected to see each other's opinions go down with a clatter every time we rolled a true ball. Why, then, have we been preaching at one another ? The answer probably is that all expression of this sort is forced by some urgency within that does not stay for any nice calculation of results.

Yours as ever,

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