

are glad to find that they can still sing Mary's praises and ask her blessing. Those who are yet bearing the heat and burden of the day may find refreshment and strength whilst kneeling before the May-Queen's altar and they too will bless the Help of Christians and ask for counsel and guidance through the bewildering maze of life. Youth and innocence have the right, *par excellence*, to approach closet to Mary's throne and the treble of childish voices in their simple May hymn is very sweet in the ears of Mother and Child, May her blue mantle long protect their purity.

A veiled figure, bent not so much with age as with sorrow, faltering approaches the May shrine after others have departed. The cross has been pressing cruelly upon her and has become almost too heavy to be borne. She will lay down her burden for a little while that Mary may look upon it, she will ask for some relief. Who can so understand sorrow as the Mother of Sorrows or who can give comfort like the Consoler of the Afflicted? Mary will impart fortitude to this grief stricken soul and resignation will take from the cross its sharpest edges. With a firmer step and a more joyful countenance this pupil of Mary in the school of sorrow will depart from the church blessing the Queen of Martyrs through whom she has courage to live. In the shadows of the church there is cowering a figure, agitated by strong emotions. This was once a child of Mary and memories of the May-days of former years are sweeping his soul with many conflicting feelings. Remorse is very bitter and despair has long held sway. Will Mary loathe the approach of this poor wanderer or has she still a welcome for the erring one? There is no title dearer to the Mother of God than that of Refuge of Sinners. Grace is tugging at the heart-strings of the poor sinner and under Mary's gaze it must soon triumph. Stifled sobs convulse the strong frame, the pent-up anguish is relieved by a flood of tears of which manhood need not be ashamed, and Mary has reclaimed her long lost son, for whom she waited and prayed during so many years, since that May-day when he offered her his innocent heart and asked her protection through life. With all his strength the prodigal son will call