



Hymns.

Sancti Venite.

Hymn of the Ancient Irish Church, from the *Antiphonarium Benchorense*, preserved in the Ambrosian Library, Milan.

LXXXI.

RAW nigh, ye holy ones, draw nigh, **A**
And take the body of the Lord ; **B**
And drink the sacred blood outpoured, **B**
By which, redeemed, ye shall not die. **A**

O saved from justice and the rod **A**
By this divinest flesh and blood, **B**
By these made strong, in grateful mood **B**
Give thanks and praises unto God. **A**

By this (Oh ! blessed news to tell !) **A**
This sacrament of flesh and blood, **B**
Have all been rescued from the flood— **B**
The flood of death—the jaws of hell. **A**

The giver of salvation, He,
The Christ, the Son of God above,
Restored unto his Father's love
The world, by blood and by the tree.

N 2

From north to south, from west to east,
For all, the sacrifice is given—
For all is slain the Lord of Heaven
Himself the Offering and the Priest.

Read well the story through and through
Of victims bleeding at the shrine,
Types of a mystery more divine,
And shadows of a truth more true.

The liberal Giver of all light,
The Saviour of the human race,
A special glory and a grace
Doth give His saints who fear His might.

Approach ye all with fond and pure
Believing hearts, and for His sake
The gage of your salvation take,
Your souls physician, and its cure.

The guardian of the saints, the Lord,
By whom ye move, and breathe, and live,
Eternal life doth largely give
To those believing in His word.

The bread of heaven He doth bestow
On hungry souls about to sink ;
The thirsty He permits to drink
From out a living fountain's flow.

The source and stream—the first and last—
Even Christ, the Lord who died for men,
Now comes ; but He will come again
To judge the world when time hath passed.

* *Denis Florence MacCarthy.*