GOODNESS of GOD.

IMMENSE! eternal, mighty Lord!
Dreadful thou wouldst appear;
Thy power with trembling awe ador’d,
If justice were severe.

But animated goodness beams
On our transported view;
Mild justice fills our grateful themes
With love and wonder too.

Not that thro’ ages still the same,
Thy being takes its course;
Not that thy hand thro’ nature’s frame,
Impels with equal force:
Not that thro' worlds and boundless space,
  Is thine immense domain;
Not that thy knowledge all can trace,
  And wisdom all ordain:

But that thy goodness shall endure,
  Long as thyself shalt last;
That with thy power it rests secure,
  Wide as thy reign is placed.

Omniscient to discern the best,
  The fittest means to choose;
Of wisdom to contrive the best,
  And boundless good diffuse.

With distant awe we view thy power;
  Thy wisdom we admire;
But 'tis the goodness we adore,
  That love and hope inspire!