

Apostle of the Wilderness

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C.M.D.

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1. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, With rev - er - ence we bring
 2. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, Thy soul's young cour - age sprang
 3. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, True knight of Christ's dear cross,
 4. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, Priest, gen - tle - man and friend.
 5. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, Na - sho - tah's sons shall keep

Thee home un - to thy king - dom, As one would bear a king.
 Straight to the front, and through the church Thy faith's clear clar - ion rang.
 Shod with the gos - pel of his peace, No fear hadst thou of loss.
 The sav - age met thy cour - te - sy, And loved thee to the end.
 The mem - 'ry of thy bless - ed toil Un - til they fall a - sleep.

As one would bear a king, We lay thee on Na - sho - tah's breast
 Thy faith's clear clar - ion rang— God heard and blessed thy prayer and deed.
 No fear hadst thou of loss, Brave heart, thy shield his right - eous - ness.
 And loved thee to the end— With those whom God al - lowed to share
 Un - til they fall a - sleep In Christ— when an - gels guard the sod,

A king re - turn - ing from a - far To her who loves him best.
 His doves with ol - ives went be - fore, His ra - vens came to feed.
 The Spir - it's sword— a - flame with - in— God's king - dom to pos - sess.
 The bless - ings of thy com - rade - ship, Thy fer - vid toil and prayer.
 Thy mon - u - ment shall be for aye, The liv - ing priests of God.

6. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, Na - sho - tah's heart could hold
 7. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, Proph - et, with faith sub - lime,
 8. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, On Cal - i - for - nia's shore
 9. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, For - give our dis - re - spect—
 10. A - pos - tle of the Wil - der - ness, Star of the West - ern night

No rest for thee— thy ea - ger feet Pressed where the riv - er rolled.
 Who placed his flag on fu - ture's walls— And clasped the hand of time.
 Thy daunt - less spir - it fought and fell, Blood - stained it ev - er - more.
 For - give our self - ish - ness towards thee, For - give our great ne - glect.
 The Church with - in her jew - eled crown Wears ra - diant - ly thy light.

Pressed where the riv - er rolled Be - yond un - to the sun - set's flame—
 Who clasped the hand of time— And saw be - yond all hu - man fears,
 Blood - stained it ev - er - more— Ah me! the scar - let pop - pies spring
 For - give our great ne - glect— God grant the Church shall rise in might,
 Wears ra - diant - ly thy light A - far in God's e - ter - nal sky,

Swept the glo - ry of thy mis - sion, The mag - ic of thy name.
 Be - yond the deep mo - rass of doubt, Be - yond the toil of years.
 A - round the ru - in of thy work, Beared on thy faith's strong wing.
 And build for thee thy cher - ished walls On thy foun - da - tion's site.
 They who turn souls to right - eous - ness Shine ev - er and for aye.

repeat first stanza

“Apostle of the Wilderness” refers to the Rev. James Lloyd Breck (June 27, 1818 – April 2, 1876), Anglican priest, missionary, and one of the founders of Nashotah House. Though he died and was buried in California, twenty years later he was reinterred at Nashotah House. This poem, by Helen Holcombe Denton, was read at that occasion.