

Fr. John Arsenieff

from H. S. Fynes-flinton.

St. Michael's day. 1901

THE
DREAM OF GERONTIUS

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BY
CARDINAL NEWMAN

THIRTY-SECOND IMPRESSION

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FRATRI DESIDERATISSIMO
JOANNI JOSEPH GORDON
ORATORII S.P.N. PRESBYTERO
CUJUS ANIMA IN REFRIGERIUM

J. H. N

*In die Comm.
Omn. Fid. Def.
1865*

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

§ I

GERONTIUS

JESU, MARIA—I am near to death,
 And Thou art calling me ; I know it
 now—

Not by the token of this faltering breath,
 This chill at heart, this dampness on my
 brow,

(Jesu, have mercy ! Mary, pray for me !)—

'Tis this new feeling, never felt before,
 (Be with me, Lord, in my extremity !)

That I am going, that I am no more.

'Tis this strange innermost abandonment,
 (Lover of souls ! great God ! I look to
 Thee,)

This emptying out of each constituent
 And natural force, by which I come to be.
 Pray for me, O my friends ; a visitant

8 *THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS*

Is knocking his dire summons at my door,
 The like of whom, to scare me and to daunt,
 Has never, never come to me before ;
 'Tis death,—O loving friends, your prayers !—
 'tis he !

As though my very being had given way,
 As though I was no more a substance now,
 And could fall back on nought to be my stay,
 (Help, loving Lord ! Thou my sole Refuge,
 Thou,)

And turn no whither, but must needs decay
 And drop from out the universal frame
 Into that shapeless, scopeless, blank abyss,
 That utter nothingness, of which I came :
 This is it that has come to pass in me ;
 O horror ! this it is, my dearest, this ;
 So pray for me, my friends, who have not
 strength to pray.

ASSISTANTS

Kyrie eleïson, Christe eleïson, Kyrie eleïson.
 Holy Mary, pray for him.
 All holy Angels, pray for him.
 Choirs of the righteous, pray for him.