O Father, All Creating

John Ellerton

O Father, all-creating, Whose wisdom, love, and pow'r
first bound two lives to-gether
In Eden's primal hour,
children Thine ear-liest gifts re-new:
home by Thee made hap-py, A love by Thee kept true.

O Savior, Guest most bounteous Of old in Gal-i-
lee, Vouch-safe to-day Thy presence With those who call on Thee.

O Spirit of the Father, Breathe on them from a-
bove, So might-y in-pure-ness, So tender in love.

Except Thou build it, Fa-ther, The house is built in
vain; Ex-cept Thou, Sav-ior, bless it, The joy will turn to pain.

Except Thou build it, Fa-ther, The house is built in
Thy test-ing, To know the gift is Thine.

For, That, guard-ed by Thy pres-ence, From sin and strife kept free,
Their hearts be ruled by Thee.

And their store of earth-ly
And their store of earth-ly

A love by Thee kept true.