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The Parish Paper
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SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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Lent

To Keep A True Lent

Is this a Fast, to keep

The larder lean?

And clean

From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish

Of flesh, yet still

To fill

The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,

Or ragg'd to go,

Or show

A down-cast look and sour?

No: 'tis a Fast to dole

Thy sheaf of wheat

And meat

Unto the hungry soul,

It is to fast from strife

And old debate,

And hate;

To circumcise thy lift.

To show a heart grief-rent;

To starve thy sin,

Not bin;

And that's to keep thy Lent.

Robert Herrick,

(1591-1674)

A HYMN TO GOD THE FATHER

Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,

Which is my sin, though it were done before?

Wilt thou forgive those sins through which I run,

And do them still, though still I do deplore?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done,

For I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin by which I won

Others to sin, and made my sin their door?

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun

A year or two, but wallowed in a score?

When thou hast done, thou hast not done,

For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I've spun

My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;

Swear by thyself that at my death thy Sun

Shall shine as it shines now, and heretofore;

And having done that, thou hast done,

I have no more.

John Donne,

1572-1631

LOVE

Immortal Heat, Oh let thy greater flame

Attract the lesser to it: let those fires,

Which shall consume the world, first make it tame;

And kindle in our hearts such true desires,

As may consume our lusts, and make thee way.

Then shall our hearts pant thee; then shall our brain

All her invention on thine Altar lay,

And there in hymns send back thy fire again.

Our eyes shall see thee, which before saw dust;

Dust blown by wit, till that they both were blind:

Thou shalt recover all thy goods in kind,

Who wert disseized by usurping lust:*

All knees shall bow to thee; all wits shall rise,

All praise him who did make and mend our eyes.>

*dispossed. usually by force.

(Love II)

George Herbert,

(1593-1633)

various authors

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