

which to this hour try and fret us in our brethren. It may be thought that the instances here adduced are but faint and minute expressions of these different wrong tempers. That may be. But we must remember how pure and perfect the mind of Jesus is, and then we shall know that though the instance was faint, and the occasion a small one, *yet His finer sensibility gave it more than the importance of the greatest occasion.*

And comforting, let me say, it is to see the Lord going before us in such trials as these. But if He has gone before us in the *trials themselves*, He has also left us an example of a *series of victories* over them, and in these victories He has told us to "follow His steps;" for not only in His ways with His *adversaries*, but in His way with His *disciples*, is He our pattern. If, in not answering reviling with reviling, nor wrongs with threatenings, He is an example to us, so also in His *going on* still with His disciples, in spite of naughty outbreaks and many shortcomings among them. For we have returned to Him as "the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls," in *all* things as the One who is a pattern to us—how we should carry ourselves to all, adversaries or brethren. (1 Pet. ii. 21-25.) And He, as I said, was never overcome of evil that was in another, but ever overcame it by the good that was in Himself. (Rom. xii. 21.)

Thus did He suffer from His disciples, and thus did He conquer. How ready are our selfish hearts to plead our right to part company if another do not