

may be made as effectual in his case as it was in the case of Peter, viz., in restoring him to the divine favor, in clothing him with a new and maturer hope, and in revealing to him a truer conception of the enormity and fateful issue of all unbelief. For thus will the rebuke of Christ instantly recall him to the discharge of his plighted allegiance; and he too, like the apostle, shall soon find grace to testify with an unfaltering boldness what great and precious things the Lord hath done for him.

III.—THE TENDERLY FORGIVING LOOK.

There is one other look of Christ's of which an enumeration like the present, however imperfect, must not fail to make mention; for it is the tenderest look that ever beams from that face divine. It is wholly different from the look which *troubles*, or the look which *reproves*; but certainly it is not less significant or less memorable than either of the others. It is the very opposite of that look which scorcheth and sears: it too can melt, but it softens invariably by the measure of its love. It is a royal look. There is unspeakable compassion in it, and there is manifest sympathy in it. Yet, above all else, there is kingly grace in this look. It is Christ's matchless look of FORGIVENESS.

Many an occasion may be recalled, in the earthly history of our Lord, when it was unmistakably the look of FORGIVENESS which beamed from the Saviour's eyes. Let believers everywhere sing and rejoice that men were so often permitted to read this gracious decree in the very countenance of Christ: it will nerve them to anticipate, with a calm and unwavering confidence, the day of final Account.

Take the case that is given us in John ix.—where the blind man to whom the Saviour had restored his sight was cast out of the synagogue, because he professed his faith that Jesus was the Christ. We are told that Jesus at once sought him out and comforted him. Oh, with what tender look must our Lord have viewed his lonely yet courageous disciple, as he said: "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?"

But the look of forgiveness lit up the Saviour's face, and added untold beauty to every divine lineament, on many most unlikely occasions. It is easy to conceive of Christ imparting, through a look, pardon to an erring woman in the temple; but the self-same patient glance issued from his eyes under conditions which seemed