



—❖ The Friend Divine ❖—



FAITHFUL friend is a strong defense," observes the Son of Sirach, "and he that hath found him hath found a treasure." However richly dowered we may be with friends of this description, however much their worth may make us admire and love them, who has not been forced to deplore, even in the most generous and amiable of friends, the lack of some gift or virtue a perfect friend should have? At such times, perhaps, we picture to ourselves what qualities of mind and heart would belong to an ideal friend. In our mind's eye we would then see a man possessed of every grace and virtue. He would be one of such holiness that we could always take his conduct as a model for our own. The charm of his personality would lead our hearts captive. His sympathy, too, would be deep and intelligent, because based on a perfect knowledge of our character, and tender and winning from his having had trials and experiences similar to ours. His judgment, moreover, would be so sound that we could always safely follow his counsel, and if, in addition to all these engaging qualities, he were willing and able to soothe our sorrows, repair our losses and right our wrongs, who would not feel that in such a one he had a friend indeed?