

it may produce crops and become valuable, so accept your lot and enrich it with beautiful thoughts of God and holy service for man. Do you wish to have a great soul in the future, then be a great soul now. Christ is living to ennoble your character and make you holy. The man who serves the Master best will best know Him. If you would do the work of Christ well you must dwell continually with Him. Whenever a famous artist had to paint the crucifixion he painted the picture on his knees and his cheeks were wet with tears. You are a distinct flower in the garden of Christ, precious in His eyes for your own sake, and He is shining upon you and watering you, that He may make you a perfect and beautiful flower in His own garden. Every religion has an ideal character and a model; the ideal of the Christian religion is sublime, and its model is the beauty of God Himself. The angel who sits at the gate of heaven admits none who bear no resemblance to Christ: wealth knocks vainly at the gate, learning has no passport to the skies, beauty cannot bribe the angel, and fame is a word that is unknown in heaven. When some poor saint scarred with the strife in the battle seeks admission, the angel says, "Thou art like Christ," and the gate swings open for him to enter. Christ had a heart as large as the world, but there was no room in it for the mem-