

Nature and Self-Sacrifice

wheat growing vigorously under the summer sun. All the summer long under sunshine and storm it was living for us, at last it was cut down and bruised and broken and made into bread for us, and we take this devoted life for the strengthening of our bodies---so Christ lived for us; He died for us. No wonder in large poetic figure He could say: "This is My Body which is given for you." (then lifting a Sacramental cup.) This wine once grew rich under summer sun where on the trellis a grapevine hung; it reddened, as rain and dew and sunlight fell upon it through days of light and through days of gloom. It grew richer and richer still, till at last its life blood was shed, and in this cup of holy memory, it is given to us. It lived for us; it died for us---so did Christ. "This do ye as oft as ye shall drink it in remembrance of me." The parable is easily read. In this Sacrament in vivid symbol we have the heart of the Gospel set forth. These specimens chosen from Nature's rich field, tell alike Nature's great lesson and the Gospel's great truth that a self-sacrificing God loves man. "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father."

There is therefore a Cross in Nature, dim and feeble in outline at first, but through ages gathering more and more of meaning till at last it finds broad expression in the nobilities of human life and its crown in the act of Him who gave His life to save the world.

Men speak of these emblems which tell us of a God who suffers to save and say that Christ in Real Presence is here. Yes, indeed,