

I AM NOT FIT TO BE A COMMUNICANT.

You say you are not a Communicant because you are not fit to receive the Sacred Body and Blood of your Lord. It is perfectly true what you say ; but it is the knowledge of that very fact which should draw you to Him who will make you more worthy.

Think, my reader, if you were starving, penniless, naked, and had an offer of all your wants being supplied if you would but apply at a certain appointed place, would you because you were thus destitute say that you dare not accept that offer. Nay, life is far too precious to most of us ; rather, I should say, you would most gratefully accept that offer.

Well, it is just the same as regards the Holy Communion. You know our Lord has plainly said (and who dare doubt one word of His) that "Except ye eat the Flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His Blood, ye have no life in you."—*S. John vi. 53.* And again, "Drink ye all of this." He knew when He spoke those words that among all the Communicants who should ever obey that command there would not be one who was really worthy. He knew that it would only be by their sure trust in His condescending love, in their humble obedience to His Word that they would dare draw near to receive Him.

Now, he says to you, dear reader, "Except ye eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, ye have no life in you." Do you believe that what Jesus Christ says is true ? Do you believe that He would have said those words if He

did not intend you to feed on Him that your soul might live. He knows your unfitness ; He sees your life day by day ; He sees your temptations, your falls, and your knowledge that you ought to come to the Holy Communion, and that yet you dare not. He sees that day by day your soul is dying from want of its nourishment, and knowing and seeing all this He pleads to you with outstretched arms.

"Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

"Ye will not come unto Me that ye might have life."

"Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out."

"My child," He says, "cannot you believe My words ; I know that if you come to Me, you will come covered with sins,—with a heart weighed down with shame, but can you think I would cast you out ?

"Did I cast out the woman taken in adultery ? Did I cast out the sin-stained Magdalene ? Did I cast out the doubting Thomas ? Did I not receive the penitent thief ? Did I withhold My Body and Blood from Peter, though I knew how he would deny Me ?"

"No, my child, He that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out."

"You doubt My love and mercy if you keep away from the Holy Communion which I have commanded you to receive."

This is how our Lord pleads with the souls that dare not draw near Him. He longs for your soul, He longs for it to be happy for ever with Him in Heaven. But it must be a living soul, and unless you receive the Holy Communion your soul cannot be living ; you must be "Bone