

too overwhelming a majority against us, and it is manifest that we should be as it were swallowed up by the multitude; but if we separate ourselves from the merely nominal Christians (even as the first Christians separated themselves from the heathen), and become united together as one community or people, *and practise Christianity* among ourselves, we shall not become "a prey," but shall without doubt (owing to our unity, and to the mutual assistance which we will render to each other) daily and yearly become wealthier, and more influential, numerous, and powerful, and all mankind sooner or later will be greatly benefited by us.

The spirit or soul of every man, however mean, weak, poor, or insignificant he may appear, is yet, nevertheless, capable of becoming perfected, so as to be an angel of God, which will go on progressing to all eternity in wisdom, knowledge, and power (see "God and Man," pp. 155-180). The knowledge of this truth tends greatly to cause us to regard our fellow-man, and to consider him well worth all the time or labour we may spend in his behalf, and every present sacrifice we may be called upon to make on his account. It is this knowledge which is calculated to make us love our neighbours as ourselves; and as a father loves his children, so will we love all those who will become spiritually perfected by our instrumentality.

This great truth that man is capable of becoming spiritually perfected so as to be an angel of God, or a son of God, is what gives force to the reasoning of the apostle John, when he says: "*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*" (1 John iv. 20.) In this passage it is plain that the force of the apostle's reasoning consists in the fact that every man is capable of becoming perfected so as to be like God: and as we cannot possibly do either good or evil to God our Creator, if we love him, we can only show that love by doing all in our power to benefit and perfect our fellow-man, who was originally created in the image and after the likeness