is divine in its object, pure in its motives ; independent of sense and matter, it implies naught but what is ennobling, and reminds us of no imperfection.

It is a sublime virtue, for it supposes the most intimate and most exalted communing that man, as a wayfarer here below, may hold with his Creator.   It is an all-powerful virtue, for it disarms Heaven : " Many sins are forgiven her, for she hath loved much " (Luke vii, 47).   It is a divine virtue — God's own virtue : " For God is charity " (I. John iv, 8).   It is a heavenly virtue — heaven has none other.   There, there is no longer faith, nor hope, nor humility, nor patience, nor mortification ; charity alone constitutes the supreme bliss of the elect.   It is an eternal virtue : it reaches out beyond the limitations of time into the endless ages.   It is stronger than death : " Charity never falleth away : whether prophecies shall be made void, or tongues shall cease " (I. Cor. xiii, 8).   It is the all-pervading, universal virtue, at whose torch the sacred fire of all other virtues is enkindled.   Destroy charity and no vestige of supernatural virtue if left on earth : " If I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor, and if I should deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing " (I. Cor. xiii, 3).

The very precept of charity is our greatest privilege.   For, if there is one thing more than another which can bring home to man his soul's priceless worth and inappreciable dignity it is this, that each poor mortal can bear witness to himself that he was *created to love God*.   But if he is created to love God, heaven must be his final destiny.   And if it be true that by centering his love on created things he embraces their lowliness and abjection, it must be equally certain that by centering that love on God, he puts on a heavenly and divine vesture.   A soul burning with divine love is wrapt heavenward and lives a divine life.   So that, in this sense, it may be said that as it was love which made a God become man, so the love of God makes of man a divine being.