

Head. "We know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He is." (I. S. John 3.)

Can we have further doubts as to His desire to see us often, daily, if possible, at His Table? Do we find the words of Scripture have been strained in their interpretation? Or is our hesitation in accepting and acting upon them due solely to the sense of our unworthiness?

Our Lord has removed this all but unsurmountable hindrance in a way perfectly marvellous. The Church which in the past has been wary in her words and has only constrained her children under grievous penalty to Communion once in the year, has spoken her mind in our days with a clearness and an earnestness that should sweep away the last particle of honest difficulty from every mind. The Vicar of Christ has said what no theologian would have dared to say—that Christ our Lord desires to meet us one and all in the embrace of a daily Communion. The times grow more and more perilous as the end draws nearer; snares thicken; human respect is more enslaving; the cares and pleasures of the world are more enthralling; the flesh is more exacting; the devil more wrathful, knowing that he has but a short time. We must have Christ with us if we are to overcome and persevere to the end. We must be drawn into His open arms—or driven into them.

And therefore Pius X. has spoken—not indeed to constrain or lay any further injunction upon us, but to assure us so unmistakably of the desire of our God to be with us in frequent Communion, that henceforth the question is placed beyond the reach of doubt or even of discussion. No one may hinder us, no one may frighten us; the easiest of conditions are all we have to fulfil. Provided only we are free from conscious grievous sin, and that our intention is "right"; that is, provided we go from the motive of pleasing God, of gaining help in our spiritual needs, and the like, we may go to Him fearlessly, go to Him daily—and be welcome guests.

"O how good and sweet is Thy Spirit, O Lord!" (Wisd. 12.)