

before us Jesus rose anew, as it were, to this full conception, and through its inspiration foiled the attack of the calumniator. A firm hold of truth is always the best antidote for temptation and difficulty. It, from its very nature, crushes falsehood, and reduces it to nothing.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." A firm rock indeed—a sure foundation for the tried. It is quite evident that the Saviour intends to take this principle in its comprehensive signification. Let us examine it more in detail.

The theme is : *The true staff of life.*

I. Notice first *its negative aspect.*

"Man shall not live by bread alone." Life is a mystery. Its intrinsic nature is still enveloped in obscurity. We are unable to say what it is. The manner of life is, however, quite apparent. It invites the free inquiry of all. It manifests itself unequivocally in its varied spheres. In man it may be considered under three or four different phases. These are : the physical, the intellectual, the moral and the spiritual. As far as we have any experience in this matter, we know that human life is not something that has its sufficiency in itself. On the contrary, we know that it requires to be constantly sustained by some outside power. From whatever side we view the matter, we find that some nourishment must be provided or life will decay and become extinct.

What is this something then that is so absolutely necessary for the sustenance of life? Whence shall this something be obtained?

Man's physical life is sustained by material food. This food is partaken of at regular intervals, and, in obedience to certain laws, it becomes assimilated to the system. Life is refreshed, strength recruited, health maintained. This is the result under ordinary circumstances. There are not a few instances, however, in which the system is deranged. Certain organs refuse to perform their proper functions. The result is loss of life and vigour—the general health of the system is impaired. But there is no lack of food. Famine is not the cause. There is bread enough and to spare. There is free access to the bountiful stores of Providence. Food is employed in order to restore order and healthy activity. It is proffered in very varied forms. All the dainties that the hands of a loving mother can prepare are employed. All the medicines that the skill of the best physician can compound, as calculated to prove an ample antidote, are employed. But all is in vain. Order is not restored to the system. The process of derangement and decay progresses rapidly. Immediate dissolution is inevitable. Why should this be so? Why should bread fail to sustain life here? It is sufficient, to all appearance, under ordinary circumstances. Why not under all? The answer is not far to seek. Bread, though of much value, has no inherent life in itself. All men do not perish with hunger or for want of proper food. Yet all men, without exception, "go the way of all the earth," and bear