

Presently, at a slight click of the old door-latch, and a rustling sound outside, he turns his calm old face toward the entrance and listens; not for long, however, for—oh what a moment of joy! what a glad “welcome home!”—the strong, broad-chested mariner outside is speedily brought in and folded in a close embrace; logs are piled on the poor little homely fire, and father and son find that they have one thing in common which they never had before, even the love of Christ in their hearts.

“I heard you a-singing ‘Go to Jesus—tell him all,’ father; and then I heard you a-telling Him Oh, father, and so you’ve been a-trusting God for me all these ere ten years, though you knew what a wicked chap I was! And I—I never cared naught for breaking poor mother’s heart, nor nothing, till this very last autumn as was.

Not long since, when death stared us all in the face, and it seemed as if we must have gone down before morning, it all came over me then what a wretch I was, and I thought of how you and mother prayed for me. And I remembered how you’d said, that last night, ‘Bad as ye are, Mat, I shall pray day and night for you, and go on trusting God for you that you’ll come to Him at last.’ It were that as give me hope, and I came to Him, father. At early dawn we sighted a vessel; she saw our signals, and sent boats out, and here I am. Oh, father, thank God for me; for ever since I stood listening at the door, my heart’s been saying, ‘Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.’ Father, He do hear prayer, for, oh, how I prayed that night! Father, let’s you and

me thank the Lord together for the first time in our lives.”

CHRIST BECAME POOR.

“Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.” 2 Cor. viii. 9.

We have, in this lovely little verse, one of the many incidental proofs, in which the Scriptures abound, of the deity of our Lord Jesus. It contains no formal statement of that fundamental truth, for that is clearly not the object of the passage, still it does declare it in the words “though He was rich,” a very distinct allusion to the glory He had with the Father before the world was. Time was when He was not rich; and, may we not ask when was that?

Let us briefly trace His life when here.

First, His birth was evidently in circumstances of poverty. Though “born King of the Jews,” His birth-place was a manger, and the appointed offering made by His parents on the occasion of His being presented to the Lord, was a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons—a small offering indeed, and indicative of anything but wealth on their part.

Again, when engaged in His public service He said to the scribe who volunteered his devotedness, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head.” Matt. viii. 20. Such was the whole path of Jesus here below. Could we say He was rich here? Never! When asked for tribute money He instructed