

fections. Thy call to me, O Christ, which grows clearer as I advance in years, and invites me to a more and more definite exercise of confidence in Thee, as I find out more than I knew of my own weakness."

It is not a question with me whether I am strong enough to carry out a life of sacrifice, it is that I find I am not strong enough to live any life I could respect except as *given to GOD* as completely as He may make possible for me.

This is no profession of *heroism*, but of *religion*, that is to say, a state of life binding me to the completest dependence on and confidence in GOD. It means my life given to GOD to keep it safe, rescued in His love from self, from the corruption of the world, and from all chance desires.

But if at the last moment the question should arise, "Is this life possible?" "Shall I succeed in it?" I make answer to myself, I am not acting independently in making this solemn profession, though I am acting freely. This is my response to the invitation of the Holy Spirit of Christ, which has grown to be a certainty to me, to give my whole life to Him Who is the Love of God, in the service of the children of the poor. The Lord has shown to me the need of His children among the poor; their need of lives devoted to their service for nothing but the love of Christ, and has put it into my heart to say, "Here am I, send me." And He Who showed me the moral and spiritual need of the children of the poor must take the responsibility as to results. Life is very short, and my life in particular a small thing; of what consequence is it to the world? But here as I offer it to Christ Who calls me it seems to grow precious to Him; a small matter as it is then, I must give all of it to the Lord Who wants it for so great a purpose.

So the question of success and result passes away. I make no stipulations, no conditions, in offering my sacrifice. I do not the least know what results may come in the future, of what we are doing to-day. I only know that Christ wants my life to be given to Him as completely as I can, and that I feel to be a wonderful favour to me, and I am willing to give it, and the more completely I can give it, the happier I am in giving it. And this seems to me to be *a result already attained*, a great grace appropriated; for here is not a sowing of a new crop, but a reaping of that which was sown years ago, a true result of all my past prayers and resolutions to try to live a Christian life more really. A new step in trust in GOD seems to be shown to me, a closer bond to Christ. I am free to take this step, and I find I have the will to take it, and I am glad, not sorry, that it has its risk and loss. So I say this profession is already *a result*