

There is no loss so great as that of one's self-respect. There is no evil to be compared with the deterioration of one's spiritual quality. The sinner's greatest penalty is being what he is and so far from what he should have been. Nothing wrings the soul with such remorseful agony as the consciousness of self-corruption. All defeats may be endured with equanimity while honour is retained. Men have counted the world well lost when in losing it they saved their own integrity. But self-contempt steeps the soul in gall and wormwood. The bitterest cry in all the world is the cry of the conscience-stricken prodigal, "I have sinned."

3.

*The Parable suggests to us Heaven's Three-fold Quest for that which is Lost.*

The story of the shepherd who went into the wilderness until he found the sheep that was lost sets forth the quest of the Christ for sinful men. He is the good Shepherd who "came to seek and to save." In bringing the lost soul back to safety "He layeth it on His shoulders." He takes the whole burden of the lost one's hopeless wretchedness upon His own heart. It has