

ducted. Is it unworthiness? But the feast is not for the self-satisfied and self-righteous, but for sinners. They partake most worthily who feel themselves least worthy. Is it because of past backsliding? But man's repentance and God's forgiveness will overcome these. If all backsliders stayed away, the Lord's Table would have no guests at all. Is it fear of fresh backsliding and falling away? "Satan hath asked to sift thee as wheat; but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." God perfecteth His strength in man's weakness. Is it reluctance to make a Christian profession? But reluctance on this side is equivalent to readiness on the other side, to a profession of unbelief, disobedience, and worldiness. "Whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." Is it reluctance to abandon sinful practices dear to the heart or popular in the world? But he who is not willing to renounce the world, the devil, and the flesh, must part company with God and all saints, with peace here and glory hereafter. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." "This is the condemnation, that light is come unto the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

In fine, no objection can be truly reasonable, no difficulty really insuperable, so as to counterbalance in God's judgement the express command of His own Son—a command of exceeding solemnity for its date on the betrayed-night of the Saviour, and solemn further for its earnest personal appeal, "This do in remembrance of Me."

"Let no man, therefore, plead this or that in excuse for his not coming to the Lord's Table, but resolve hereafter carefully to perform so necessary a duty. Let the sinner quit his state of sin and death, and so come and eat of the bread of life. Let the ignorant come into the school of Christ, and proceed till they come to the highest form, to the upper room where this feast is celebrated. Let those who are at enmity with their neighbours also come; let them only first go and be reconciled to their brethren, and so let them offer their gift. Let those that have a multitude of worldly employments come; only let them leave

them as Abraham did his asses at the bottom of the mount, and so let them ascend to heaven in their thoughts, and converse with God. Let the weak come, that they may grow in strength; and let the strong come, that they may not grow weak. Let them who have fears come, that their hearts may be settled by the acts of a more lively faith; and let them come who have hopes, that they may rise to greater degrees of a humble confidence. Let those who have leisure accept of the invitation because they have no excuse; and let those who have but little leisure entertain it also, that they may the more sanctify their business and their employments. Let the sad and sorrowful approach, that their hearts may be filled with the joys of the Lord; and let those that rejoice in the Lord always approach, that their joy may be full."—BISHOP PATRICK.

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#### SELECTED.

The annual celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper had been celebrated at a small kirk in the mountains of Perthshire, and as is usual in Scotland large crowds had assembled, but our story has chiefly to deal with four individuals: these were Angus McAlpin, his son Kenneth and their friends, Donald McAlpin and his wife: the former two had come from their home at Linnhead some miles distant, that morning while the latter lived five miles nearer Kirk. It being a cold February evening and their way being through Burnieside, Angus and his son entered the house of Donald McAlpin to rest, where they were kindly received and entertained. But after a little time they thought it was better to depart as night was now coming on. Donald accompanied them to the door and as there was every indication of an approaching storm, he urged them to remain till morning as part of their way was close by a precipice. But Angus reminded him of his loving wife and daughter at home who would be anxiously awaiting their arrival. So Donald yielded and they set off homewards. The storm was increasing but they heeded it not, for they thought only of home and the loving ones there awaiting them by its cheerful fireside. But they had now