

this love of Christ shall ennoble our life while we live, and make it immortal when we die.

For, in fine, pure love in the soul, more than any other energy of our nature, works this conviction of immortality. No intellectual exercise, no study or admiration of nature, no activity of imagination or labor of art, puts forth so earnest a demand to endure. The appeal with which affection calls on eternity for its only date, and on the other world for the sphere of its advancing fulfilment, is but true to its own indissoluble nature, and to the promise involved in all its own sincerity and holiness. Especially the love of God, of perfect sanctity and goodness, is content with no limitation; and therefore, with great beauty and self-evident truth, the Scripture repeatedly assures unbounded, eternal life to the spirit that experiences this sublimest emotion. But this love of God is derived peculiarly from Christ. The love he awakens in us for himself leads on to the love of the Father he manifests. He comes between, not to intercept or eclipse, but to transmit, the divine goodness and glory. Our love for the Son interferes not with our supreme regard for the parent Deity, any more than our love for one of our kindred shuts out that for another. This is the glory of all true affections, that, amid all other collisions of this harsh and angry world, they never clash, but encourage and protect each other.

Jesus Christ, by drawing so great and wonderful regard to himself, is the educator of all the right affections of the human race. The great and noble love for him calls forth and sanctifies all love. So he refines and raises humanity to the hope of heaven. He awakens, and feeds from his own bosom, the faculties which make