

The principle is embodied in Old Testament records, sometimes with much incipieney, or differently expressed, but ever, in its manifestation, it is an oozing or a gushing of heart for somebody else. This is incalculably more than Plato's suavity, or Voltaire's cordiality; and transforming faith in Christ makes the momentous distinction. Man was made unselfish, and to find his highest delights in serving others. It, as a germ, devulged itself in Adam's first hopes after the first promise. It lived in Abel's faith and offerings. It breathed in the priestly ceremonies of Patriarchal households, when Christ's day was seen afar off, and there was gladness. It made Enoch a man of God. It invested the Jewish system with brotherliness when it provided for "the stranger." Even Jonah's success was the consequence of his reluctant *going* to Nineveh at God's command. It beautified Ruth, when she chose the people of God for her people, and they made her welcome. It throw over the evangelical diction of David's Psalms the splendours of unselfishness and of Gospel majesty; and endowed before-hand Isaiah with the spirit of St. Paul, and well nigh antedated the magnificent dispensation of the Spirit, of Missions, and of the Latter Day glory.

The principle predominates in the New Testament, and there becomes a passion. There it is in all those acts which respect for the Messiah prompted. See it in those stupendous miracles which some of his followers wrought for others—sheer miracles of mercy. See it in the disciples he sent forth two and two, and when they returned from their tours of devotedness and daring, and rehearsed the deeds their God had done. See it in the surprise and convictions of St. Peter after the vision of beasts—none now unclean. It was effulgent on the Day of Pentecost. It pulsates in the Evangelists. It glows in the Epistles. It gives John of the Revelation his best vision—an angel flying through the heavens with the Gospel for men. It envelopes Antioch in the glory of a genius which there devised the first Missionary Association. See it in the attitude of St. Paul, when, as Apostle to the Gentiles, he said, "I magnify mine office." See it in Macedonia's hearty bountifulness to Jerusalem's poor. See it in the celerity of the multitude who went everywhere preaching the word—the hand of the Lord with them. It carried Barnabas to and from Antioch, and the Apostles hastened to many a foreign country, and Satan's pagan or prejudiced majorities were often decimated by Christ's victories, and angels wondered.

The principle had precedence in the earliest Christian centuries. Fellow-feeling, regenerated, developed it. Every act of good-will, zeal, and endurance for others, developed it. Faith, resolution, exultation in martyrdom, developed it. Yearnings for men's well-being, and their imme