

BELOVED!

Beloved!—a fine ascription, is it not, my readers? To whom is it given? To those who were once hateful, about whom and in whom there was nothing that could awaken love. And who gives it? The God of heaven and earth, the Almighty and All-wise Creator and Preserver of all mankind, yea, of the whole universe! What a thought, to be beloved by the great, eternal God! Not only objects of His care and preservation, but objects of His love! Poor, weak, miserable creatures in ourselves, lost by nature, sinners worthy of damnation, and notwithstanding, beloved children of God! Beloved before the foundation of the world, beloved now, amidst our weakness and on the way through an evil world, beloved through all eternity! And why beloved? Beloved for Christ's sake, "taken into favour in the Beloved."

Beloved! What does each of our hearts give to the great fact of the love of God, to all the love that He has lavished upon us and now lavishes upon us each day? Do our hearts beat for Him?

Are they full of praise, thanks and worship, and of yearning longing to see Him who has first loved us? Do we rejoice over every opportunity of showing Him our love, even though it be in so meagre a measure? Do we love God? Do we