

first the truth found entrance into our souls ! How precious the grace that, however varied the way it took with us, drew us, and drew us irresistibly, into the truth : " Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." There we found ourselves out in all our sins and ruin, but in *His presence*. The rumour (ver. 17) was true: God had visited His people. And she was at His feet, fully exposed to herself in her sins, weeping—no attempt to hide it, all come fully out, but come out in the presence of the infinite grace that brought God down to be a poor despised Man in this world. Sooner or later (if not now in the day of grace, in the day of judgment) all must come out ; but God has come, revealed in grace, before the day of judgment, to bring out the sins now, and lay the basis of the soul's everlasting relationship with Him in the full discovered truth of my guilt and utter ruin, and by it of what God is. What mercy it is, what infinite grace ! I belong to Him, I am His ; but this founded on the discovery, deep down in the conscience, of my sins. There and thus it was He won my heart ; and the blessed way love took to do it leaves no cloud upon the relationship it brings me into : His ways with me, too, but means to this end, as we see it in His words to poor, dark, religiously-blinded Simon : " Which of them will *love* him most ?" He had come not merely to meet all our need as sinners, but by that need to make Himself known to us as a Saviour, and thus to draw out the affections of the heart after Himself. Blessed