

14 THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

kind which needs faith and temperance if it is to be useful. Love is an essential principle.

Love comes first of all, the leader of the band—

“Love is the brightest of the train,
And strengthens all the rest.”

Love is exercised towards God, but does not end in God; from love to God is born love towards our neighbour. “We love, because he first loved us.” “And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God, love his brother also.” “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren.” Love is the desire to create and bestow happiness. It is thus that the love of God is seen in Christ, and the followers of Christ must follow in the steps of the Great Master, who went about doing good. This was the bond of Christian brotherhood in earlier days, when it was said, “See how those Christians love one another!” “They love before they know each other,” said Minutius Felix of the early Christians; and Lucian sneeringly said, “Their Master makes them believe that they are all brothers.”

Love is personal. We may hope that an event will happen, we may even fear its approach, or be anxious concerning the results that may follow, but we can only love a person. The person of Jesus Christ has been so attractive and has had such power over the mind of man that it