

in and year out at the same level. They are on good terms with themselves, they have "need of nothing."

"It costs too much," said a man who was urged to live this higher life of religious reality. It meant God must be master of all. But what does it cost to turn our backs on all this? What did it cost the Laodicean church? The presence of her Master.

We cannot afford to do without an indwelling Christ.

There is no greater object of pity, than the sight of one who has known the power of God, wandering in desolation apart from Him. The only way to begin being in earnest is to let Him in.

"If any man open the door I will come in."

PART III.

Rev. II. 1—7. Epistle to Church of Ephesus.

God is love. Wherever God goes He carries His own love with Him. In the heart where God reigns, love will reign.

The Christian life is a development of love "that your love may increase" says the Apostle.

There was much good in the Church of Ephesus. Note the three statements made in its favour.

"I know thy works, thy labour and thy patience." The Christian who does not work is a loveless Christian, for those who love must work, but we must not assume that work assures spiritual life.

Here we have not only the regularity of activity, but also the enthusiasm of labour. But an enthusiast is apt to be impetuous and uncertain, energetic and untiring through a revival, but weary when the daily routine of unexciting work supervenes. Patience is needed and this the Ephesian Church also possessed.

It was an orthodox Church, it had the gift of spiritual discernment, it knew religious charlatans "thou hast tried them which say they are apostles and are not."

But there was somewhat against this seemingly perfect church. It "had left its first love."

Is this such a fault, one exclaims—love is merely of the emotions, let a man do his duty, what does it signify about a mere emotion?

The Ephesian Church did its duty, it was a practical orthodox, enduring Church, but God speaks of it as a "fallen" Church—it was on the point of losing its place among the Churches of God. "I will come quickly and remove thy candlestick out of its place."