

these. Born of a poor family though of royal lineage He was the son of sorrow and toil. Often in His short life He hungered and thirsted ; was weary and worn : was scorned and scoffed ; and was plagued and persecuted by His fellow-men. I was appointed to man to die, and Christ became a man on purpose to die—to die for man. It was said to fallen man—said in love as well as in judgment—“ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread until thou return to the ground ;” and Christ becoming bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh assumed this obligation of humanity. Thus in these relations has He put Himself into closest sympathy with us. Hence “ We have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities : but was in ALL POINTS tempted *like as we are*, yet without sin.” “ He made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him THE FORM OF A SERVANT, and was made in the likeness of men.” “ *In all things* it beloveth Him to be made LIKE UNTO HIS BRETHREN, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”

2. Christ has given great dignity to labour. His life as man was in harmony with His purpose in creating man. That this purpose was work is manifested by man's organism—his perfect mechanism. What would we think of a mechanic who spent his time in constructing steam engines only that they might be admired ?—that they might have steam got up and then blown off, as is the case with many men ? The perfect man placed in a paradise in a perfect world was commanded “ to dress and keep the garden,” in other words to work. After the fall this duty was made more difficult not only as a penalty but as a pleasure for man. God as man acted in harmony with His purposes concerning man—He was a workman and a working man, doing then in a humbler way what He had done from the beginning as Creator. “ My Father worketh hitherto and I work.” Neither was it manual labour only that He dignified by His example, for when he left the carpenter's shop, he said, “ I must work the work given me to do, for the night cometh wherein no MAN can work.” Christ has given great dignity to the trades followed by men. There are some to be found among men—it is to be hoped that they are few—who look upon and treat tradesmen as though they belonged to an inferior class. Let such remember that their Christ belonged to this class ! Working men belong to an honourable class, to a noble Guild, one in which God was their fellow workman, in which Christ spent the greater part of his earthly life.

3. The example Christ has thus given to us as working men. He is not only an example of industry but an example to the industrious. As an apprentice to Joseph his father, he was *obedient*. “ And he went down with them (his parents) to Nazareth and was *subject* unto them.” As a son he was *dutiful*. After the death of Joseph he assisted to support, as it would seem, his widowed mother and younger brothers and sisters. While enduring the death agonies of the cross he made final provision for her who had been instrumental in giving him his humanity. As a man he was *industrious*. Using all the time of his human life usefully, as a man of toil blessing his fellow men with the fruit of his service. As a mechanic, he was a man of *honour*. Ever true to his word, and never pledging a promise without the assurance that it could be fulfilled. He never neglected or slighted his work. The houses built by Jesus in Nazareth were truly done. The work sent from his shop was as perfect as his human hands could make it. It is likely this may be one of the reasons why “ he grew in favour with man.” As he served others he did not think only of serving himself and his hands held no ill gotten gain. As a working man he was *patient* and *forbearing*. He never murmured at his hard lot or envied others their ease or position. Though without doubt he served some hard grasping masters and petulant men, patience possessed his soul, and when “ reviled he reviled not again.” Finally he made a *right use* of his hard gotten gains. He did not hoard them, for throughout life he possessed none of this world's goods. He did not squander them, for he who saved the baskets of fragments in the wilderness never wasted.

4. This fact in regard to Christ's life has been a cause of reproach and repulsion with some. His former fellow citizens of Nazareth said, “ Is not this the carpen-