

all who obey it, but *mainly* because of the glorious character of its author. To delight in the law you must love the lawgiver. Supreme love to the great *Lawgiver* is the motive and inspiration to obedience. We will illustrate this:—There are two sons, children of the same father, living under the same roof, subject to the same domestic laws; one has lost all filial love, his father has no longer any hold upon his affections. The other is full of the sentiment, the filial instinct in him is almost passion. How different is the obedience of these two sons! The one does nothing but what is found in the command, and does that merely as a matter of form; he would not do it if he could help it. The other does it not because it is in the command, but because it is the wish of him he loves. He goes beyond the written law, he anticipates his father's will. Obedience is grievous in the one case, but delight in the other.

Love is the strongest force in the soul. If love pre-occupies the soul, temptations are powerless. No one can draw us astray unless he enlists in some degree our affections, and if our love be centered on God we are immoveable. Love builds around the soul a rampart so invulnerable that the attacks of the enemy fall on it but to rebound. All the energies of the soul grow under its influence as nature under the sky of spring. It is the breath of God, the brightest purity, the atmosphere in which spirits revel in the vigor of undying youth.

"O Thou who keep'st the key of love,
Open Thy fount, Eternal Dove,
And overflow this heart of mine,
Enlarging as it fills with Thee,
Till in one blaze of charity
Care and remorse are lost, like motes in light Divine.