

more and more strongly in the sufferer's heart the deep conviction that God is love, — a conviction which no sufferings could shake, but which was the rather held with a closer and firmer grasp amid the accumulation of pain and distress ?

And so, too, is this sentiment felt and cherished by the heart which bereavement has robbed of its loved ones, whose affections, like the broken strings of a sweet-toned instrument, are now shattered and unstrung. O, how do those affections mount upwards from earth, and fix themselves with a pure and eager embrace on Him whose name is Love ! Earth may be a solitude, and the stricken mourner feel desolate and alone even amid the beaming beauties and bounties which may still be left. But, in the belief in a Heavenly Father, and in the consciousness of his presence and love, the solitude of earth is peopled with gladness and joy. The companionship of spirit is still unbroken, though its earthly relations are severed, and in the light of a joyous immortality, and in the consolations of a holy faith, is seen and felt the undoubted truth that God is love.

Now it is not to be questioned that these are among the evils of life, which are apparent objections to this great truth. Yet we see and know that by the holy power of Christianity they may be and are made the surest means of fixing this truth in the heart. Not amid the throngs of the gay, or the homes of the happy in this world, not where the sun of prosperity shines brightest, or where the laughter of merriment is the loudest, would I go to learn the truth that God is love. I ought, I know, to find it there, for I know that the hearts of the happy and the joyful should be lifted in gratitude to God, the giver of good,