

judge our motives, put a false construction upon our actions and, instead of returning the affection which we testify towards them, meet us with coldness and mistrust. What then must the Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us night and day, feel whilst He keeps lonely vigil and notes the footsteps of His misguided, erring children as they pass to and fro before His dwelling, failing to recognize Him, or else acknowledging His existence by a cynical sneer at the imbecility of poor, credulous Catholics, who worship an imprisoned God, and bow down before a piece of bread ! How longingly must He turn for consolation towards the faithful few who do know Him, whose hearts are stirred by His Presence, who recognize His Divinity, hidden though it be, who adore Him for His goodness, worship His holiness, and render Him love for love !

Alas ! even by the most faithful of His children the Blessed Sacrament is sometimes misunderstood from cowardice, from lack of energy, from want of sufficient faith. We gaze at the Tabernacle door, or at the veiled Face of our dear Lord on days of Exposition and our hearts gradually glow and soften as the rays of Divine Sunshine penetrate our coldness and vivify our lifelessness, and then Jesus speaks to us, asks something of us, a sacrifice perhaps, an act of self-renunciation — We hesitate, affect to misunderstand His wishes, we pretend to ourselves that we labour under a delusion, that we are not worthy of carrying out the inspiration which we have just received.

Or else, perchance, some spiritual help which God had given us is removed, some means by which we fancied we were learning to know Him better, we imagine that all is lost (misunderstanding again) and that our knowledge of Jesus will fade and wane now that our instructor has left us, forgetting that, if this help was God-sent it is equally God-taken, and that, if we do but have confidence, the Blessed Sacrament will not permit us to starve, but Jesus dwelling therein will Himself become our guide, drawing us the closer to Him and accustoming our eyes little by little to the Divine light of the tabernacle.

Sometimes we misunderstand Jesus wilfully by refusing to comprehend the full meaning of His whispered teachings, because of the inward conviction that so to do will