

well did he himself say, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." This is the evidence, this will be the effect of love.

Thank God, then, for something to love ; something that wore our garments, and shed our tears, and started with our sweat, and bowed with our anguish. Thank God for something to love, on which we can pour out and expend the very treasure and fulness of our affection, as it can rarely, if ever possibly, flow to aught we see in the world ; but on this can flow the more as it is purer, can be made pure and blessed by the object on which it flows, and by that object created in many a cold, stony heart where before it did not exist. Thank God, we can open the door for one to come in over the threshold, better and dearer than any, though fond and preciousy clasped to our bosom, whom the roof covers ; one who supplies what the hungry heart in us craves, and stanches the wounds of affection with which the torn or broken heart bleeds. Thank God — let us sinners thank him — for one who was sinless, though he refused to be called good ; who is willing to accept our love, and to return it with his own ; nay, who first loved us, that we might have the privilege of loving him. Oh ! let us know that love of Christ, of which the apostle wrote, and which, in the beautiful ambiguity and doubleness of the text, is both his love to us and our love to him. Let him teach us humility and penitence. Let him inspire us with peace and holy joy. Let him give us the water which shall be in us a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Then not in vain shall we meet to worship in his name. Not in vain shall we thus meet, did I say ? How poor and weak the words ! Not in vain shall we live this mortal life. For