

a miracle, preached a sermon, delivered a discourse, or engaged in praise or prayer, he was about his Father's business. All his journeys were undertaken for the good of man and the glory of God. He went from village to village, from town to town, from city to city, doing good. And when the time came that he should suffer, and bleed and die on Calvary, as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of a perishing world, we hear him saying, "the cup which my Father hath given me shall I not drink it?" "Father, the hour is come, glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee." And though he has gone to the many mansions,—though he is now a Priest upon his throne,—he is, and will, for ever and ever, be employed about his Father's business. The Lamb in the midst of the throne will for ever be unveiling the moral perfections of the Divine. It is somewhat remarkable that the first recorded words of the Holy child Jesus, when he was twelve years old, should also be the last till he began to be about thirty, and was pointed out by John the Baptist on the banks of the Jordan as "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

There can be no doubt that the Young Man of Nazareth, who was altogether lovely, spent the seventeen or eighteen years that intervened between his reasoning with the doctors and his "shewing unto Israel," in subjection to his parents. Throughout this long period he doubtless lived in blameless and holy devotion to his heavenly Father; "and increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." It is probable that Jesus wrought with his reputed father as a carpenter, and in the town of Nazareth earned his bread with the sweat of his brow. It is also probable that Joseph died sometime before our Lord entered on his public ministry, as no mention is made of Joseph after their return from the feast of the Passover mentioned above. But many events connected with the Holy Family are hid from our view; and who does not know that there is true eloquence sometimes in the very silence of Scripture. We feel moved and more deeply impressed sometimes with what is not expressed than with even much that