

wealthiest banks. "If that man," says an unconverted person, "can he a good christian, I think I can be one." "I admire the idea," says another, "of being a true christian, if I could only find one, I would make a journey to see him, just as I would go to see Barnum's show." The fruits of religion unconverted men understand, so far as they are produced. Such men not only understand them, but the principles of the religion which produces them. In the fifth chapter of Galatians the Apostle says that the fruits of the Spirit are love, etc. Do not natural men love *Love*? Is it not beautiful everywhere? In little children is it not beautiful? Even when they come to manhood and womanhood is it not beautiful? Strange it is that we make sport of the most sacred spot in our existence. I know not why it is so. And yet the love which makes two hearts one is so beautiful that no poet can sing without singing its merits. It is so beautiful that all the people in your state, and town and village love to think about "loving." Talk about the unconverted man not understanding this fruit of the Spirit? While a man is making his way through a hard and coarse world, friendless and alone, is there not one thing which holds him steadfast to his belief in human nature? Yes, it is the silver cord of love that leads back to virtue and mother. This is the silver cord that would bring him back to himself. It is the noblest of loves. But the fruit of the Spirit includes "joy." The "natural" or "animal" man cannot understand joy, but an unconverted man may and does, and is seeking it all his life long. Indeed, it is after joy that the great tide of humanity is flowing. But men, generally, don't understand how to get it. It is like gold in quartz rocks. They know it is there, but don't understand how to get it out. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace. Peace here means that tranquility which results from the perfect and symmetrical development of every part of human nature. Another fruit is long-suffering. Men admire long-suffering. Think of a long-suffering school master, a long-suffering mother, or a long-suffering neighbour. Men like to see long-suffering in other folks, but they don't like to practise it themselves. Gentleness is another fruit. There is a great deal of gentleness in the world that means nothing. The gentleness of the Gospel springs from a man who has power in him. A man who possesses it is full of gentle treatment to everybody, and wherever you see it,—whether in dog or man,—you admire it. A large, gentle dog carries himself along in majesty, while an ill-tempered little cur comes along and bites his legs and torments him generally. But the dog is too high-minded to trouble himself about the little cur, and passes along without