

sion, is to be acquired otherwise than by the practice of that trade, business, or profession ; so he who would understand Christian doctrines must practise Christian precepts ; and honestly do the will of God as far as he knows how. "*If any man will do his [God's] will, he shall know of the doctrine,*" says Jesus (John vii. 17). And again, the apostle John says, "*Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God*" (1 John iv. 7). Love rules and actuates all perfect spirits ; and the more we are ruled and actuated by love, the more we become like God our heavenly Father. "*Knowledge puffeth up, but love buildeth up*" (*ἀγάπη οἰκοδομεῖ*, 1 Cor. viii. 1). If we have not love, God cannot benefit us by giving us any amount of knowledge or power ; for this would be but to make devils of us, for we would be disposed to use our knowledge or power for evil purposes ; for knowledge unaccompanied with a corresponding degree of love does not *build up*, it merely "*puffeth up* ;" but if we have love, if our great desire is to do good, or to benefit others, God can give us any degree of knowledge or power in a very short time, and so make angels of us. Thus it is that "*love buildeth up.*"

But one may say, How can one acquire or increase this love ? The answer is, Simply by occupying ourselves occasionally or continually with good works, *i.e.*, works of benevolence, or works which have the amelioration of the condition of mankind (either individually or collectively) for their object. Whatever one labours or suffers for, he naturally becomes attached to and values just in proportion to the time, labour, or suffering, which it has cost him. So if we labour for our fellow-man, we shall undoubtedly soon become interested in his advancement, and will love him practically and seek his good, just in proportion as we labour for him ; and this disposition would grow upon us so that it would soon become a confirmed habit, and be our chief object in life ; and then we should be on the high road to all perfection. For when benevolence or love is the leading trait in our character,