

ourselves, and His hand can bring to pass whatever His heart suggests.

If we have now in a measure brought home to ourselves how desirable it is to be numbered among our Blessed Lord's intimate friends, perhaps we are ready to make use of the most effective means of becoming such. What can these be? Why, frequent Communion, unquestionably. If two friends are wont to strengthen and sweeten their friendship by seeking, every day, if possible, each other's society, in order to pass some time together pleasantly and profitably in discussing matters of mutual interest, sharing confidences, gaining from each other counsel and sympathy, or giving and receiving those marks, little and great, of kindness, consideration and self-sacrifice that are the flower and the fruit of true friendship, why should we not act in a like manner toward our Divine Friend?

Friendship desires union. Can there be a union closer than that which is formed between Christ and the worthy communicant? Our Lord has said, "He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood abideth in Me and I in him." Friendship, too, seeks by frequent intercourse to keep this union close and strong. Is not receiving Him, then, every day the best means of maintaining a warm friendship with Jesus?

If it be true that the chief advantages of friendship, as a philosopher has observed, are peace in the affections, support in the judgment, and aid in all our undertakings, how much nearer the truth must this be of a friendship that is divine? Moreover, since we require daily this peace, support and aid, there is surely no better and easier way of securing them than by daily Communion. By sharing, then, our joys with our Divine Friend we shall double them, and by confiding to Him our sorrows we shall make them less; by seeking His advice just after receiving we can avail ourselves of the very wisdom of God, and through the sacramental strength daily Communion gives to the soul, we have at our command Divine power itself.

The wise man of the ancients wished to be always in the company of one better than himself. But it would