

ENTER THY CLOSET.

and low through the inspirations which fill and ennoble them. A gentle word, a kind deed, a truthful thought, a loving affection, are no longer mere word, deed, thought, affection, but are expanded and elevated into gentleness, kindness, truth, love, the very soul and unconfined essence of goodness. The tabernacle we rear may be made up of earthly materials, but not only is its pattern celestial, even its structure and form are product and image of the One Spirit which fills both heaven and earth. Perfection of character is thus wrought of the spirit of love coming down from the heavens, resting on the earth, blessing even the smallest action, that, however it may seem to the eye, it is great in the divine holiness, and reproduces in us and in every deed the Life once revealed from heaven, which, in solitude, in the family, in society, in temptation or victory, in joy or sorrow, in action or in rest, in birth, in growth, in death and ascension, has become the consecrated archetype, the prophetic symbol, of our regeneration and our perfection.

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BY REV. C. ROBBINS.

“ENTER into thy closet, shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret.” Why? With what motives, with what wishes, and for what results? With the feelings of the mystic? For the airy purposes of the visionary? With no eye to practice, no thought of the sphere of man’s relative and social duties? For our private spiritual excitement, — for high devotional enjoyment, —