

THE EDUCATION OF THE SOUL IN THE TRUTH.

Luke vii. 37, 38, 48-50 ; John xii. 1-3 ; xx. 1-17.

I turn to these familiar scriptures, on which our hearts love so often to dwell, beloved brethren, with but one thought, which, I think, may be traced through them ; and that is the blessed way that, in the infinite grace of our God, needs are created in the soul, in order that the truth may come with power to it. And this is surely so in every aspect of the truth. It is possessed and becomes a reality and power in us, only when received as an answer to need, first of all awakened in the soul. In these scenes, reading them in the order in which they are presented to us in the history—alike precious fruit of His grace in drawing out devotedness to Himself in those who were with Him on earth, each with its own distinct character—I think we may see a moral order bringing out the normal education of the soul in the truth, from the soul's first awakening to the knowledge of the Lord, under His blessed leading and teaching.

In the first—the woman that was a sinner, in Simon's house—we are carried back to the way God had to begin with each of us, the only way He ever became known to us, awakening the soul, by His infinite grace, to the sense of its need of a *Saviour*. And what an awakening that was when