

brotherly love, in honor preferring one another." Surely this is to be truly polite! To be uniformly kind in manner and speech is as much a path of Christian living as visiting the sick, going to meeting or performing any other outwardly good act, for these acts of piety or benevolence may be occasional or done from mixed motives. But to be uniformly polite requires a habit of mind, an unselfish spirit, of which the outward act is only the spontaneous expression. Then, since politeness is so important a grace, it behooves us to consider its most fruitful source. Let us bear in mind that it is a thing of home growth, and improves with the using, that like our every-day garments, it should be worn all the time. It is that politeness that graces the home as well as the ball-room that we most admire. We should strive to gain the good-will of father, mother, brother and sister exactly as we strive to gain good-will abroad. Then, if we always use our guest manners and voices at home, they will become a part of us, that is, so settled upon us that we will be unable to use any others. That true politeness is wholly inconsistent with selfishness, cannot be denied; the two will not flourish on the same stem; the one always kills the other. We are frequently unmindful of the needs of others only because absorbed in devising plans for our own ease or pleasure; it is often but a wish to assert our own opinions or carry our own points that makes us inconsiderate of the feelings of our hearers. This desire to indulge self interferes with the growth of all that is good in us. Those unwilling to regard the comfort and needs of others as entitled to the first consideration, cannot be called in the highest sense polite. If we would be uniformly kind in manner and speech, we must exemplify always the motto: "In honor preferring one another." But this is not all; we must go deeper yet if we would reach the source of true politeness. It is to be found

firmly and deeply grounded in love, and comes as a result of the transforming work of the spirit within. It is not, then, the product of refinement and culture, a thing of chance, nor yet a gift that comes unsought to the favorites of fortune. On the contrary, it is the fruit of a resolute and persistent denial of self, the reward of an earnest effort to bring the heart into obedience to the will of God, and may be possessed by all who are willing to pay the price. He who has his heart right, that is, filled with love for all humanity, cannot be otherwise than truly polite. Then, we should try always to do and say only the kindest things in the kindest way, in other words, to be polite, grant that it does cost us a struggle somewhat, of self-denial, constant care and watchfulness. Will we not be compensated in the end? Yes, we will get our own back with usury for this endeavor, to feel and manifest nothing but affection for others, and treat with consideration the feelings and opinions of everybody. This cannot but be a means of cultivation of heart and mind to us, making us better and more useful beings, and entitling us to membership in that social circle, where are found only the best and truest men and women.

SORROW.

Count each affliction, whether light or grave,
God's messenger sent down to thee; do thou
With courtesy receive him; rise and bow;
And, ere his shadow cross thy threshold, crave
Permission first his heavenly feet to lave;
Then lay before him all thou hast; allow
No cloud of passion to usurp thy brow,
Or mar thy hospitality; no wave
Of mortal tumult to obliterate
The soul's marmoreal calmness; grief
should be,
Like joy, majestic, equable, sedate;
Confirming, cleansing, raising, making free;
Strong to consume small troubles; to commend
Great thoughts, grave thoughts, thoughts lasting
to the end. —Aubrey De Vere.