

the Holy Spirit. He is brought into a vital connection with Christ, grafted into the tree of Life, and through the life-giving influence of the Spirit becomes a flourishing, blossoming, and fruit-bearing branch. The graces and virtues of a holy life are described as the fruit of the Spirit because they are the result of his divine working, just as truly as the fruit is produced by the life-principle in the tree. "From Me," runs the inspired Word, "is thy fruit found."

In the Apostle's grand catalogue of Christian graces, we have a beautiful cluster of fruit. One Christian grace cannot stand alone, it seeks companionship. As the grape does not grow singly, there are many in a bunch, so in the Christian character, as it develops, many virtues appear. The chemist who analyzes the fruit of the vine finds that it is composed of many elements. No single one, nor any two together, would produce the fruit of the grape. It has been well said that the fruit of the true Vine has also been analyzed. In the best specimens there are nine ingredients to be found. There are some Christians that appear to lack one or other of the necessary elements. There is a sour kind which sets the teeth on edge, and which seems to lack a sufficient supply of long-suffering, or of gentleness, or of goodness, or of meekness. There is a poor, watery kind which appears to want the addition of joy and peace. There is a harsh, hard