



WHOEVER desires to live peacefully in this world, must be resolved to suffer patiently and bear with contradiction. He who cannot comprehend why such kind of crosses exist, does not understand all of life's mysteries; for, to be able to escape contrariety, one would be obliged to leave this world and seek an existence elsewhere. Admitting the fact that man must endure crosses from his fellow-creatures: « And all that will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution. » « If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me: » one would be inclined to believe that the amount of forbearance would diminish in proportion to the closeness of relationship. It is just the contrary. The estrangements may not be so intense, but they are certainly more frequent. What friendship could live, if it never had anything to forgive? Could Christian concord thrive, even between brothers, if mutual concessions did not contribute to its existence?

There is, however, an association which, at first sight, would appear to be exempt from the humiliating necessity of continually pardoning offenses. But numerous facts prove the contrary. Why is it that husband and wife must endure so much from each other? Are they not bound together by the strong and peaceful chains of love? Were they not chosen among thousands to live quietly together on account of the mutual sympathy existing between their thoughts, their inclinations, their natures? Should they not only appear but be really happy in each other's company? Many of them were so in the beginning of their union, when their youthful enthusiasm blinded them to truthful facts. They were so dazzled by the outburst of their first love, that they saw no shadows in their ideal beauty. After a short while the beautiful halo surrounding that prepossessing moral countenance, begins to lose some of its brilliancy. The eye, no longer fascinated as in the commencement, makes a great discovery:— can it be that the ideal is not perfect? Alas! yes. Dark and, heretofore, unnoticed