

the loom, the counter, the forum, or the pulpit, as men among men, but men filled with the heavenly manliness of Jesus—temperate in appetite, strong in the consciousness of heart purity, rich in that "Perfect Love which casts out fear" and makes the man a pillar of strength in the church of God.

We have just written the words, "Perfect Love," a phrase which, to the minds of many, represents comprehensively the whole experience. It may, however, be looked at as a distinct element of the Higher Christian Life. In that light, however, it will scarcely admit of analysis. As the thing called life retreats ever into mystery, beyond the scalpel of the anatomist and below the furthest question of the philosopher, and yet is the most undoubted of all facts, so does this element of Love—perfect love, the pure essential love of God in the soul, elude the definition of the man of metaphysics, and baffle the art of the rhetorician. But it is "revealed unto babes." When childlike faith prepares the way, it demonstrates its own presence by the divine illumination with which it glorifies the promises of the Word, and by the new chorus of praise which it awakes, in which every faculty of the soul gladly lifts its voice, filling the inner man with a harmony akin to that of heaven itself. And then, when, as the inevitable consequence, the whole cluster of ripe Christian graces enriches the outward life, there is realised the ideal of Christian life, for which the ambition of the sincere soul longs and prays in its times of greatest earnestness and holy desire.

But where is the ladder by which we may climb to this altitude of bliss? It is nigh thee, reader; its steps are two—steps that blend together in one experience. They are, utter consecration, and absolute faith—faith that the Redeemer claims your consecration now, consecration that bears down with destructive pressure upon all unbelief—faith in the present, accepting, purifying Jesus, that pushes, with its offering in hand, to the purple fountain of atonement—and then "the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin," and the satisfying fulness of God fills the soul. So it has been with many in the past. So it is with a rapidly increasing number in the present. So may it be with the reader for ever!