

stature, and in favour with God and man, the grace of God shows yet more mightily in the case of those who have been in the fight, those who have lain prostrate in the bloody contest, who have felt the fierce lion's merciless teeth and merciless claws, yet have sprung up again and gathered their strength, have turned rout into resistance and resistance into victory. Who are the special proofs of the irresistible love of Christ and of the irresistible power of God's grace? In whose cases is the grace best shown? Not in Enoch the immaculate, not in Abraham the friend of God, not in John, the hermit of the desert, not in John, the exile of Patmos, not in Stephen with his face like the face of an angel; no, but in the son who was lost and is found, who is rescued from the rags and the far land and the husks and the swine and returned to the pure, rejoicing home; in the Magdalen out of whom He cast seven devils; in the harlot who washed His feet with her tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head; in the publican whom He transformed into an apostle; in the demoniac sitting at His feet clothed and in his right mind. These are the products of His grace, these are the lost, torn sheep over whom the Good Shepherd rejoices, those are the repentant sons for whom the angels strike their harps. You may be weak, you may be bad, you may be corrupt, you may be a defeated man, all your life may hitherto have been wasted. You may have sunk deeper and deeper into the awful abyss and mire of sin. Yet I would give you hope, I would fain kindle your courage, I would fain awaken a spark and rouse it to a glow, and then into a clear and leaping flame. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow. Do not allow the devil to make you listen to those words as though to you they meant nothing. They are God's words to

you, they are Christ's message to you, they are the Spirit's appeal even to you. Are you a drunkard? There is not a drunkard here who may not die a forgiven and a temperate man. Are you dishonest? Have you for years been making profits by the lies and base conventionalities of this or that profession? You can this very day smash your balance; you can melt your unjust weights, and abandon your unfair practices. Is your heart burning with bad passions? Are you a profane person, or a fornicator, or are you laying waste by any sin the inner sanctuaries of your being? There is not one but may become strong and pure in Christ. To some it may be there are sins like lava—smouldering by day, lurid by night. But if you will put away the evil thing and seek God on your knees; if you will summon the shamed and routed and scattered forces of your being to the great battle of God, He will so help you, that far as the east is from the west, so far from you will be the sin which burns your heart. My brethren, because Satan knows that despair is fatal, he will try hard to keep you cynically indifferent, or to drive you to despair. He will whisper to you that you are too far gone, that those hopes, those promises, are for others, not for you. But O, my brethren, they are for you. If you will not put them from you, then you, even you, can still strangle that full-fed lion, whose claw is in your heart. It is a true saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. To save sinners, and therefore to save you; to save the guilty, and therefore to save you; to save the bad, and therefore to save you; and if you will take no words but His very own, take it in these: "I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel; I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."—*Globe.*