

lying by us neglected, they will be a hindrance to all our work.

Let us think then of some of the ways in which sin hangs about us when we think we have forsaken it. One of these ways is by its still keeping a hold of our thoughts, so that we remember with pleasure, or in some way take pleasure in thinking of wrong things that we have done, or such as are like them. This is not hard to find out if we have the will, and must be wholly renounced if we would have our repentance complete and our pardon entire. Watchfulness over our thoughts at this season will help much toward curing us of this evil. What do we commonly imagine as *what we should like*? Do we carefully check ourselves if it is a covetous or other wrong thought?

But there are some more subtle ways in which sin lurks about its old haunts, and requires to be well looked for before it is found out. One of these is a certain weakness of will that is apt to arise from often letting the wrong bent of our nature have its way. This is very likely to remain with us if we have been cured of a sinful habit not by any vigorous effort to master the temptation, but rather by the help of some change of circumstances that puts us under control or makes the temptation less. When that is the case, we are apt to remain just as weak and self-indulgent in something else, as in the sin we think we have forsaken: