

spoke the last farewell words ; and how they sorrowed most of all as they thought they should see his face no more ! Or once more : have not his strong words of comfort gone home to every mourner's heart, as standing by the grave of their loved and lost, they have remembered that, not as those without hope need they sorrow, because they believe, that as "Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him ?"

There is, however, a very marked difference in the tone of the several Epistles. This, we think, brings out the natural loving character of the man into especial prominence. The Romans were personally strangers to him ; the Epistle to the Ephesians was probably an encyclical letter ; in writing to the Colossians he wrote to those who had not seen his face in the flesh. In such Epistles there could not be any great expression of affection. The Corinthians were his own converts. He had worked among them, and had himself won them to Christ. But what a difference there is between the letters he wrote to Corinth and those he wrote to the Galatians, the Thessalonians, or the Philippians ! The difference is not very difficult of explanation. The Galatians were Celts, warm-hearted, affectionate, impulsive as the modern Celts are to this day, and their affection to the Apostle was boundless. The Thessalonians were not altogether unlike them ; while Philippi—a Roman Colonia—would have a mixed population of Roman soldiers, Macedonians, and Asiatics, who had migrated and settled there. But the Corinthians were Greeks proper, intellectual, argumentative, didactic, lost to the sense of moral beauty through their admiration of physical beauty, coldly sensuous, immoral from training and habit rather than from warmth of temperament or passion. We need not wonder that there was no great outburst of affection towards such a people. And, besides, free as he was from vanity—that curse of all little souls—St. Paul, like other men, must have found it difficult to forgive their sneers at his personal peculiarities, his diminutive stature, his physical weaknesses, his sometime difficulty of utterance. The same difference of tone is noticeable in comparing the Epistles to Timothy with that to