

Him rather than his relations. Hence it is the Truth said to the disciples that followed him: "He that loveth father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me." (Matth. x. 37.) These then, are not to be listened to, who would, for the comfort of your friends, persuade you to remain in the world; but those are above all to be imitated, who, for the love of Christ, choose rather to remove themselves far away from their friends, in order that they may serve God the more freely, adhere to him more devoutly, and pray more fervently for their friends. Whence, if they wish to oppose thee in the way of God, and to throw obstacles to thy entrance into religion, they are to be shunned and forsaken. For the great Lawgiver and master of all Religious, our Lord Jesus Christ, hath shown us a form of perfect renunciation, when he says: "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." (Luc. xiv. 26.)

Give ye ear, but not to what the Lord saith, seek ye first how ye may please your relations and friends; but while you are diligent in doing this, you bring no pleasure to me thereby: "Leave then the dead to bury their dead, but follow thou me." (Matth. viii. 22.) "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his justice," (Matth. vi. 33); "and ye shall have treasure in heaven," (Ibid vi. 20.) if you have renounced all earthly things.

Oh, how foolish and blind are ye, who for a vile and most fleeting pleasure of the flesh, neglect to seek after the eternal joys of heaven; who now tremble to submit to the discipline of a holy rule, and who ponder not on the flame of unquenchable fire that burneth for ever.

Ah, there is a sad difference between the habit of an humble monk and the ghost-like look of devils. Great is the contrast between the devout song of religious, and the unendurable moans of the damned.

Oh, if men would but know the gift of God, and taste how sweet is the Lord, and how sweet it is to serve the Lord of heaven, willingly would they forsake all earthly things, which they cannot enjoy long, and fly together to the religious state, by which they might ascend in a straight course to heaven.

Whence our merciful Lord exhorteth all that are of feeble heart, not to be terrified at the salutary precepts in the rule; but rather, with all the humility of obedience, to receive the yoke saying "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, because I am meek, and humble of heart, and you shall find rest to your souls." (Matth. xi. 29.) Which may Jesus, the Son of Mary, vouchsafe to grant, who reigneth God, world without end. Amen!

OF A YOUNG CLERK, WHO, HAVING LEFT HIS STUDIES, ENTERED INTO A MONASTERY.

1. There was a certain young scholar, fresh in the flowers of early age, who studied letters at Davenry, who