

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things " (1 Cor. ii. 14, 15). It is a human aphorism that "the proper study of mankind is man," but deeply fallacious. Man knows not himself by studying himself, but by studying God: "This is life eternal, to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" (John xvii. 3). It is by this divine science that man really knows himself; not by measuring himself by himself (cf. 2 Cor. x. 12), but by measuring himself by God—by God as He is revealed in and through Christ. And I have often thought that the annals of history dark as they are, or the record of crime black as it is, would not together present such a picture of the depravity of man, as would the secret confessions of saints to God, if they were laid open to us as they are to Him. Nothing but the consciousness of complete justification could ever embolden the saint to confess before God those secret springs of evil which he detects when judging himself immediately in the presence of God. We wonder not at the most devoted saint speaking of himself as the chief of sinners.

"For this shall every one that is godly pray unto Thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely, in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. Thou art my hiding-place; Thou shalt preserve me from trouble; Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance."

It is indeed a blessed encouragement to the soul to be assured that there is nothing we may

no
co
fe
Ar
tai
co
tha
a t
co
if
alv
pra
Go
tha
sou
in
fou
rig
out
—r
the
a b
the
cou
war
from
mu
all
wha
gar
Hin