

“ Come to Me All ! ”

IF we put into one scale the warnings of the Scripture which might deter us from Holy Communion, and in the other the loving words that invite us to our Lord's Table, we shall see how surprisingly the last outweigh the first.

There is, it is true, His condemnation of the guest who came unprepared to the marriage feast ; there are St. Paul's terrific words against those who eat this Bread unworthily. But who shall count the words and ways by which our Lord invites us to himself !

“ Come to Me all you who labour.” (S. Matth. 11.)
 “ I am come not to call the just but sinners.” (S. Mark 2.)
 “ If anyone thirst, let him come to Me.” (S. John 7.)
 Suffer the little children to come to me. (S. Mark 10)
 “ All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me and him that cometh to Me I will not cast out.”
 “ I am the bread of life, he that cometh to Me shall not hunger.... I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this bread he shall live for ever.... Except you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath everlasting life and I will raise him up in the last day.... He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood abideth in Me and I in him. As I live by the Father, so he that eateth Me the same also shall live by Me.”
 “ You will come to Me that you may have life.” (S. John 6.)
 “ If any man open to Me the door, I will come to him and will sup with him and he with Me.” (Apoc. 3.)

Invitations, threats, entreaties, promises— all these He uses, after the fashion of love, to bring about His union with us, to convince us that His “ delights are to be with the children of men.” (Prov. 8.) Let us think over three of these promises.

(1.) *He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood abideth in Me and I in Him.* Ponder the amazing union