

those whom we dearly loved, in order to bring us back into the way of loving obedience to Him.

In all this we learn something of the secrets and the mysteries of life. God is a wise Father, not like Eli who indulged his sons, denying them nothing until his indulgence led to their deaths and final destruction.

In the School of Christ, we have pre-eminently to learn to deny ourselves, we have to learn to obey a higher law than that of inclination. Scholar means disciple, one who follows, to learn.

Every School has its distinctive badge and colour. Every School leaves its distinctive mark on the character. "All Hallows", "All Holy" from its very name ought to leave a sanctifying mark upon all of you who are growing up under its influence and teaching, for it is a School which is dedicated in a peculiar manner to God's Glory and Service.

People who meet you in after life ought to be able to see in you the mark of your School, the mark of holiness, of righteousness. This mark can only be acquired by the practice of obedience.

You can never get rid of obedience. All through your earthly life it will be required of you, and in the life beyond the grave it will follow you.

Pride engendered rebellion and caused some of the Angels to lose their places in Heaven. Rebellion against God's command caused Adam to lose Paradise, and from

him, our first parent, we inherit sinful and rebellious natures.

The Son of God left His Glory and became Man for our sakes. He, the second Adam, lived as man, laboured as man, suffered as man, and died as man, one long life of perfect obedience to the Father; and this family, the family of God the Father "for which He was contented to be betrayed into the hands of wicked men and to suffer death upon the cross" receives from Him a new nature, an obedient nature, imperfect *now*, warring with the old nature of disobedience, but *after* the Resurrection we shall rise with His likeness, will be taken into His perfect nature, and then the life of joyful obedience, the life of Heaven will be ours for all eternity.

Without this change in our nature we could not find happiness even in Heaven. But the change has to begin here, for it to be perfected there. And there, where Christ our Master is, no sinful thing can enter, and all sin is disobedience in one form or another.

The pearly gates of the Golden City were opened wide by our Lord in His Ascension, opened to welcome all His true disciples, those who were willing to learn from Him the lesson of obedience on earth, those for whom He died, for whom He rose again, for whom He ascended, and for whom He now lives to make intercession at the Right Hand of God the Father, and of Whom He said "Where I am there shall also My servant be."

