

What a touching character is that of Naomi! Ruth has more of the first transport of a youthful faith, Naomi the experience of a faith matured in the school of trial. You who are young Christians do not reject the experience of those who have known the Lord a long time before you have. Naomi helped her daughter-in-law to know Boaz better. "The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen." Experience is always joined to intelligence. Naomi has the perception of what is suitable in Israel, of the order which becomes the house of God. The counsels of Christian experience always *attach* souls to the family of God and to Christ, as those of Naomi attached Ruth to the belongings of Boaz. But they also *separate* her from every other field (v. 22). It may be that these latter would offer as many ears of corn to the gleaners, but they would lack the presence of him to whom henceforth the heart of Ruth was indissolubly bound, as well as the peace, the joy and the communion which he imparts. Precious experience of those who have grown old in the path of faith, for it is a help to the young to walk in the path of *holiness!* It is furthermore from the lips of experience that the fullest praise flows, for it knows the grace and goodness of the Lord in the past as in the present. Ruth *attaches herself* to Boaz and *dwells* with her mother-in-law.

(To be continued, D.V.)