

were cold or hot, so then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot; I will spue thee out of my mouth."—A fearful sentence this my beloved. But is there not a cause? Yea, both in a Saviour's wounded love, and in the fact, that "charity" and earnestness in the Church, would soon work a mighty change in the godless world itself. When the people of the Lord love much and work earnestly, satan falls as Dagon before the ark. Ah, do you wonder then my brethren, that I should have great heaviness and continued sorrow in my heart, when I behold *your* unworthy lukewarmness, yea when I see so few tokens amongst you of that "most excellent gift of charity." Alas! woe is me, for after my well nigh eleven years of longing labour, very perilous is this day the condition of many of you. Yea, I repeat, woe is me, for the days are very evil!

I would not charge you falsely, my dear friends, let us then for the remainder of the time allotted for our discourse this morning, briefly enquire, What would be effects of "that most excellent gift of Charity," the "greatest," as our text declares, "of all virtues," if it abounded in the hearts of God's children? and see, as we pass along, how far these effects are exhibited in ourselves.

I. And first as it would affect our conduct towards God. Loving Him deeply we should rejoice in honouring Him before men, before angels, and before devils. Now, as these cannot read our hearts, if they are to know our earnest love to God, it must be by our outward acts; and this is probably one reason why, at the last Great Day, the judgment is to be according to our works. Hence this love to God in men's hearts will lead them to make their Churches, as the temples of His special presence, as noble and richly beautiful as their means will possibly admit; far beyond the costliness or the splendour of their own habitations; and they will further diligently strive that the accompaniments of worship, its music, its chanting, its sacred vessels, its hangings, its priests' robes and such like are all of the most harmonious, the richest and the best, that their most diligent efforts and self-denying love can make or cause them to be. Earnest love *will* care for these things, knowing that angels, men, and devils all behold, and that the Most High does seek to be "glorified in His saints and admired in all them that believe." How is it then amongst ourselves in these respects? Is our loving reverential care for these matters such as to convince this "great cloud of witnesses," both holy and unholy, that we esteem our time and money chiefly as we can use them for the honour and glory of Him who first gave us His Son, and now waits to raise us to be partners of His Throne.

II. But again, this Charity—this love—the essence of all graces, will cause those who possess it, to make the House of Prayer and of God their *very home*; for the two-fold reason, that they thereby honour their Heavenly Father publicly, and in doing so, do also specially meet Christ, Who has promised His peculiar presence