

eminently decide the measure of our eternal happiness and glory.

Holy communion produces also a fraternal union among men. Christ, the Author of life and Dispenser of graces, entering into all Christian hearts without respect to the classes and conditions of men, — rich and poor, white and black, kneeling side by side at the same holy table and participating in the same heavenly food, — it is only natural that a fraternal union among all Christians must thereby be established. The very preparation for holy communion, namely, a good confession places Christians under the obligation of forgiving insults and injuries and of seeking reconciliation with their enemies. And what a feeling of shame and condemnation must invade the cold, callous, uncharitable heart of the man who refuses pardon and friendship when partaking of the same lovefeast with his fellow Christian, and when kneeling side by side at the same family table !

Pre-eminently the grace of peace is imparted by the union of Christians with one and the generous and merciful Saviour.

We do not so much take Him to ourselves, but He rather draws us to Himself as members of His one indivisible body. In his letter to the Corinthians the Apostle beautifully describes this union : " For we, being many, are one body, all that partake of one bread." As in a loaf of bread the single and united grains of wheat of which it is composed can no longer be distinguished, so also in Holy communion all Christians become united in one body of peace and charity through Christ Our Lord. Sublime indeed is this spectacle of unity which the Catholic world presents at the Lord's table. Bishop Eberhard, of Treves, once sketched this beautiful scene in the following words : " From the whole world, and from every walk of life, the children of Christ's Church come together at the same holy table. Just as one and the same earth supports them all, as one canopy of heaven is extended over all, as, forsooth, one lot of suffering is the destiny of all, so also they are all united by one and the same heavenly food, at one table, in the family. Just as in the hall of the Last Supper at Jerusalem the apostles sat at the table with their beloved Lord and Master like one