

Saints had but one master as we have. What He did for them, He has done for us.

But we learn another and a more humbling lesson. If we are brothers to Saints, we are brothers to sinners also. And the likeness to these is more plainly seen in us, than the likeness to the others, for we are naturally more inclined to do evil than to do good. Every one of us who knows anything of himself feels the truth of the Psalmist's words: "My heart sheweth me the wickedness of the ungodly." It is not surely the act of a brother to neglect another brother in need, and selfishly to think only of our own comfort. It is not thus, that we look to be done by in our own case. It is not thus, that we act towards those whom we acknowledge as our brothers and sisters in the fullest sense. If we were to attempt to do so, the world would cry out upon us, for, as men say, blood is thicker than water. And further, if we be brothers to the sinner, dare we leave him in his sin? Should we not try, not only to relieve his wants, but to reclaim him from sin? Dare we to say that it is no concern of ours, and ask with Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper"? Hence all really good people are eagerly active to bring others back to right, who have done wrong.

The Apostle St. John wrote the very end of the Bible, when all the other sacred writers had gone to their rest. He was about one hundred years old, but he was ever young in soul. He continued childlike in spirit, and he was like the angels, with whom we naturally associate the idea of perpetual youth. He told his disciples very often that they were brethren. But he desired that they should see that this was not all, and therefore he went back to the oldest part of the Bible, to that old story, which he and we have heard from childhood. He therefore reminds us that it is not enough to be brothers, but that we must have a brotherly spirit. For there were once two brothers, and of these two one hated the other, envied him and killed him. Cain was of that wicked one and slew his brother. Cain suffered Satan to puff him up with pride. He was proud as being the elder brother, proud as being the future lord of what he surveyed, he was proud against even God Himself. And when God deigned to expostulate with him for his jealousy and his unworthy offerings, Cain was the more wroth and envious, and withdrawing his brother from what seems to have been the