

judgment, if thy conscience pronounce thee good and innocent. Thus to suffer is good and blessed, nor will it be grievous to the heart that is humble and trusteth in God more than in itself. Many men have many minds, and therefore little importance is to be attached to their opinions. It is impossible to please all. Although St. Paul studied to please all men, yet even he said, —‘With me it is a very small thing, that I should be judged of you, or of man’s judgment.’ He labored as much as in him lay, for the edification and salvation of others, but he could not avoid being sometimes judged or despised by others. Therefore he committed all to God. Set thyself, therefore, like a good and faithful servant of Christ, manfully to bear thy Lord’s cross; thy Lord for love of thee was crucified. ‘If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.’”

To walk by the “Inner Light,” in the “Higher Life,” was the great aim and desire of A Kempis. The following is the out-burst of his overflowing soul. O may it be ours to exclaim,—“Even so, Lord Jesus!”

“O Lord God, Holy Lover of my soul, when thou hast come into my heart, all my reins shall exult. . . . Free me from evil passions, and cleanse my heart from all inordinate desires; so that healed within and thoroughly purged, I may be made prone to love, strong to bear, patient to endure. . . . “Behold I stand before Thee, poor and naked, asking grace, imploring mercy! Refresh thy poor hungering suppliant! Remove my coldness with the fire of Thy love; enlighten my blindness with the light of thy presence! O that thou wouldest *thoroughly* purge me by the fire of Thy presence, burning out all that is dross in me, and melting me into Thyself; so that I may be one with Thee, and that my spirit may be like unto thine! . . . O Eternal Light, transcending all created lights, send down from on high a ray which shall penetrate the inmost recesses of my heart, make my spirit pure, make it joyful, make it clean, make it active; thus by Thy power shall it cleave to Thee with joyful rapture. . . . O, when will that blessed, joyful, longed for hour arrive, when Thou wilt satisfy me with Thy presence, and be to me all in all? . . . Display, I beseech Thee, Thy power, and let Thy right hand be glorified, for I have no hope, no refuge, but Thee, O Lord my God.”

Thus he continues, in these pious and exultant strains, wafting the soul heavenwards, amidst its atmosphere of purity and love. O that God would stir us up to the same fervour! Would that we, who profess the name of Jesus, were as he. “except his bonds.” Seclusion and mysticism, such as he practiced, are not necessary nor essential; but brethren, are not the love, the ardour, the purity, the zeal, requisite and necessary?

Brethren! shall that poor Augustine monk, who had but few of the advantages that we have, outstrip us in his piety? Shall he whose home was a cloister, and whose associates were few, out-do us in his zeal?

O let us value our superior advantages, prize our higher privileges, and with the open Bible in our hands and the world for our sphere, let us go forth as champions of the Lord of Hosts; having our hearts saturated with his