

mind eager for knowledge, rejoices in gathering scattered rays of truth ; so the heart is attracted by kindness. Hence the great work of God in the world, is to make His goodness known. Let us, therefore, love this attribute of the Divinity, which shines resplendently in the natural and supernatural world. We should not be content with only loving it ; we must also endeavor to imitate it.

We often complain that the world is cold and wanting in sympathy. By the world we are to understand the units which compose it, that is, each one of us.

Goodness consists in self-forgetfulness, self-renunciation. We must not look upon it as a mere common development of our nature ; it is the great nobleness of humanity, reflecting, as it were, the image of God, which has been deeply engraved upon the soul.

When we consider the immense usefulness of kindness in social relations, we can understand how important it is to give it free scope. What is it which renders life supportable amidst the grave responsibilities, and the burdens which press upon our wounded shoulders ? It is kindness. Under its influence, man develops the healthy elements of his nature, even the most depraved characters begin to expand, and virtue to show itself. Its mission is to encourage virtuous effort, to warm with its sympathy hearts that are fainting for want of a smile, or a kind word. Sympathy costs so little, yet how many souls bowed down by sorrow, failing to find it, allow themselves to be overcome by the assaults of the tempter !

What countless advantages may be derived from the habitual practice of kindness. Acts of benevolence will aid us in overcoming selfishness, a great obstacle in the spiritual life, and serve as a safeguard to humility ; for a haughty spirit is rarely benevolent. Kindness in pious persons reconciles worldly people with religion, and attracts and unites all hearts.

Kindness should exist in the inmost recesses of our hearts. Under its influence, we will think of others without criticizing, which is uncommon. Thus will the bitterness of our judgments disappear, and good and charitable thoughts will lead us to the truth ; for the true