

more worthy to be called thy son, make me one of thy servants." And when the poor penitent returned, the father no longer remembered the injury that had been done him nor the base ingratitude of his erring son, but he received him with open arms and the heart of a father went out in pity and forgiveness to his poor returned child, all tattered and torn and travel-stained, but repentant, he restored him to the protection and the privileges of his home, and caused rejoicings to be made because "his son that had been dead was come to life again, had been lost and was found." (Luke 15). It is thus our Saviour treats repentant sinners. No matter how base and black their ingratitude, no matter how numerous and enormous their offenses, though their sins were as red as scarlet and as deep as crimson, though they were as numberless as the leaves of autumn, or as the sands of the sea-shore, the Father of the prodigal—Jesus Christ—will receive the returning and repentant sinners with open arms,