

without money and without price. God's vengeance is forgiveness ; God's revenge is reconciliation. God's punishment is pardon ; this is the intolerable retribution of love

And it is this mercy that overcomes our human contumacy. Shakespeare understood human nature more than most men :

Your gentleness shall force
More than your force move us to gentleness.

We could stand the rod ; what no properly constituted soul can stand, is mercy. It is mercy that breaks us down and brings us to repentance and a changed heart.

The Cross stands out therefore as the manifestation of the divine will to reconciliation, as the symbol and source of a grace which binds man to God in the harmony of willing and loving service. It is centrally the revealing of that will to fellowship which is the deepest thing in the heart of God, and is the ground-plan of the universe. And "as God hath loved us, so ought we to love one another."

So the Cross stands out as the spring and rallying-point of our hopes of a redeemed society. Not by might or by majorities shall we create the world of our dreams, but by the quickening within us and within all men of the grace of social healing and integration at the foot of the Cross. Here is the blood of Jesus which cleanses us from all sin and redeems our life from destruction. For us who with high hope to-day hail the future, our standing ground, our sign, our ruling passion must be the Cross of Christ. *In hoc signo, vincemus.*