

graded souls, would be confessed, and would manifest themselves, if such love and such goodness, which could win their confidence, were presented to them ! But that it may be so, we must be content to find ourselves in the midst of the degradation, *sheltered from it ONLY by that which is inward.* Now, such was the life of the Lord.

How many souls drown their thoughts in pleasure to stifle the moral sorrows which torment them ! Divine love not only meets the wants, but brings them to express themselves. How delicious to see a soul open itself, and at the same time to see spiritual life entering it ! One does not exactly seek for such degradation ; but one finds the world, knowing that is the truth as to what is found there ; and its outward forms do not redeem the soul. But this is a life of pain, patience, and blessedness, which has no equal. Christ could say, "That they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves." No doubt there is a difference of gifts ; but even if God, in His grace, opens this way to us, *how slow we are to walk in the steps of Him who shows us !*

But take courage, His grace is there, on the road He has opened for us. We find it day by day as we go onward. And what grace it is, when all the principles which have been formed in the heart through faith, come to blow fully in heaven and shew themselves in all the fulness of their results according to the heart of God. *We must wait,—walking BY FAITH.*