

introducing Himself to their favour. He did not seek to please, and yet He bound them deeply and intimately to Himself.

This was very blessed : and the same thing in any one is always a symptom of moral power.

"If we seek to please, we shall scarcely fail to please." That is true, I doubt not ; but nothing can be morally lower. It makes a fellow-creature supreme ; and we deal with him as though his favour was life to us, which God's is, but His only.

But to bind one in full confidence to us—to draw the heart—to have ourselves in the esteem and affection of others, without ever in one single instance having that as our object—this is morally great, for nothing can account for this, but that constant course of love which by necessity of its own virtue, tells others that their real interests, and prosperity, and blessing are indeed and in truth the purpose and desire of our hearts.

And this was the Lord. Nothing that He did told them that He sought to *please* them, but everything that He did told them that He sought to *bless* them.

And again I say—I believe that He passed by many little opportunities of gratifying them, or of introducing Himself to their favour. And yet He met them graciously and tenderly on