

The friendship between the prince and the shepherd fascinates us. Yet the love of the God of heaven and earth for such as we are fails to excite wonder or enthusiasm. All the beauty and pathos of human friendship is found in the Divine ; sympathy, self-denial, generosity, carried to a length impossible to surpass even in thought. But we take it all as a matter of course, and see no particular reason why the duty of gratitude should be so urged upon us.

And surely, O Lord, there should be none. Surely the sight of the Crucifix or the Tabernacle, the very thought of either, should melt our hearts and carry us out of ourselves with admiration and thankfulness. We extol the wide brotherhood of Francis of Assisi. We are charmed by His sympathy with the innocent things of the irrational creation. But his passionate love of Christ Crucified, the vehemence and the tenderness of his heart outpouring the night through : " My God and my All ! "—this we fail to understand, this makes no echo in our own heart.

How long, O Lord, how long ! Thou didst die for me as for Francis ; draw my heart to Thee by a return of love. Make the Crucifix speak to my heart as to his. My God and my All, make Thyself more to my soul. Give Thy grace to me, mean and miserable as I am. Canst Thou refuse Thy grace who dost give Thyself ? I long to love Thee, my God, with a love less unworthy of Thee. Help me to love Thee. Take from my heart all obstacles to Thy love. Let me love Thee with my whole soul, with all my mind, with all my strength before I come to die, that I may love Thee according to Thy desire throughout eternity.

### *After Communion.*

" Blessed be the Lord, for He hath shown His wonderful mercy to me."

" O my soul, bless the Lord, and let all that is within me bless His holy Name."

" What shall I render to the Lord for all that He hath rendered to me?"