

must impel, or it is nothing; it must be a current, or its waters dry up. When the warm and impulsive Payson was most successful in his ministry, his love was the prevailing force. It was that which inspired other hearts and led many to Christ. His appeals were no more intellectual or convincing than those of many of his contemporaries; but with the appeal there was this irresistible and constraining love which swept away the skepticism, the indifference, and the life-long impenitence of his hearers. But it cannot cease with the loving man's life, for love is one of the Christian's earthly immortalities. When Payson died, his love became more potent than when he lived. His constraining love for the sinner was a tide which, being set in motion, could never stop. There is to-day many a Christian life that is influenced by that spotless example; and such will be the fact for the centuries to come.

A very touching exhibition of the way in which Christ influenced His immediate disciples and friends was seen in the manner which they exhibited after His death. They were all put to a fearful test by the events immediately preceding His death. It was the usage then, oft repeated since, especially in the French social convulsions, for the friends of the leading sufferer to be put to death with him. Peter was expecting death, and so he trembled, denied, swore, and soon repented. No doubt, every one who was publicly known as a friend of the Master regarded his life as in danger. There was no use in publicly resisting the wild determination of both Jews and Romans, together with the floating populace; and so the friends of Jesus were utterly helpless, and were compelled to retire as silent spectators. Their love was put to a severe test, never surpassed in fiery ordeal at any time since. But when the great tragedy was ended, we find these disciples still true and loving.

The women were early at the sepulchre on the third day. All the Master's friends came together in groups, and, when Jesus appeared to them, He found them talking about His passion. When He joined the two disciples who went into Emmaus—they little thinking who their new companion was—He found that they talked together of all those things which had happened." The conversation was all of Jesus and His suffering.