

humiliating affront, contented himself with saying: "Were I not a Christian, I would avenge myself."

These are the sentiments which Jesus wishes to inculcate in the hearts of His followers, when He gives us that counsel of perfection: "Turn the other cheek to him who strikes you!" St. Paul says: "If it be possible, as much as is in you, having peace with all men. Not revenging yourselves my dearly beloved; but give place unto wrath, for it is written: Revenge to me; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Rom. xii., 18, 19). The spirit of meekness keeps at a distance all that may sadden our neighbor. It moderates reproaches, and thus makes them less bitter. It facilitates the relations of social life: peace and union cannot exist, when members of a family clash, and are indifferent to each other's comfort and convenience. "A sweet word multiplieth friends, and appeaseth enemies: and a gracious tongue in a good man aboundeth." (Eccl. vi.)

This spirit of meekness should prevail everywhere, even in works of zeal. It is not violence, harsh measures or hard and bitter words which will bring about the conversion of souls. Our Divine Lord did not break the reed already bruised by the tempest, nor would He quench the flax yet smoking. Behold the conduct of God with regard to sinners! Does He begin by manifesting His justice? No; He sweetly represents to the sinful soul its unfaithfulness; He invites it to repentance, and patiently awaits its return. If He punishes, it is always as a father, and with a view to mercy. Now, we have not at heart the glory of God and the salvation of souls more than Jesus, nor could we employ more efficacious means. We should, therefore, be on our guard against mingling with our zeal for God, our own personal character. There is an art in dealing with souls, viz., treating them gently, in order to win them. A sweet and accommodating manner is the best kind of controversy. A meek man is an apostle: he brings souls