

who leaveth ninety-nine sheep in the desert and goes in search of the one that is lost, and declares "that there is joy in Heaven before the angels of God upon one sinner that doth penance more than ninety-nine just who need not penance." (Luke 15, vii). He is the Father of the prodigal. A certain man, says our Lord, had two sons, and one was a prodigal, and the prodigal, taking his share of the father's substance, went into a foreign country, and there wasted his fortune on riotous living. That country was scourged by a wasting famine and the prodigal was reduced to the necessity of feeding on the husks of swine. So far the prodigal was but the type and exemplification of the base ingratitude and deep degradation of the sinner. The poor prodigal entering into himself called to mind the home of his father, its pure and innocent joys and the plenty that abounded therein, and he said, "I will arise and go home to my father, and I will say to him, father, I have sinned against Heaven and before thee; I am no