

And this Holy God loves nevertheless all those who are made in His image, though they have renounced His love; He requires nothing further from them, than that they should return to the union which they have themselves given up. And like Him we too learn to love all who bear a human countenance, and rejoice in heaven over every reflection, however faint, of this universal all-embracing love of God, which is found on earth. Where men begin to set aside self for the sake of others, where sacrifices are made, and good is done for its own sake, we gladly see an image of the love of God.

Love must, however, be learned, it does not spring up of itself. Nor can man begin with the love of God, he must learn to exercise love to the visible and the individual before his love can rise to the invisible and universal, it is not self-created, self-originated. No one can go the contrary road. How can he love God who does not love his brother? how can he love mankind who hates his neighbour? Love begins with child love. They are the ties of nature which bind parents to their children, but a holy, a Divine love is to grow out of natural love. And they who have once grasped each other in love do not let go again in time or eternity. I once read on earth a saying to the effect, that the love of kindred has now no longer any significance in heaven. As though any one could put asunder what God has joined together, as though a natural tie were not one made by God. Had he who wrote it no love for his