

not justly suppose that on account of his holy wisdom, men who were lovers of truth and virtue sought his society? What a lesson for us in the choice of our companions and the formation of our social circles.

How the minds of the company were occupied during the feast we are not informed. The presence of Christ there, however, is a sufficient guarantee. Nothing unholy could pass before him without rebuke. That wisdom which commanded the profound admiration of the Jewish Doctors more than eighteen years before, will not suffer the time to pass without impressing precepts of instruction on the minds of his friends. Happy indeed were they who were permitted to listen to the precepts of life-wisdom which fell from his lips.

But in the midst of the conversation an incident occurs seemingly about to give an embarrassing and almost ludicrous turn to the festivities of the day. Either through the unexpected number of the guests, or the poverty of the host, the supply of wine fails. The mother of Christ, who seems to have been so intimately acquainted with the family as to have interested herself in their domestic arrangements, informs her son of the circumstance. Whether she expected his interposition or not is doubtful. Probably, as his miraculous powers were not yet known, she merely intended to suggest that he should cease his conversation, and, by leaving, break up the company before the deficiency became known. If such be the idea, we can readily understand the reply of Christ. It conveys nothing of a harsh repulse. The original says, "Mother," (for the term "woman" conveys that tender and respectful idea,) "what is that to thee and me, my time is not yet come." As though he had said, This circumstance need give us no concern, need not break up the party; I have first something else to do.

God frequently employs trifles as links to connect the most momentous events. Thus this little affair, apparently unfortunate, was to result in the display of unforeseen glory. The Saviour has determined to make it the occasion on which he will commence to manifest to the world his mighty power as the eternal son of God. To man it might seem very inappropriate. In an obscure village, at a wedding party, in connection with so trivial an accident, to inaugurate that course of action which was to lay the foundation of the faith of the redeemed world, does not accord with human ideas of greatness. But God performs the mightiest works without ostentation. The occasion to him is appropriate—Christ's first object in the working of miracles is to confirm the faith of his disciples. Those disciples are there present to see for themselves, and, when the time comes, they will be