

ST ALPHONSUS AND THE LABORER



Of Master and Servant. — The good servant endeavors to please his master, doing all that has to be done, not because he is compelled to do it, but of a good will, remembering the Scripture : « With a good will doing service, as unto the Lord and not to men, knowing that whatsoever good every one shall do the same he shall receive of the Lord, whether bond or free. » (Eph. 6-7.)

And the good master will entertain corresponding sentiments towards his servants. He will remember the words of the Holy Ghost, who, after telling servants what their conduct ought to be, says : « And you, masters, do the same thing to them, forbearing threatenings ; knowing that the Lord both of them and you is in heaven, and there is no respect of persons with Him. » (Eph. 6-9.)

How beautifully this mutual confidence and love is described in the Bible in the case of Abraham and his oldest servant, Eliezer, whom he had set over all his goods. Abraham trusted him with everything, even to go and choose a wife for his son Isaac. He explained to him all his wishes, and made him take an oath that he would not pick out a wife for his son among the heathen women, but go to the country and kindred from whence he had come, and get one. — Now, listen to the conduct of this good servant. When he came to the town where the kindred of Abraham dwelt, he made this prayer : « O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, meet me to-day, I beseech thee, and show kindness to my master Abraham. » (Gen. 24-12.)

What a love and veneration, what an interest in all that concerned his master, is shown in these words ! And when he had succeeded, by God's help, in discharging the duty which he was sent upon, he was as thankful as if it had been his own interest, and he says : « Falling down, I adored the Lord, blessing the Lord God of my master Abraham, who hath brought