

as a monster : but he may not commit any such crime, and yet be a very bad and worthless parent still. And how so? Why, simply by not providing for his child as he ought to do : by not instructing, feeding, clothing, and watching over him in the spirit of fatherly affection. These things are the acts of love. Every kind, friendly, benevolent look, word, and deed, proceeds more or less from the same fountain : and the precept of Christ could not insist more plainly on the rendering our whole life one round of active beneficence, than by saying ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself,’ or as it is expressed elsewhere, ‘Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets.’ Now there is no man that does not wish to be beloved by those around him : therefore he must love them in turn. There is no man who, if in want, from hunger and thirst, cold or nakedness, would not wish his fellow men to supply his necessities : therefore he must supply the necessities of others. There is no man who is a stranger, that does not wish to receive hospitality ; therefore he must render hospitality : neither is there any who, being sick or in prison, would not wish to be visited in kindness : therefore let him do the same. Here, then, is the simple principle of social obligation, as applied to the world around us, and especially to our Christian brethren, by the express command of the Redeemer ; and the love of the Lord, on a still higher scale of duty, would plainly mingle the spirit of piety with all our actions towards each other. If we loved him with all our hearts, we should delight to commune with him in prayer and praise. If we loved him with all our hearts, we should find our chief pleasure in conforming to his word and his will. If we loved him with all our hearts, we should count no sacrifice great that he demanded, no service irksome which he required ; feeling his present acceptance and his future favour more than an ample reward for