

sonship and perfect love. From this experience the saving moral influence passes outward through the renewed will, not only into outward act, but also through the whole region of affections, desires, emotions, and even appetites, restoring the control and subordination which is God's order for our moral nature. Here, then, lies the reason of the prominence of will in the perfection of Christian character, as well as of Christian life. No conception of Christian perfection is right which does not plant in its very centre a strong, sturdy, manly, *holy will*. We shall never be carried to heaven by indolently resigning ourselves to the wafting breezes of blessed frames and feelings. Not that we would for a moment depreciate them.

Their function, as we have seen, is of primary importance. We can no more do without them than the ship can move without the wind. But, on the other hand, the wind must operate through the properly set sail, assisted by the helm, if the vessel is to reach the port. If love governs, it must govern not as blind impulse, or instinct working by a mere mechanical law, but through will, a will upon which shines the light of truth, and which ever listens intently for the voice of conscience. The equality and unity of this trinity in our moral nature must be preserved, or there can be no true perfection, and that equality and unity finds its centre in will. Thus the highest type of Christian life, instead of making us mere weaklings, builds up personality, and calls out all the full glory of individual moral manhood, such as we see illustrated in a Paul, or in the martyr heroes of all the ages. No more manly man ever lived than Christ Himself. What grand energy of will speaks through His whole life. No sickly sighing of sentiment, no wild shouting of emotion, but sturdy, manly work filled up the measure of His days. His personality was supreme, and was never overshadowed by the mighty heart of Divine love, or the blazing light of perfect truth, or even the perfect voice of right. But for one single moment in all His history are we permitted to see even a trembling of that mighty personality, as, in the presence of emotions and thoughts which it is not perhaps given to us to understand, He said, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; never-