

"roasteth roast and is satisfied," and when so satisfied he warmeth himself at the fire, revelling in satiated desires, and says, "Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire." This picture of the man in question standing before his fire, in gladsome mood, is a striking illustration of human nature unsanctified and untaught, filling up the cup of pleasure and being satiated with fleshly lusts. It suggests to our minds the husbandman with his well filled garner and rich stores of every kind, surveying his possessions, having room for no more abundance; or the rich merchant counting over his capital stock and scarce being able to take under his care more of the world's wealth; or the man of purely carnal mind who has become satisfied in his self-indulgence. If we now take in the next clause we have an epitome of life in all its elements. "And the residue thereof he maketh a god." The wants of the spiritual nature were felt, but not till the cedars had been first used for all other needful purposes—not so long as a single carnal desire was yet unsatisfied.

This picture of life fails in two essential points. First, in the order of its parts.

Secondly, in the comparative measure of them.

First then in the order of its parts. There is some show of reason in first ministering to the bodily wants before addressing the spiritual nature. You need scarcely talk religion to a man while he is yet hungry or naked, and indeed modern evangelists have so far recognized that principle as to provide for the poorer classes before craving their attention to Gospel truth. The Great Master Himself seems to have approached many of His followers through their physical necessities, yet on closer examination we find that there was always an appeal to faith which was either contemporaneous with the gift, or that upon which the gift depended. The worshipper above described was not even a good idolator. He made no provision for his worship until every other purpose was served by the cedars. He first exhausted the resources of pleasure and as a last thought he made him a god. How true, however, to the natural ways of men. They carve out for themselves from God's bountifulness such things as make for their present enjoyment, being satisfied so long as these enjoyments remain with them; always intending to find God and His salvation as a residue for future needs, thus reversing the law of Christ "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you."

The picture also fails in the measure of its parts. The cedar was