

Thy benefits, and to manifest Thy goodness. God alone is good. *Nemo bonus nisi solus Deus.*

II

In contemplating the goodness of the Heart of Jesus, we are attracted to love It, and to imitate It.

To love It, because It belongs to goodness, not to be known without being loved. Its charms are so sweet, that it suffices to show Itself, in order to win the heart. Each of our faculties tends towards its natural object. The eye is attracted by light and the beauty of color ; the ear is charmed by sweet and harmonious sounds ; the mind eager for knowledge, rejoices in gathering scattered rays of truth : so the heart is attracted by kindness. Hence the great work of God in the world, is to make known His goodness. Let us, therefore, love this attribute of the Divinity, which shines resplendent in the natural and supernatural world. We should not only be content with loving it ; we must also endeavor to imitate it.

We often complain that the world is cold and wanting in sympathy. By the world we are to understand, the units which compose it, that is, each one of us.

Goodness consists in self-forgetfulness, self-renunciation. We must not look upon it as a mere common development of our nature ; it is the great nobleness of humanity, reflecting, as it were, the image of God, which has been deeply engraved upon the soul.

When we consider the immense usefulness of kindness in social relations, we can understand how important it is to give it free scope. What is it which renders life supportable amidst the grave responsibilities, and the burdens which press upon our wounded shoulders ? It is kindness. Under its influence, man develops the healthy elements of his nature ; even the most depraved characters begin to expand, and virtue to show itself. Its mission is to