

### Communion with Christ in Suffering

It is a sweet, a joyful thing, to be a sharer with Christ in anything. All enjoyments wherein He is not are bitter to a soul that loves Him, and all sufferings with Him are sweet. The worst things of Christ are more truly delightful than the best things of the world; His afflictions are sweeter than their pleasures; His "reproach" more glorious than their honours, and more rich than their treasures, as Moses accounted them (Heb. xi. 26). Love delights in likeness and communion, not only in things otherwise pleasant, but in the hardest and harshest things, which have not anything in them desirable, but only that likeness. So that this thought is very sweet to a heart possessed with this love. What does the world by its hatred, and persecutions and revilings for the sake of Christ, but make me more like Him, give me a greater share with Him, in that which He did so willingly undergo for me?

"When He was sought for to be made a King," as St. Bernard remarks, "He escaped; but when He was sought to be brought to the cross, He freely yielded Himself"; and shall I shrink and creep back from what He calls me to suffer for His sake? Yea, even all my other troubles and sufferings I will desire to have stamped thus, with this conformity to the sufferings of Christ, in the humble, obedient, cheerful endurance of them, and the giving up my will to my Father's.

The following of Christ makes any way pleasant. His faithful followers refuse no march after Him, be it through deserts and mountains and storms and hazards that will affright self-pleasing, easy spirits. Hearts kindled and actuated with the spirit of Christ will "follow Him wheresoever He goeth."

### Defeat and Victory.

That which to a Christian may seem a sad repulse or defeat may be God's plan for a victory. Paul was to see Rome, but when he entered that city a prisoner it looked as if the promise was a mockery, yet he soon found that coming to Rome was productive of grand results, and even in Caesar's household there were those who became "saints." Bunyan was imprisoned, and thus was prevented from preaching, but the best work he ever did for Christ was while he was in Bedford jail. He might have evangelized for awhile, but no work he could have done in preaching would have had the world-wide influence that has come from the "Pilgrim's Progress." When Judson was rebuffed in British India, it seemed as if the door of usefulness might be closed; but forced, as it were, to go to Burmah, he lighted a golden lamp which has guided thousands to eternal life. Well it is if we, conscious of our own inability to judge what may be best, are willing to accept Divine appointments, and believe that what we know not now will hereafter be proved best for ourselves and the cause of God.

### A Genuine Love Story.

A young clergyman and his bride were invited guests at a large party given by a wealthy parishioner. In all the freshness and elegance of the bridal wardrobe the young wife shone among the throng, distinguished by her comeliness and vivacity, and rich attire; and when her husband drew her aside and whispered to her that she was the most beautiful woman in the company, and that his heart was bursting with pride and love for her, she thought herself the happiest wife in the world.

Ten years later the same husband and wife were guests at the same house, where there gathered a similar gay company. The wife of ten years wore the same dress she had worn on the previous occasion, and, of course, it had been altered and remade, and was old-fashioned and almost shabby. Toil and care and motherhood and pinched circumstances had taken the roses out of her cheeks and the lithe spring out of her form. She sat apart from the crowd, care-worn and pre-occupied. Her small hands roughened with coarse toil, were ungloved, for the minister's salary was painfully small. A little apart the ten-year husband stood and looked at his wife, and as he observed her faded dress and weary attitude, a great sense of all her loving faithfulness came

over his heart. Looking up, she caught his earnest gaze and noticed that his eyes were filled with tears. She rose and went to him; her questioning eyes mutely asked for an explanation of his emotion, and when he tenderly took her hand and placing it on his arm, led her away from the crowd, and told her how he had been thinking of her as she looked ten years before, when she was a bride, and how much more precious she was to him now, and how much more beautiful, for all her shabby dress and roughened hands, and how he appreciated all her sacrifice and patient toil for him and their children, a great wave of happiness filled her heart, and light shone in her face so that it gave more than youthful beauty, and in all the company there was not so happy a couple as this husband and wife, their hearts and faces aglow from the flaming up of pure sentiment that transfigured and ennobled and glorified all the toils and privations they had endured.

### Covetousness.

It has been said that the great sin of the Church is covetousness. Whether this is true or not, we all know that covetousness is a great sin, and a sin which, there is reason to fear, prevails extensively among the membership of the Church. It is not generally looked upon as a low and degrading sin, which it really is. One who is covetous does not think he is guilty of a sin closely allied to fetishism; yet this is a fact. "Covetousness is idolatry." Idolatry is to give the creature the place in our hearts which belongs to the Creator. If, instead of trusting in God, we are trusting in uncertain riches, we are covetous—are idolaters. Christians, especially those upon whom God has bestowed an abundance of this world's goods, ought to guard against this sin. Every one ought to desire to know whether or not he has fallen into it. We should not content ourselves and quiet our conscience by the thought that we are giving to the Lord somewhat liberally, and even more generously than many of our brethren. We ought to be sure that in the performance of this, as of every other duty, we are doing what God requires us to do.

What makes this sin peculiarly dangerous is that one may confess to be a Christian and yet be covetous, without losing social or religious standing among respectable people. If he were a thief or a drunkard he would soon be brought into disgrace. But he may keep on robbing the Lord and withholding "the tithes and offerings" all his life, and yet be considered a respectable man.

It is, without doubt, the prevalence of this sin in the Church that causes the great lack of means for carrying forward the missionary work of the Church. If all were free from this form of idolatry and give as the Lord had prospered them, the treasuries of the Boards would be filled to overflowing, and from the opened windows of heaven God's blessing would descend upon the whole Church.

### Hints to Housekeepers.

**CHRISTMAS CAKE.**—One pound each of sugar, butter, citron and currants; two pounds of raisins, seeded; one and a-half pounds flour, two-thirds of a cup of currant jelly, twelve eggs, one teaspoonful soda, the same of salt; a dash each of cayenne pepper and black pepper, and one cupful of molasses. Divide the flour into two parts: into one part put one teaspoonful of cinnamon; one nutmeg, grated; one-fourth teaspoonful of cloves, and two-thirds teaspoonful of allspice. Mix fruit with the other half of flour. Cream the butter and sugar, add the eggs, well beaten; dissolve the soda in warm water, and stir in the molasses. Mix all well together, and put in pans lined with buttered paper. This will make two large loaves. Bake in a moderate oven for two hours. The result is a Christmas cake which will delight the heart of a good housewife and please the palates of those who eat it.

**PERFECT PURITY.**—Perfect purity of the blood is essential to good health. Burdock Blood Bitters will purify the blood and remove all effete matter. B.B.B. cures all blood diseases from a common pimple to the worst scrofulous sore.

**SANDWICH.**—SIR, For five years I suffered from lumbago and could get no relief until I used Haggard's Yellow Oil, and must say I find no better remedy for it. John Desheridan, Sandwich, Ont.

**CHRISTMAS DESSERTS.** One of the most toothsome of orange jellies can be made as follows: To two quarts of calves' foot jelly, that has been well clarified, add three pounds of loaf sugar, the juice of two lemons and of six oranges, the thinly pared rind of two oranges, and one stick of cinnamon broken up. Beat slightly the whites of six eggs and mix all well together in a preserving kettle. Set it on the fire and let it boil briskly for half an hour, then throw in a cup of cold water and let it boil twenty minutes longer. Have a flannel jelly-bag, made shape of a V, scald it and pour the jelly into it carefully. Tie it where it can keep warm while the jelly runs through. Then set the bowl of jelly in a cool place to get firm.

**DELICIOUS CHOCOLATE PUDDING.** Boil four ounces sweet chocolate in a quart of milk; when quite dissolved, pour over a pint of bread crumbs and let it stand for an hour or so. Mash the bread well, and if there are any pieces of crust, it may be passed through a sieve until a perfectly smooth mass is obtained. Add four well beaten eggs, a cupful of butter, two of sugar, a little grated nutmeg, a cup of stoned raisins, and another of blanched almonds. Steam for an hour.

**A GOOD PLUM PUDDING.**—One and a half pound raisins, one and three quarters of a pound of currants, one pound of figs, two pounds moist sugar, two pounds of bread crumbs, sixteen eggs, two pounds finely chopped suet, six ounces mixed candied peel, one ounce ground nutmeg, one ounce ground cinnamon, one-half ounce bitter almonds, one-half pint molasses. Mix all the dry ingredients together and moisten with the eggs; when all well mixed, flour a strong pudding bag; put in pudding, tie well, and boil eight hours. A nice sauce is to take one cupful of sweet cream, whites of three eggs and three tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar. When the cream is chilled, whip and put in a cool place, beat the whites stiff and add sugar and cream. Any flavoring may be used.

**A VOICE FROM SCOTLAND.**—Dear Sirs,—I can highly recommend Haggard's Pectoral Balsam. It cured my daughter of a cough she had been troubled with since childhood. She is now twelve years old. Mrs. M. Fairchild, Scotland, Ont.

**GERMAN COFFEE CAKE.**—One quart milk, eight ounces sugar, eight ounces butter, a little salt, two ounces yeast, lemon flavor, flour, six eggs. Make a soft sponge of the milk, yeast and flour; let it rise. Then add all other ingredients. Make a stiff dough, adding all flour required. Let rise again, roll out, put on a pan and let it rise again. Brush it with egg, sprinkle with sugar and chopped almonds on top, and bake. The almonds may be omitted if desired.

### Be Content.

Be content with such things as ye have. Some people have better things, others have worse. You, perhaps, cannot have the better, and you have no desire for the worse, then be content with what you have. You may have had better things in the past; you may have worse things in the future; be thankful for the present, and be content. If your lot is a hard one you may improve it, but not by murmuring, fretting, or repining. Just here to-day learn the lesson of contentment, and wait on God for brighter days, for richer fruits, for purer joys.

No blessing comes to the murmuring, complaining and discontented heart. When once this evil demon of discontent has entered into the soul, nothing is right. Even the "angels' food" was not good enough for the murmuring Israelites, and "the corn of heaven" could not satisfy those whose souls were filled with the discontent of earth. But when once the heart has found its rest in God, and all its murmurings are hushed in sweet submission to His will, there is peace in believing and joy in the Holy Ghost, and a hallowed confidence in the kind providence of Him who hath done all things well.