

advice, and presume not rashly to undertake anything contrary to his judgment; but studies to preserve humility, fulfil obedience, deserve thanks, to hold peace, to keep a good conscience, and increase his glory.

For he that lends his ear to wisdom and knowledge in the beginning, cannot easily go astray, but shall rejoice in a blessed end, when his short toil is over. The more he advances in virtue, the more shall his wisdom increase; and the more humbly shall he bow to his superiors.

For the tree that raises its goodly branches aloft into the air must have its roots deeply set in the soil below, lest it fall, and be rooted up.

Let not therefore any sudden fear overcast thee, but put a firm trust in God; forsake thy own will, and bow thyself down in true humility. For the Lord shall be at thy side,—“who protecteth them that walk in simplicity” (Prov. ii. 7); and who revealeth his things unto the humble.

2 But that you may the better persevere in what is good, take thy rule of life from those who are better than thyself; search out wisdom from those more learned; seek counsel from the experienced, and with the devout hold converse.

If you should see some wandering from the way of truth, and going after Satan, do not imitate those that perish, but study rather, to be the more emulous of the good and fervent. Seek to be saved with the few, “and enter ye

in at the narrow gate:” for, as Christ hath witnessed, “Wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there are who go in thereat.” (St. Matth. vii. 13.)

Woe unto those that depart from the Lord their God, and return unto Egypt; that is, unto this world, darkened by sins, that they may feed upon the flesh-pots that quickly perish.

But, “Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; who meditateth in his law day and night, that he may walk in his ways.” (Ps. i. 3.)

Moreover, the merciful Lord deserteth not his own, but, as the good Shepherd, comforteth his sheep, who hear his voice and follow him even unto death, choosing rather to die in the conflict of temptation, than to consent unto sin, and to return basely unto the world. To such he hath said: “Fear not, little flock, for it hath pleased your Father to give you a kingdom.” (St. Luke ii. 32.) Why will you fear then, under such a shepherd, to fight for that eternal kingdom which He has promised to give unto you?—yea, and will do as he hath promised. And not only hath he promised that he will give future joys in the place of this world’s contempt, but even in this present life he gives to those that serve him, the consolation of the Holy Spirit, which is far better and more sweet than all this world’s gladness. For often to those that pray, he pours in the grace of devotion; and to those that meditate on the law of God, he opens the light of understanding;