

## GOD'S LOVE FOR MAN.

God draws a cloud over each gleaming morn;

Would you ask me why?

It is because all noblest things are born

In agony.

Only upon some cross of pain or woe  
God's sons may lie;

Each soul redeemed from self and sin  
must know

Its calvary.

God never sends a joy, not meant in love;

Still less a pain:

Our gratitude the sunlight falls to prove,

Our faith the rain.

And neither life, nor death, nor things below,

Nor things above,

Shall ever sever us that we should go  
From His great love.

- F. P. Cobbe.

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MACAULAY, the historian says that most people "have just enough religion to make them uncomfortable." And this is only too true. The yoke of Christ is hard and heavy to many men because they will not "learn" of Him. They accept Him, half heartedly. But those who with an honest and true heart, loyally and unreservedly bend to His mild and gentle and reasonable sway, shall "find rest unto their souls." Self-surrender is the secret of all peace of mind. "No man can serve," or be the slave as the original has it, "of two masters." The service of Christ to those who will not give themselves unreservedly to Him is bitter and galling. They make the worst of both worlds.

You hear men bragging of their citizenship in the British Empire, and with a certain amount of justice. It is a great thing to be a Briton, and it is a poor soul that never rejoices therein. But it is at least as great a thing in a spiritual sense to be a Churchman, to be a citizen of a spiritual Empire whose Founder, and Builder, and Ruler is Christ, whose officers are divinely commissioned, and whose ordinances have outlived every human institution. Our membership in the historic Church, in the Body of Christ, in that institution actually and personally founded by Christ, and continued in unbroken succession by those personally commissioned by Him to carry on His work, this I say is the most precious and proudest possession that can fall to the lot of any created, man or woman. Dearly prize your membership, therefore, in the Church which is His Body. It is a great thing to be a churchman.

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PEOPLE are often falsely ashamed of many things—of their clothes, their poor relations, their poverty, their appearance, their calling, etc. But there is only one thing really worth being ashamed of and that is sin. False shame is the lion in the path of true success, to more than three fourths of humanity. We fear the wrong things, the things that cannot really hurt us, and so we never try. Thus the failures of some men are more honorable and glorious than the successes of others.