

brightly its divine beauty will shine out upon us, the more vividly the grand characteristics that stamped his mission as divine will present themselves to view. And it is well to study attentively this heavenly picture, it is profitable to look now on the face of our Christ, and, Veronica-like, to catch the divine image and stamp it on our hearts. We live at a time when a heartless and a blasphemous philosophy is attempting to sap the foundations of Christian faith, and to rob the world of the blessings and consolations of the Christian religion. Hence, it is essential, in order to heal the bites of this fiery serpent of an anti-christian philosophy and an anti-christian spirit, or to save ourselves from their destructive influences, to look upon Him who was foreshadowed by the brazen serpent in the desert, even our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who alone can save us from the spiritual dangers that surround us, and heals the wounds of the soul. But who can adequately describe the life and character of our Blessed Lord? or what pen can do them justice? It is said that a great painter once undertook to paint the likeness of our Saviour. He had made a long and patient and prayerful study of the subject, his heart and his mind were full of it, his soul was aglow with the fire of a holy inspiration and with the light of artistic genius, he seized at last his brush, with the purpose of transferring to canvass the divine lineaments of our Saviour's countenance; but, alas, his heart failed him, his hand trembled, and, casting down the brush in despair, he exclaimed that it was indeed impossible for mortal man to express on canvass the divine beauty, majesty, and sweetness of the face of Jesus. A kindred feeling may well lay hold of the writer who undertakes to describe the life of our Blessed Lord, and the characteristics that marked his mission on earth. However, as men, in order to see and admire the beauty and brilliancy of a diamond, will turn it now on one side, now on another, so by the aid of study and pious meditation, we may catch some glimpses of the heavenly perfection of our Lord's character, and may be able to convey some idea of the characteristics of His mission amongst mankind.