



Looking through the Lattices

(canticles 11. 9.)

"**P**REHOLD He standeth behind our wall." But the barrier between our Lord in His veiled presence and ourselves is not a drawback, an obstacle to union with Him—inseparable indeed from the present condition of things—yet an obstacle for all that. It is distinctly willed by Him as a necessary part of our trial, a wholesome discipline, a purification of love. It has in it all the privileges, advantages, blessings that in this life belong to pain, and can be won by pain alone. It is a present blessing as well as a pledge of blessing to come. "Blessed are they that have not seen and have believed" (*John XX*) It is a pledge of that clear, full vision, "re-served in heaven for you, who, by the power of God, are kept by faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein you shall greatly rejoice, if now for a little time you must be made sorrowful.... That the trial of your faith (much more precious than gold which is tried by fire.) may be found unto praise and glory and honour at the appearing of Jesus Christ : Whom having not seen, you love ; in whom also now, though you see Him not, you believe, and believing shall rejoice with joy unspeakable" (*I Pet. I.*)

"We see now through a glass in a dark manner : but then, face to face." (*I Cor. XIII*) How will that face to face vision be the brighter for the dimness now ! — How will the joy of that moment, when we part forever with faith, be intensified by what that faith has cost us in the past !