

"Sweet is the voice of Jesus, sweet is His countenance, and in His name. Sweetness reigns in all His actions."

In crossing over the borders of the Sea of Gallilee, He meets some fishermen ; they hear but these words : " Follow me," and immediately Simon and Andrew leave all to become His disciples. Not only loving souls, like St. John, and hearts full of zeal, like St. Peter, does He draw by a word, or a glance. The multitudes follow Him even into the wilderness. These faithful Israelites left their homes, their countries,—so eager were they to be near Our Divine Lord. They had the happiness of beholding His beauty, of hearing the words which fell from His lips. Without Jesus, their homes are like the desert ; with Him, the desert becomes joyful, and flourishes like a garden.

In the midst of the most overwhelming fatigues of day and night, His beautiful soul was never disturbed. Nothing could change His peaceful sweetness. A king full of majesty and power, He comes to us with all the tenderness of a Saviour. Fearing the importunity of the little childrer, the Apostles would drive them away ; but Jesus calls them to Him with touching sweetness, and loads them with caresses.

On another occasion, when, through resentment arising from an injurious reception, the disciples ask Him to call down fire from heaven, upon the city of Samaria. Far from acceding to their request, Our Lord reminds them of the meekness which He has preached to them.

What shall we say of His condescension, His patient charity, of His cordial affection for His Apostles. They were uncultured men, and their rude manners must have offered many occasions for impatience ; but Jesus only manifested towards them the most admirable meekness,—even on those occasions when justice and truth would seem to require a severe rebuke.

In the midst of the many contradictions which filled His life,—when accused by the judges of being a disciple of Beelzebub,—throughout the iniquities of His trial, the