

### INTO THE WILDERNESS.

With bare and empty hands, and naked feet,

And ashes falling from my loosened hair,

And trailing robes of sackcloth, I retreat  
Into the wilderness, to hide me there.

But Solitude eludes my eager chase ;  
That unseen fearful Thing is with me still :

The tireless feet, with mine keep even pace,

The false, seductive words my senses thrill.

The leprosy of sin is on my soul ;  
*Unclean ! unclean !* is all my voice can cry.

Sweet Jordan waters, have ye ceased to roll ?

A viler than the Syrian draweth nigh.

Thou Who didst walk the desert long ago.  
Point out the path Thy blessed feet had trod !

Help me all other helping to forego.  
Sustain me with the 'every word' of God :

A manna sweeter than the angels' food ;  
More purifying than refiner's fire ;

A hissoop dipped in Thy Atoning Blood,  
A life of faith, a death to vain desire.

—*Selected.*

### OUR NEEDS.

WE need among us a more entire consecration of brains and money to God. We need intenser devotion to God and therefore to man. The love of the God-Man produces the love of God and of man ; and thence follow Christian asylums and hospitals. We need that the well-behaved men of the world, who sit in so many of our pews, shall be converted to personal faith and repentance. We need the substitution of soberness and

dignity in place of the frivolity, which characterizes that class of butterfly women who have justified the satires with which the secular prints puncture their hypocrisy. We need fearless, manly testimony for Jesus Christ in the scenes of trade and speculation, by refusal to conform to the low standards of morality which obtain in modern business life. We need the banishment of those sensual indulgences that are now dragging so many bodies to the grave. No observer can fail to perceive whither many are tending by the excessive use of things not in themselves sinful. It is an evil that has unfrocked many a priest and unchurched many a layman, and is working out its disastrous results among us without hope of adequate remedy, except in the revival of the Church's discipline and the stern exemplification of the virtues of continence, chastity, and temperance.—*Bishop of Illinois.*

FROM this flows the true idea of the Pastoral relation :—A true priest will always preach his very best, but the faithful performance of his priestly duties will win him an abiding place in the affections of the people. As the steward of God's sacramental grace, he will not merely administer the Sacraments, but he will shepherd the lambs, and go out after the belated sheep, and seek to cultivate the grace sown in the hearts of all, old and young, rich and poor. It is not practicable for a clergyman to preach himself out, because the divinely ordained means of grace are foundations of perennial power and beauty.