

by uniting the two streams of confidence. He would make their anchor sure by doubling the chain.

V. 2. "*In my Father's . . . mansions.*" (Margin Rev. Ver., Abiding places), (Rev. 21 : 22). "Nothing is said about mansions differing in dignity and beauty. There may be degrees of happiness hereafter, but such are neither expressed nor implied here" (Camb. Bible). "*If it were not so.*" Christ appeals to His fairness. He had better things in store for them than any earthly court could provide. (Luke 18 : 29, 30.) "*I go to prepare.*" "A figure derived from the custom of sending forward one of a party to secure quarters and provide all requisites."—Dods. Jesus could be trusted to go before, and by His sacrifice, intercession, and the exercise of rightful power prepare a home for His own.

V. 3. "*And if I go . . . I will come again.*" (Rev. Ver., "I come again.") The present tense being used as if the coming were already begun.

"The coming again may have various meanings and apparently not always the same one throughout this discourse ; either the resurrection or the gift of the Comforter, or the death of individuals, or the presence of Christ in the Church, or the Second Advent at the last day. The last seems to be the meaning here. (Comp. 6 : 39, 40.)" (Camb. Bible.)

"*And receive . . . myself.*" (Matt. 25 : 34.) The Bridegroom, who has been setting His house in order for the bride, will come again and bring her home with joy. What a home-coming and what a welcome !

"*That where I am.*" Both the hope of the Church and the joy of the Saviour. Philip. 1 : 23 ; 1 Thess. 4 : 17 ; John 17 : 24 ; 1 Cor. 13 : 12.

"Our knowledge of that life is small,

The eye of faith is dim,

But 'tis enough that Christ knows all,

And we shall be with Him."

## II. By Pointing out the Way, 4-7.

V. 5. "*Thomas . . . way.*" A sincere confession. Thomas was cautious to a fault. (Ch. 20 : 24, 25.)

V. 6. "*I am the way,*" the pronoun emphatic. "I and no other. I myself, My person and work. He that will reach the goal of life and come to the Father must accept Me and follow in My footsteps." "*The truth.*" Je-

sus is the Truth and reveals the truth about God and religion. "*The life.*" The possessor and the author of life in its fulness and perfection. (Ch. 1 : 4 ; 3 : 16, 36 ; 11 : 26.) "Without the way there is no going, without the truth there is no knowing, without the life there is no living." —Thomas à Kempis.

V. 7. "*Had known me . . . my Father also.*" The disciples did not yet fully know Jesus. "Their eyes were holden that they should not know him." (Luke 24 : 16.) "*From henceforth ye know him,*" literally true ; the truth concerning the relation between Jesus and the Heavenly Father is at last dawning upon them.

## III. By the Revelation of the Father, 3-11.

V. 8. "*Philip . . . shew us.*" He is of a practical turn (ch. 6 : 7.) ; and therefore it is only seeing that is believing.

V. 9. "*So long time with you.*" Philip was among the first called (1 : 43.) It is in sorrowful surprise that Jesus speaks. Philip had failed to grasp the significance of such a personality as that of his Lord. "*He that hath seen me.*" (Comp. 1 : 14.)

V. 10. "*Believest thou not ?*" The mutual relation of Father to Son was such that all the words and works of the Son were in truth the words and works of the Father. The presence of the Father was so manifest in Jesus and in His words and works that He could appeal to these as evident tokens of His divinity.

V. 11. "*Believe me . . . work's sake.*" Take Me at My own word and estimate, or if not, believe Me on the ground of the works I have done. Jesus will have them made steadfast in the faith, that they may be comforted when He is absent from them.

## IV. By Great and Precious Promises, 12-14.

V. 12. "*Verily, verily.*" Some great words are to come : two mighty promises. "*The works that I do shall he do.*" "As the Father is seen in what Jesus is and has done so He will be seen in what they are and shall do, through faith in His name."—Reith. Into what a lofty region do the eagle wings of faith lift the believer. Through faith he does the very works that Christ does. "*Greater works*" ; the spiritual effects accomplished by the disciples, "Especially," says Dods (in the Exp. Greek Test.), "the novel fact of conversion." "*Because I go unto my Father,*"