

Jesus will never forsake us or lead us into error."

He afterwards breaks forth into this beautiful prayer: "O most amiable Jesus! when will you take away my foul heart from me, and bestow me your own? Or when will my heart be filled with the odour of your virtues, and entirely inflamed with the love of heavenly things? Ah! sweetest Jesus! inclose my heart in yours, that you alone may dwell in it, and possess it, that by the dignity of your heart mine may be enabled and adorned. O most merciful Lord Jesus Christ, I desire that you would write on my heart all the wounds of your wounded heart, that I may there constantly read your immense love for me, and your most vehement sufferings. O Lord my God, may the recollection of your wounds always abide in my inmost heart, may the sufferings of your passion be daily renewed in me, and the ardour of your love be daily increased. Ah Lord God, my Saviour and Redeemer! take away from me whatever displeases you, and from your most sacred heart pour into me whatsoever shall be pleasing in your sight. Grant that my heart may be united to yours, my will to your will, so that I may never will, nor be able to desire any thing but what shall be pleasing to you. I will love you, O sweet Jesus, My Lord and my God, from my whole heart, in all things, and above all things. O most noble, most pious, and most sweet heart of my most faithful lover, Jesus Christ, my Lord and my God, draw, I beseech you, and absorb my heart, all my thoughts, and affections, all the powers of my soul and body, into yourself, for your own glory and your most holy will. O most merciful Jesus, I entirely commend and resign myself to your heart. I also pray

you, O bountiful God, to take away my wicked heart, and to grant me your deified heart, or to make my heart according to yours, and to your most perfect will. Ah! Lord Jesus! supreme sweetness of my soul, open to me the door of your heart, the gate of mercy, the gate of life, and the fountain of your grace, and draw my heart, through the most precious wound of your side, to the most loving sanctuary of your heart, that my heart may be united by the most indissoluble bond of love with your most holy heart. O love, always burning, and never consumed, inflame my wicked heart with that fire which you cast upon the earth, and wished to be enkindled, so that all creatures may become inspired in my eyes."

The writings of St. Bernard contain also many beautiful passages concerning the heart of Jesus, which transfix the soul of the devout Christian like so many fiery darts of love. "Let us," says he, "approach to thee, O Jesus, and we will exult and rejoice in thee, being mindful of thy heart. O how good and pleasant it is to dwell in this heart! The good treasure, the precious pearl is thy heart, O Jesus, which we shall find on digging the field of thy body. Who will cast away this pearl? Oh, rather will I surrender every thing, and give in exchange all the thoughts and affections of my mind, and I will purchase it for myself, and throw all my care on the heart of the Lord Jesus, which will support me without any deceit. At this temple, at this holy of holies, at this ark of the covenant, I will adore, and praise the name of the Lord, saying with David, I have found my heart that I may pray to my God. (2 Kings vii.) And I have found the heart of my King, my Brother, my Friend, my good Jesus! And