

rather clench it more firmly. The smith sprinkles water upon the fire to fan the flame, and a town that has been re-conquered is garrisoned more strongly than one which has never been lost to the crown.

Friendship, like a building, must rest upon a solid foundation ; and only when this foundation is the fear of God and the love of God, will the structure of friendship stand firm. When seen in the bed of the ocean, coral appears to be a bush of greenish hue, without any special beauty, but when taken out of the water it becomes bright, red and hard. So friendship acquires its brilliancy, its beauty, its solidity, when it is elevated into the atmosphere of divine love. (St Franc. Sal.)

It is not wrong to have friends, and to love them more than other men ; for our dear Lord had friends whom He loved with a special predilection. « Blessed is he that findeth a true friend. » (Ecclus. 25-12.) Alexander the Great, on being asked where his treasures were, pointed to his friends and said « Those are my treasures. » But if he asks you to do evil for his sake, answer him as the Greek answered the friend who wanted him to swear falsely in his interest : « I am only thy friend in so far as I do not lose the friendship of God. » The friendship of God is indeed worth more than any human friendship.

In conclusion I say with our holy Father, Pope Leo XIII : — « Be careful in your words and actions not to cause displeasure to any one, no matter how inferior to yourself, unless duty, obedience, or charity force you to oppose him. » --- There is nothing sweeter in social life than union of hearts. The ancients represented it by a musical instrument. When David played upon his harp, the evil spirit that troubled Saul withdrew, and left him in peace. (1 Kings 16-23.) The devil who, as Job says, laughs at lances and arrows, trembles on hearing the harp ; he cannot bear that union of hearts, of which the chords of the harp are but the emblem, and there is nothing which wages such cruel war against him as this beautiful love of peace.

A. M. BILLIAU, C. S.S.R.