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SERMONIC.

PAUL'S PRAYER.

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For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom, etc.—Eph. iii: 14-21:

WHICH apostle do you think is most dearly loved by the Holy Catholic Church? There is Thomas, whose hesitating caution stripped one great doubt from a most important doctrine, and established the fact of the Lord's resurrection on the firmest possible basis. There is Peter, whose very fall from emphatic declaration of superior devotion to the most craven and abject denial of his Lord, shows him to be a man of like passions with ourselves; and hence his attainments of grace are possible to us. There is John, by nature passionate and furious—so much so that the Lord named him in accordance with his nature, a son of thunder—a nature shown by his desire to call down heaven's lightnings to destroy a whole village, some of whose inhabitants had done discourtesy to his Lord; and yet he became so sweet and lovely that he seems the very embodiment of the

sweetness of grace. And there is the apostle Paul, burning with more zeal, enduring more hardships, writing with more power, a greater factor than any other in that early marvellous spread of Christianity, because he had a more cultured mind—more gifts, graces, and usefulness to consecrate to the work. Yes, the Church is agreed that the apostle Paul is their greatest favorite, greatest inspiration and incentive to grandest work. It has often been said that in the long calendar of saints Methodism recognizes only or chiefly St. Paul as a Methodist saint. Most gladly would I believe it true that every Methodist was filled with his spirit of heroic sacrifice for the conversion of the world.

Of Paul's writings, which is most dearly loved? There is that Epistle to the Galatians, a little fragment of the Gallic race that drifted on the tides of emigration into Asia. They are of the same blood and mercurial characteristics as the French and Irish, ready to pluck out their eyes to serve a friend, and quickly bewitched from obeying the truth. There is that Epistle to the Philippians, so tender and exquisitely loving, that we seem to hear the voice of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. Then

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