

on evangelical repentance and reconciliation through Jesus Christ. He has knelt with bruised and broken heart at the bar of the Judge, before he dared to throw himself on the bosom of the Redeemer.

In his impassioned speech his spiritual pantings after God find expression, says Shedd, "in terms as fervid as those which we are wont to associate only with the most absorbing and consuming of earthly passions." The rich copiousness and sinewy strength of the noble Roman tongue are taxed to the utmost to express the love-longings of the soul to behold the King in His beauty; to rejoice in the light of that divine and beatific vision. "O Thou most sweet, most loving, most gracious, most precious, most longed for, most worthy to be loved, most fair, sweeter than honey, whiter than milk or snow, more grateful than nectar, more precious than gems or gold, dearer to me than all the riches and honours of the world, when shall I behold Thee? When shall I appear before Thy face? When shall I be satisfied with Thy beauty?"\*

For a parallel to this fervid Oriental soul-longing we must go to the matchless Song of Songs, with its spiritual yearnings for the Heavenly Bridegroom, the fairest among ten thousand and the altogether lovely. But to the Augustines, the Anselms, the Bernards, the 'angelic' and 'seraphic' doctors of the past, the tender mystics like Madame Guyon in her prison cell, and many a saintly soul who walks in close communion with God, is vouchsafed this vision of the pure in heart. The spirit walks in the Beulah land of perfect love, and breathes on earth the air of heaven, sweeter than the odours of Bether, more fragrant than the mountains of myrrh.

Yet these fervid utterances relate the soul-experiences of one of the keenest intellects, of one of the most profound and metaphysical writers, of one of the most logical and rigorous thinkers in the range of Christian literature. Well does Shedd remark, "When we find the most abstract and intellectual of the Christian Fathers dissolving in tears, or mounting in ecstasy,

\* "Dulcissime, amantissime, benignissime, preciosissime, desideratissime, amabilissime, pulcherrime, tu melle dulcior, lacte et nive candidior, nectare suavior, gemmis et auro preciosior, cunctisque terrarum divitiis et honoribus mihi carior, quando te videbo? Quando apparebo ante faciem tuam? Quando satiabor de pulchritudine tua?"