

mother, were it in her power, be personally present at the same time, in as many different places where her children would go to live. She might, thereby, keep them faithful to her love. Seeing the impossibility of such a case, mothers silently submit to separations which they hope will not be eternal. But the power of Jesus is equal to His love. Wishing to leave nothing undone that might, that could favor, foster His friendship with us, He assured us of His perpetual presence and nearness to us in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar. *« Behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world. »* (MATT. XXVIII.) Wherever there is an altar with a consecrated Host, there will I find Jesus with His love, ready to exchange it for mine. Consequently, nothing prevents me from being His friend. Not His greatness, because His happiness is to descend to a level with me ; not any *« smallness »* of heart, because His is immense ; not distance, for the simple reason that He knows none ; He is with me until the end of time.

One final difficulty remains to be solved. Friends should agree. They must not displease each other ; all offenses, contradictions and betrayals are unknown to them ; their love must be mutual, and I, alas ! fulfil none of these conditions. How frequently do I not do just the contrary ? O my good Master, my soul is sometimes wicked, sometimes frail, always fickle, ever changing. My thoughts are constantly in opposition to yours, for a mere trifle I transgress your Law, and my wicked heart is constantly paining you. Even in its best moments, should it show any love, that love quickly ceases, for its affections are elsewhere, frequently far away, if not directly against you. How often am I not inclined to act contrary to your holy will ? Time and again I have heard your plaintive voice : *« O Friend, redeemed by My blood, why do you pain, insult and betray me ? Return, ye transgressor, to the heart. »* (Is. XLVI.) Can friendship exist under such circumstances ?

Notwithstanding all this, my Savior seeks the affection of His fallen creature, *« for I am not come to call the just but the sinners. »* (Matt. IX.) And Faith tells me that it was to conquer