

caused Philip to say "Show us the Father and it sufficeth us." It is that reaching after the image of the unseen and Divine Being which in a more refined form embodies itself in symbolism. An object is chosen to represent a thought, or an outgoing of the soul, this image is only representative in character, but in a feeble mind it is apt to become the object which it was intended to symbolize and then we have pure idolatry.

The symbolic use which has been made of the Cross has in some cases been pushed to such an extreme. But while this is a danger clearly indicated in the narrative it is not the special one to which we invite attention. The theme suggested is: What is the true relation of worship to other duties of life? What place ought worship to occupy? In our narrative we have described the ways of a worshipper. It matters not for our purpose just now, what he worships, because we are dealing with principles, and not with facts. Where does his worship find relation to other experiences of his life? Where ought it to find its place and what is its true measure? "He heweth down cedars." If we take this portion of the narrative as illustrating the order of his life movements, then we find this man fairly launched in the employments of his mind and heart. In this action we see him as it were devoting himself to the conflict of life. The claims of his whole nature assert themselves in felling the cedars, for he is an idolator and his god as well as his firewood must be hewn from that tree. At the first there is no preference of one side of his nature over another, intimated. But the question arises, will he carry along with equal care, thoughts relating to his whole life, or shall we soon discover, a preponderance of regard for one claim of his nature over another? The next stage, therefore, is important as indicating the leaning of his life. "He burneth part," that is, he begins at once to parcel out to himself the first fruit of his labor. His carnal wants are to be supplied first. This would seem a natural order, provided other wants were kept in view and arranged for; but alas! the carnal wants are exclusive of all others just now, and to what extent we shall presently see.

"With part thereof he eateth flesh:" For this end, too, the cedar must yield its best wood. At this point we might expect a departure in favor of the higher claims of his being, but when we find that the physical nature being met, he goes on still further to indulge his appetites, it becomes clear that he is ministering not merely to bare necessity, but to carnal and selfish desires, for he