

God from whom all paternity proceeds on heaven and on earth, (Eph. iii, 15.) Created our first parent to his own image and likeness. He formed his body from the clay of the earth, but his Soul He created from His own Spirit. (Gen. xi. 7.)

"And the Lord God formed man of the slime of the earth, and breatheth into his face the breath of life, and man became a living soul." [Gen. ii, 7.] He breathed into him the breath of life; and a life so fruitful as to be transmissible throughout all generations to the end of time, by the ever acting agency of our Great Creator, God.

The dignity of human nature therefore is sublime, and no wonder that the Son of God would die to save it from death. It pleased the Divine Providence of God to provide Adam, the first parent and head of the human family, with an assistant and a companion to share his joys and happiness, or his misery, should he disobey the Divine commands. "And the Lord said: It is not good for man to be alone; let Us make him a helpmate like unto himself." [Gen. ii, 18.] And that this helpmate might be an integral part of himself, and that the unity might be complete. "Then the Lord God cast a deep sleep upon Adam; and when he was fast asleep He took one of his ribs and filled up flesh for it; and the Lord God built the rib which He took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to Adam. And Adam said: This now is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man. Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother and cleave to his wife; and they shall be two in one flesh." [Gen. ii, 22.]

The idea of leaving father and mother proves that if our first parents had not fallen, the earth would be peopled with a sinless and happy generation. Remark, also, that God Himself gave away the bride, "He brought Eve to Adam, and blessed their union." Two in one flesh marks unity; and the leaving of father and mother to cleave to his wife marks, also, the breaking sacred and natural ties, to become a corporate body, consisting of a male and female. Such is the history of matrimony before sin and shame entered the world. It was between one and one, and was indissoluble, inasmuch as that when two are made one this one is indissoluble, except by death; and from this unity, as a rivulet from its source, springs the entire human family. Thus God instituted matrimony as a permanent state for life, till death should break the tie.

Our Divine Saviour came on earth to make all things new, and He called to its primitive condition the most solemn engagement for life, upon which depends the happiness of the married couple, and the proper education of their offspring. For a man and woman do not enter into the holy state of matrimony solely for their own individual happiness or advantage, but for that of their offspring also; and hence the Divine founder of matrimony did provide for both, by a permanent marriage tie, one with one exclusively and for life.