

that his father loved him, and sighed after him, do you think he would have replied ; ‘ Very well, in that case, I do not need to return to him ? ’ ”

“ Certainly not, this message on the contrary would have pressed his return to his father.”

“ Very well, that ought also to be your case. The assurance of the love of God, as it is presented in the scripture, should encourage you to return to Him with all your heart, and as the hymn says.”

“ Just as I am—without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.”

With emotion the invalid asked ; “ What does it mean to come to the Lord ? ” “ That is to say, to look to Him with desire and confidence, to believe in Him who died for us upon the cross according to the counsel of God. If you truly believe what God has done for you at the cross, you will find peace.”

“ But what is it to believe ? ” replied the young man.

“ The bible says, ‘ He that believeth not God, hath made Him a liar,’ now His word says that He loves us ; that for us He has given His Son to judgment and to death ; that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. When then you believe God (not only that you believe in God) then all that, is sure and certain for your heart,

“ Is that all ? ” asked the sick one anxiously.

“ Yes, that is all ! ”

He appeared very much surprised at my reply. After a time, he said :