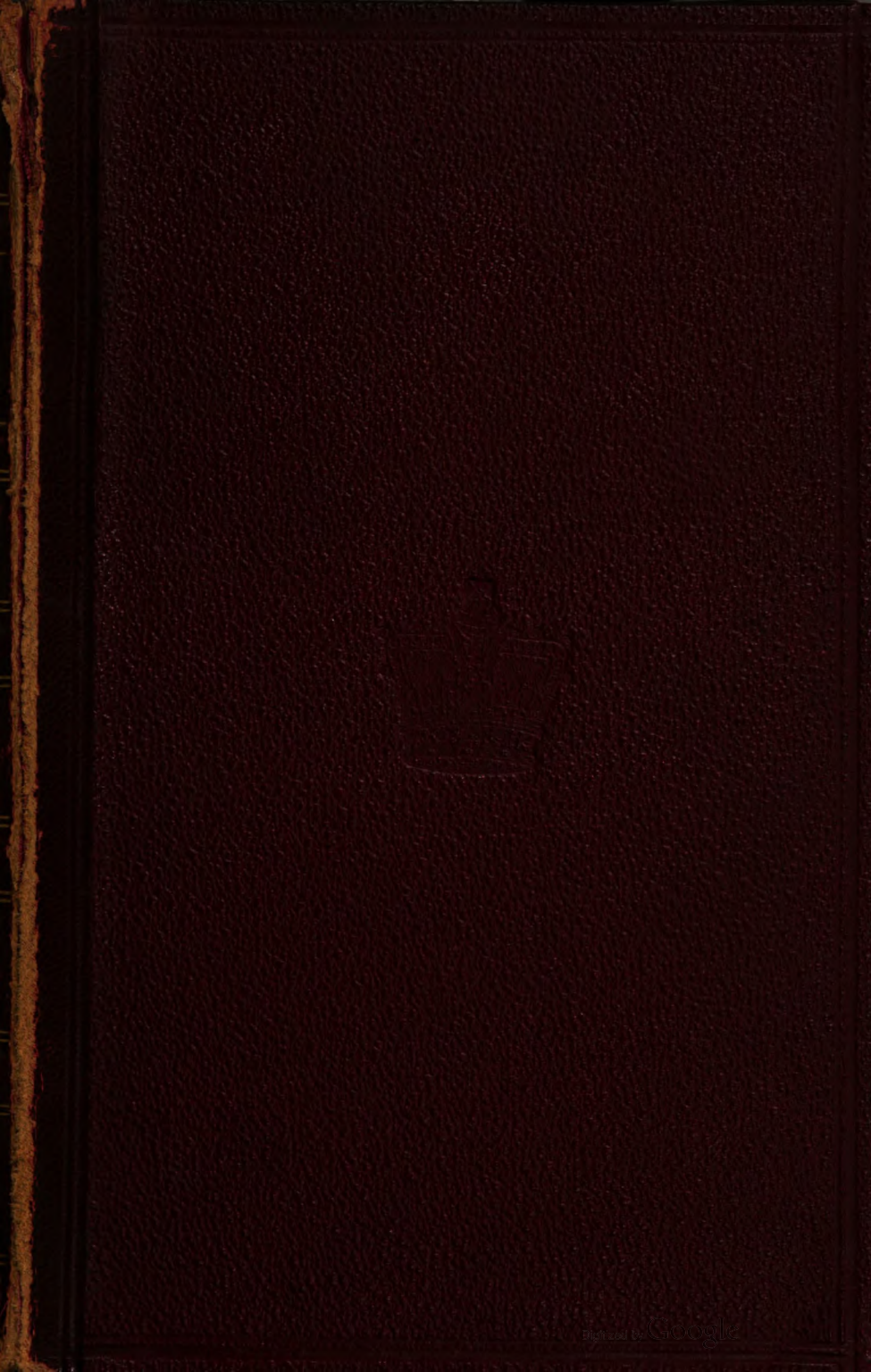
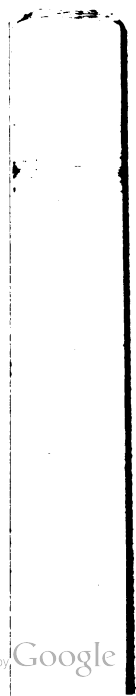

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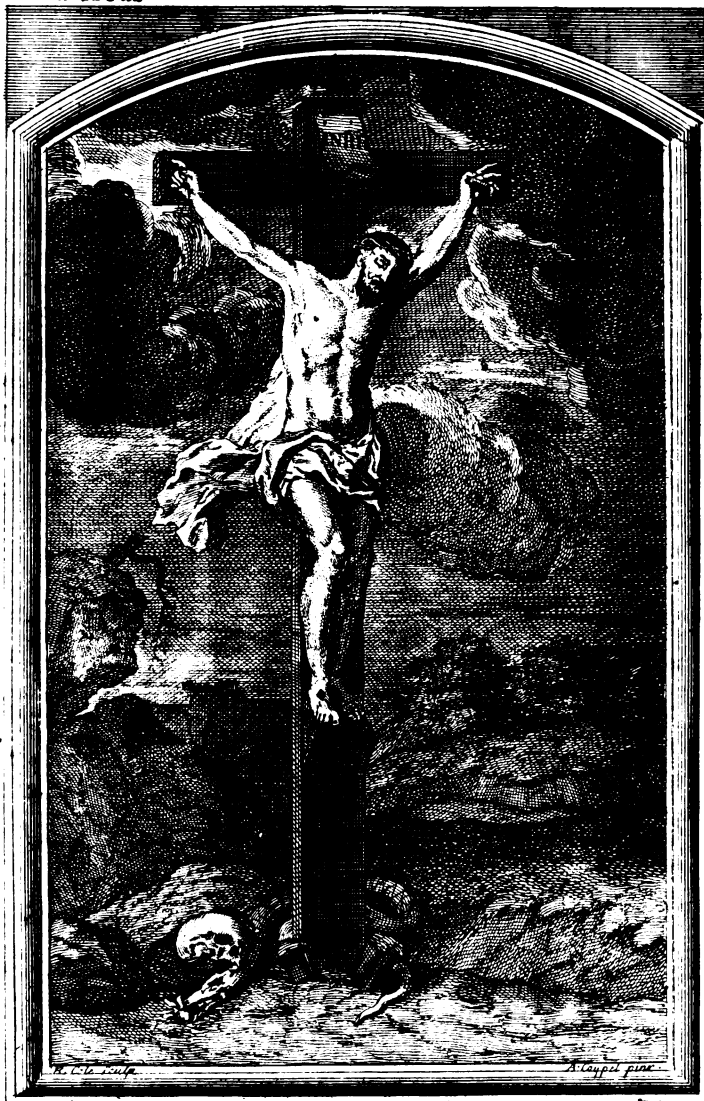


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to Face the Tide



*Christ also suffered, leaving us an Example,
that we should follow his Steps, 1st J. Pet. 2. 6. 21. V*

THE
Christian's PATTERN;
OR, A
TREATISE
OF THE
IMITATION of CHRIST.

Written Originally in LATIN,
By **THOMAS a KEMPIS.**

With a PREFACE,
Containing an ACCOUNT of the
USEFULNESS of this TREATISE:
DIRECTIONS for Reading it with Advantage;
And likewise an Account of this EDITION.

Compared with the Original, and corrected throughout

By **JOHN WESLEY, M.A.**
Fellow of *Lincoln College, Oxon.*


L O N D O N:
Printed for **C. RIVINGTON,** at the *Bible and*
Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard.

M D C C X X V.





THE
PREFACE.

- I.  F the AUTHOR.
- II. Of this Treatise.
- III. Of the temper requisite in order to read it with improvement.
- IV. Of the manner of reading it.
- V. Of this Edition.

I. 1. *Thomas Hemerken* was born at *Kempis*, a little village of *Germany*, in the

N. B. The four first articles of this Preface are extracted from, 1. *Rosweidi Vita Thomæ à Kempis*. 2. *Peritia Libelli de Imitatione Christi*, subjoined to the *Antwerp* edition of 1634. 3. The Preface to the *English* edition, printed at *London* in 1677. And, 4. *Præmonitio ad Lectorem*, prefixt to that printed at *Cologn* in the year 1682.

diocese of *Cologne*, from whence he took the name of a *Kempis*. His parents were poor, but pious. They had two sons; of whom *Thomas*, the younger, was born in the year 1380. Having spent his first years with his parents, at the age of thirteen he was sent to *Deventer*, the chief town of *Overyssel* in the *Low-countries*, then a flourishing seminary of learned men.

2. His first care at *Deventer* was, to find out his brother, who had settled there several years before, that he might be by him directed and assisted in the pursuit of his studies. By him he was recommended to *Florentius*, the vicar of the church of *Deventer*, and instructor of the students, who repaired thither from all parts for that purpose. *Florentius* received him with the kindness of a parent, kept him for some time in his own house, and then procured him a lodging in a religious family, and furnished him with books and all other necessaries. Having now the advantage of daily converse with his fellow-students, persons no less eminent for piety than learning, he made that progress in both, of which his writings

The P R E F A C E.

ings will be an abundant testimony to all ages.

3. After having spent seven years in this happy society, in the year 1400 (wherein *Florentius* died) he retired to St. *Agnes's* mount near *Zwolle*, where a monastery of *Augustines* was newly erected. He was gladly received by his brother, the first prior of the house; but, that he might not do any thing without the utmost deliberation, he past five years in his novitiate, in the sixth he assumed the habit, and in the seventh took the vow upon him.

4. He was here very eminent for piety towards God, reverence to his superiors, and love to his brethren. His employment was partly reading the holy scriptures, partly in transcribing them (for he had learnt the art of writing in great perfection at *Deventer*) and partly composing books. His behaviour in the church was highly exemplary. While he repeated the psalms, his face was always raised towards heaven, and he frequently appeared rapt above himself, and quite in an extasy. All his discourse was upon God and the holy scriptures. When
any

any in his presence spoke of worldly affairs, he never (unless necessity required) opened his mouth, having no desire of such knowledge. But where the conversation turned upon GOD and heavenly things, his words flowed like a stream from an inexhaustible fountain. He never declined it, when desired to speak upon an improving subject, only desiring a little time to prepare himself for it by meditation. And the ease and eloquence with which he spoke were so great, that many came from remote places to hear him.

5. His chearful patience under affliction of any kind, his gentleness in bearing, and kindness in excusing the faults of others, the sobriety and modesty of his whole conversation, his unwearied diligence in promoting the good of the society, and the constancy and fervour of his prayers, were the admiration of all that observed them : inso-much, that being yet in the flower of his age, he was unanimously elected sub-prior. Some time after, he was chosen steward or treasurer ; but finding the careful attendance on that employment, too great an avocation

tion from contemplation and writing, he desired and procured leave to resign it.

6. It often happened, that while he was engaged in business or conversation with some of his brethren, he felt so powerful an impression upon his mind, that he was obliged to leave them and to retire into his chamber. And there freely pouring out his soul before God, he received from him the wisdom, which shines forth in his writings.

7. In the year 1441, he composed his treatise *Of the Imitation of CHRIST*. In 1448, he was again elected sub-prior, of which his * own account is as follows.

“ Brother *Henry of Deventer*, being elected
 “ the fourth prior of mount *Agnes*, af-
 “ ter three days convened his brethren, and
 “ proposed their electing a new sub-prior,
 “ agreeably to the statutes. Accordingly on
 “ the feast of *St. James* the apostle, after a
 “ short scrutiny, was elected *Thomas Kempis*,
 “ one of the seniors, aged 67 years. And
 “ altho’ he knew his own unfitness, and ex-
 “ cused himself upon that account ; yet obe-

* In his Chronicle of *M. Agnes*, c. 26.

“ dience

“ dicente requiring it, he submitted to the
 “ determination of his brethren, not refus-
 “ ing to undergo labour for their sakes
 “ and for the love of JESUS CHRIST:
 “ earnestly imploring all their prayers, and
 “ trusting not in himself, but in the grace
 “ of GOD.

8. As to his person, he was low of sta-
 ture, of a ruddy but brown complexion,
 and a lively piercing eye. Notwithstand-
 ing his night-labours, both in transcribing
 the Bible and writing out his own medita-
 tions, he never used spectacles, but conti-
 nued to the end of his life of a clear, strong
 sight.

9. Being now in the 92d year of his
 age, seventy-one years of which he had past
 on mount *Agnes*, on the 25th of *July*,
 1471, he was called forth by GOD to the
 mount of eternity, on which he had so of-
 ten fixt his eye, which he had so long
 panted after, and his blessed soul forsaking
 its house of clay, pass'd into the unfading
 mansions, to enjoy its GOD for ever.

II. I. The

II. 1. The style of this treatise is the most plain, simple and unadorned that can be conceived: yet such is the strength, spirit and weight of every sentence, that it is scarce possible, without injury to the sense, to add or diminish any thing.

2. The whole treatise is a compleat and finish'd work, comprehending all that relates to Christian perfection, all the principles of that internal worship, with which alone we worship God *in spirit and in truth*. A serious mind will never be fatied with it, tho' it were read a thousand times over; for those general principles are as fruitful seeds of meditation, and the stores they contain can never be exhausted. And herein it greatly resembles the holy scriptures, that, under the plainest words, there is a divine, hidden virtue, continually flowing into the soul of a pious and attentive reader, and by the blessing of God, transforming it into his image.

3. Whatever relates to Christian perfection, may be reduced to one of these three heads. 1. The essence of it. 2. The ways
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and

and degrees by which it is attained. And 3. The means or instruments of it.

4. The scope of this treatise is, that perfection which every Christian is bound to aspire to. Now altho' the whole essence of this consists in love, which unites the soul to GOD ; yet because perfect love implies, 1. Entire humility, 2. Absolute * self-renunciation, 3. Unreserved resignation, 4. Such a union of our will with the divine, as makes the Christian one spirit with GOD ; a great part of it describes these tempers, whereby he that loves GOD is made partaker of the Divine Nature.

5. And first, because none can attain to the least degree of Christian perfection without humility, the author describes the nature, the several degrees, properties and effects of it, *Book I. chap. 2, 19. B. II. c. 2, 6, 10. B. III. c. 5, 8, 9, 10, 36, 45, 46, 47, 54, 55, 57.*

* *N. B.* This word is preferable to *self-denial* on two accounts. 1. Because it is a more general term, including both *self-denial* and *taking up the Cross*. 2. Because it is a more literal translation of our Saviour's expression *Ἀπαρνησάμενοι ἑαυτοῦ*. *Abrenuntiet sibi ipsi.*

6. With

6. With the same copiousness of thought, he treats of self-renunciation: shewing the absolute necessity of it, inasmuch as without it we can have no true peace, or joy, or liberty of spirit (I. 6. III. 31, 37, 47.) Describing it under great variety of expressions (I. 6, 17. II. 8, 9. III. 11, 13, 17, 18, 32, 33, 37, 42, 46, 47, 49, 58, 61.) And, lastly, proposing two widely different species of it, whereby the latter cannot be attained to, but by long exercise in the former. The one restrains and moderates the appetite of earthly and sensible things, such as riches, honours and pleasures (I. 7, 22. III. 13, 22, 31, 42, 46, 47, 58. IV. 15.) The other, which is of a far sublimer nature, known to few, and by still fewer practised, cleanses the soul from that impurity, which is apt to adhere even to her desires of heavenly and spiritual things (I. 15. II. 9, 10, 11, 12. III. 12, 54.)

7. He speaks, thirdly, of resignation, or, the giving our selves up into the hands of God, without any reserve or limitation, throwing our selves wholly upon him, and being alike ready to receive whatever his

providence chuses for us (II. 11. III. 16, 19, 24, 29.)

8. Lastly, The union of our will with the divine, the highest degree of Christian perfection, he describes with regard to its principal properties and effects, under these and the like expressions : turning our heart wholly to God, going out of our selves, sacrificing, offering up our selves to him, honouring, glorifying, praising him, referring all things to him, seeking, finding, drawing near to God, enjoying, rejoycing, delighting in God, rest in God, pure love, having God for our all (I. 3, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. II. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 31. III. 7, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, &c. IV. 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16.)

9. In order to attain this perfect love, there are several stages to be pass'd through. For it's necessary, not only, that the soul be fully purged from all wilful, habitual sin ; but likewise that it be enlightened by the knowledge and practice of all virtue, before it can be united to God.

10. The

10. The first step towards a purgation from sin, is to conceive a hatred of it: to excite which he treats of compunction of heart (I. 21.) of death and the pains of hell (I. 23, 24.) Of the vanity of the world (II. 1.) of the love of it (III. 3.) and of the joy of a good conscience (II. 6.) He next animates us to a wary and vigorous resistance of the sins we have in some measure conquered (I. 2, 13. III. 7, 13, 26, 40. IV. 10, 18.) to a zealous endeavour to root out all ill habits, particularly those to which Infant-Christians are most subject (I. 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 20, 22. II. 5. III. 38, 48, 50, 62, 63.) and, lastly, to mortify our passions, which is a considerable branch of self-renunciation, and compleats the purgation of the soul from sin.

11. The constant practice of all the virtues we know, is the only way to be enlightened with fuller knowledge. To this head therefore belongs what is said of humility (II. 2. III. 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 22, 45, 46, 51, 55.) of patience (I. 22. II. 3, 10, 11, 12. III. 13, 20, 21, 33, 34, 35, 41, 51, 52, 56, 61, 62.) of love to our neighbour

bour and the fruits of it (I. 15, 16.) and of hope and trust in GOD (II. 11. III. 35, 44, 46.)

12. As to the union of the soul with GOD by love, it is described in the most experimental manner, in the chapters above referred to, concerning the conformity of our will to the divine.

13. The chief instruments or means of Christian perfection are, above all and in all, the grace of GOD, and in subserviency to this, prayer, self-examination, reading the scriptures, and the holy communion.

14. And first by the grace of GOD, our corrupted nature, of it self always prone to evil, is healed, strengthened and enabled both to avoid all sin, and steddily to practise all virtue. To this he accordingly teaches us to ascribe all our strength (III. 59.) This he fervently implores of GOD, as being utterly unable to obtain it, but by his free gift (III. 4, 17, 26, 27, 31, 32, 35.) and acknowledging the absolute necessity of it, in order to the recovery of either knowledge or love (II. 8, 12. III. 9, 15, 17, 60.)

15. Con

15. Concerning prayer, the great instrument of procuring the grace of God, he does not lay down any rules : but it is easy to collect many from those examples, with which he every-where abounds, especially in the third and fourth books, wherein is express'd all the energy of devout affections.

16. With regard to self-examination, he directs not only to have an eye to gross sins, but to labour to distinguish good thoughts from evil. More particularly, he advises,
 1. Diligently to consider the inward motions of our souls, whether they be of God, and whenever we are in doubt concerning them, to commit our selves wholly to him (III. 12, 16.)
 2. Carefully to examine the contrary motions of nature and grace, lest self-love deceive us under the colour of love of God (III. 59.)
 3. To examine our virtues, whether they are true and solid, or false and imaginary (I. 9, 11, 15, 17, 19. III. 5, 22.)
 4. Not to judge of our progress either by the frequency or rareness of our consolations. And 5. To be especially watchful over our hearts, when sensible comforts are either given (II. 9. III. 6, 8.)

or taken away (II. 9, 10, 11, 12. III, 8, 35, 55. IV. 15.)

17. In the 5th chapter of the first book and 48th of the third, we are directed how to read the holy scriptures. And the whole fourth book instructs us how to make the holy communion an effectual means of Christian perfection.

III From what has been said of the main design and scope, the matter and argument of this treatise, we may easily perceive, what temper is requisite in order to read it with improvement. For since what every part of it points at is simply this, the being transformed into the image of God, or in the author's language, the Imitation of CHRIST, in humility, self-renunciation, resignation and love; it cannot be received by those who are enemies to the Cross of CHRIST, and alienated from the life of God. Altho' nothing is more excellent than the resemblance of God, who is the first and supreme Excellency; than the Imitation of CHRIST, who is the effulgence of his Glory, the most perfect Pattern of all Holiness;

Holiness ; yet if there be no recovering this resemblance, without *denying themselves, and taking up their Cross daily*, those who are immers'd in self-love and love of the world, will never be at the pains of recovering it. They would indeed be advantaged by the death of CHRIST, but not care for living his life. They do not care for being *planted with him in the likeness of his death*, by crucifying *the flesh and all its affections*, and nailing all its desires to the Cross of CHRIST, so that they should *no longer live, but CHRIST live in them*. These therefore can never relish a treatise, which tells them plainly, that their naming the name of CHRIST will profit them nothing, *unless they so walk even as he walked*, and follow his Pattern both in their hearts and lives.

2. It is no wonder, if such as these see no more form or comeliness in this treatise of the Life of CHRIST, than those of the like spirit saw in his person, when he was upon earth. The great practical truths so strongly enforced herein, are doctrines very grievous to them, as being directly contrary to that love of the world, which is the ruling

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ing principle in them. These doctrines are a reproof to such spiritual Pharisees, and discover their being short of the true power of Godliness. And this, 'tis certain, they are ; for they will not close with God, unless he will abate something of his conditions. They will not purchase even the pearl of great price, at so high a rate, as the parting with all for it. They are for a more easy and cheap religion, one that costs less than the plucking out their right eyes, and cutting off their right hands ; less than the giving up their dearest, their most convenient sins, the rooting out their favourite passions ; in short, less than the zealous observance of all those rules delivered by our LORD in his sermon on the mount.

3. Nor is there any thing in this treatise to gratify those, who are fond of controversy. These are they, who have learned to dispute, not to live ; who prefer the *knowledge* which *puffeth up*, to the *charity* which *edifieth*. They *provoke one another*, not to love and to good works, but rather to wrath, strife and envy. They are always ready, by starting unnecessary doubts and questions,

questions, to turn a spiritual conference upon the most clear, practical truths, into a wholly unspiritual debate upon some point of meer speculation. Whosoever they are, who love thus *to darken counsel with words*; here is no business for them; they have neither lot nor part in this treatise.

4. But if there be any of a teachable and humble temper, it is they who may expect improvement from it. Here they will find what they seek for, the simplicity of the knowledge of CHRIST; for the excellency of which, if all things else are accounted as dung and dross, they are abundantly honoured. If there be any, who searches for the understanding of divine truths, in the path of obedience and experience, who carefully observes the kingdom of God, and the workings of the Holy Spirit in his own soul, and who continually endeavours after an entire conformity to the life of his great Master; they may hope by the blessing of God on this treatise, to attain to a more full and inward knowledge of CHRIST.

5. If there be any, who desires direction and assistance in the several exercises of his
Christian

Christian warfare, in the several tempers and states he may be in, the variety of difficulties and temptations, which he must expect to pass through, while he is in the wilderness, before he enters into the rest of God: here he will find what will be, by the goodness of God, sufficient to direct and assist him, to strengthen and stablish his heart, and, in a word, seasonably and fully to minister to the several exigencies of his condition.

6. But tho' all, who earnestly desire *the sincere milk of the word*, will find it and grow thereby; yet it must be remember'd, that the great practical truths of religion, the mysteries of the inward kingdom of God, cannot be fully discerned, but by those readers, who have read the same things in their own souls. These cannot be clearly known, but by those who derive their knowledge, "not from commentaries, but experience:" who, by living the life of CHRIST, by treading in his steps, and suffering the will of God to rule in them as it did in him, have attained to what the heart of a natural man cannot conceive, the knowing of God as they

they ought to know. This is that inward, practical, experimental, feeling knowledge, so frequently commanded by our author, for the attainment of which he has occasionally scattered up and down many excellent directions.

7. The more of this knowledge any reader hath, the less careful will he be about the language of what he reads. For when his mind once comes to be immersed, if one may so speak, in the spirituality of the inward sense, when he once comes to converse with the very soul of all that practical truth contained in this treatise; he cannot think it worth while to be a nice observer of the body, of the outward dress, the style and language. He then knows how to prize this rich treasure, tho' brought in an earthen vessel; nor will he at all despise the precious pearl, for the meanness of the shell.

IV. 1. It is to these alone, who, knowing they have not yet attained, neither are already perfect, mind this one thing, and, pressing towards the mark, despise no assistance, which is offered them, that the following

lowing advices are proposed, concerning the manner of reading this (or any other religious) treatise.

2. *First*, Assign some stated time every day for this employment, and observe it, so far as you possibly can, inviolably. But if necessary business, which you could not foresee or defer, should sometimes rob you of your hour of retirement, take the next to it, or, if you cannot have that, at least the nearest you can.

3. *Secondly*, Prepare your self for reading by purity of intention, singly aiming at the good of your soul, and by fervent prayer to God, that he would enable you to see his will, and give you a firm resolution to perform it. An excellent form of prayer for this very purpose, you have in the second or third book of this treatise.

4. *Thirdly*, Be sure to read, not cursorily or hastily ; but leisurely, seriously and with great attention ; with proper pauses and intervals, that you may allow time for the enlightenings of the divine grace. To this end, recollect every now and then what you have read, and consider how to reduce it
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to practice. Further, let your reading be continued and regular, not rambling and desultory. To taste of many things, without fixing upon any, shews a vitiated palate, and feeds the disease, which makes it pleasing. Whatsoever book you begin, read therefore through in order : not but that it will be of great service, to read those passages over and over, that more nearly concern your self, and more closely affect your inclinations or practice ; especially if you press them home to your soul, by adding a particular examination of your self upon each head.

5. *Fourthly*, Labour to work your self up into a temper correspondent with what you read. For that reading is useless, which only enlightens the understanding, without warming the affections. And therefore interperse here and there earnest aspirations to God, for his Heat as well as his Light. Select also any remarkable sayings or advices, and treasure them up in your memory ; and these you may either draw forth in time of need, as arrows from a quiver, against temptation (more especially, against the

the

the solicitations to that sin, which most easily besets you) or make use of as incitements to any virtue, to humility, patience or the love of GOD.

6. Conclude all with a short ejaculation to GOD, That He, without whom, *neither is he, that planteth any thing, nor he that watereth*, would so bless the good seed sown in your heart, that it may bring forth fruit unto life eternal.

V. I. Altho' this edition of the *Christian Pattern*, be the same as to the main of the translation, with that printed at *London* in the year 1677; yet it differs from it in the following particulars:

2. *First*, In being divided, like the *Latin*, into distinct sentences. It is enough barely to mention this to the serious reader: his experience will speak the rest.

3. *Secondly*, In being closer to the original. Even the edition above-mentioned is, in many places, rather a paraphrase than a translation; by which means, not only much of the beauty, but of the strength and spirit of the original is lost. Those paraphras-
tical

stical expressions; so highly injurious to the nervous brevity of the author, are here removed, and the words rendered in as literal a manner as the nature of our tongue will bear.

4. *Thirdly*, In being plainer. When two equally literal phrases occur'd, the more simple has always been chosen. Of all paraphrases none is more destructive of the sense, none more contrary to the spirit of this author, than that which attempts to polish his style, and refine his simplicity into eloquence. This has been attempted in our own tongue, but has not been universally approv'd; and therefore it has been judg'd proper to revise this literal translation, and make it as perfect as we could by purging it from such phrases as by length of time were grown antiquated.

5. *Lastly*, In being clearer. As the most plain, so the fullest and strongest terms are here prefer'd before those that are less so. If any thing can injure our author more than making him speak *finely*, it is the making him speak ambiguously. But nei-

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ther the original, nor (it is hoped) this translation, is guilty of this fault. Expect no softening here ; no mincing or palliating of evangelical truths. Here is no countenance cruelly given to Half-Christians ; no false hopes to those of a double heart ; to the trimmers between GOD and the world, who love to term religion, the *main* end of their lives, who say, they do make it their *chief* business, and are willing to allow GOD the larger *part* of their affections. Nay, but He hath told thee, O man, as by his SON, so by this his faithful follower, that it will nothing avail thee to be *almost* — unless thou goest on to be *altogether* a Christian ! That he abhorreth faint hearts and feeble hands, and the sinner that goeth two ways ! That thou must serve Him, if at all, with *all* thy strength ! That this is the *whole* of man ! That thou hast *one, only one* end to regard on earth ; that thou hast *one, only one* business to pursue ! That since but *one* thing is needful, on that *alone* thou art to fix thy single eye, namely, To love the LORD thy GOD with
all

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all thy heart, and with *all* thy soul, and
with *all* thy mind, and with *all* thy strength.
The good God be merciful unto me and
thee, and give us so to run, that we may
obtain the prize of our high calling!





A Collection of some places of scripture relating to the substance of this Treatise.

IF any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. *Luke ix. 23.*

I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. *John xiv. 6.*

Let the same mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus. *Philip. ii. 5.*

Leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps. *1 Pet. ii. 21.*

He that saith he abideth in him, ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. *1 John ii. 6.*

Little children, let no man deceive you; he that doth righteousness, is righteous, even as he is righteous. *ib. iii. 7.*

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness at the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. *ib. iv. 17.*

These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. *Rev. xiv. 4.*

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. *2 Cor. iii. 18.*

Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. *Rom. xiii. 14.*

But ye have not so learned Christ: If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus. That ye put off concerning the former conversation, the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts: And be renewed in the spirit of your mind: And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness, and true holiness. *Ephes. iv. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24.*

St. BERNARD.

Christum sequendo citius apprehendes quam legendo.

St. AUGUSTINE.

Summa religionis Christianæ est imitari eum quem colis.

T H E



T H E
C O N T E N T S.



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BOOK



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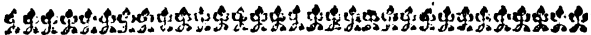
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One thing is Needful. Luke 10. 42.



THE
CHRISTIAN'S
PATTERN.



BOOK I.

CHAP. I.

Of the Imitation of CHRIST, and contempt of all the vanities of the world.



HE that followeth me, walketh not in darkness, saith the LORD. These are the words of CHRIST, by which we are admonished, that we ought to imitate his life and manners, if we would be truly enlightened, and delivered from all blindness of heart.

B

Let

Let therefore our chief endeavour be, to meditate upon the life of JESUS CHRIST.

2. The doctrine of CHRIST exceedeth all the doctrines of holy men; and he that hath the Spirit, will find hidden manna therein.

But it falleth out, that many, who often hear the gospel of CHRIST, are yet but little affected, because they have not the spirit of CHRIST.

But he that would fully and feelingly understand the words of CHRIST, must endeavour to conform his whole life to *the life of CHRIST*.

3. What will it avail thee to dispute sublimely of the TRINITY, if thou be void of humility, and art thereby displeasing to the TRINITY?

Truly, sublime words do not make a man holy and just; but a virtuous life maketh him dear to GOD.

I had rather feel compunction, than know the definition thereof.

If thou didst know the whole Bible, and the sayings of all the philosophers by heart, what would all that profit thee without the love of GOD, and without grace?

Vanity of vanities, and all is vanity, but to love GOD, and to serve him only.

This is the highest wisdom, by contempt of the world to tend towards the kingdom of heaven.

4. It

4. It is therefore vanity to seek after perishing riches, and to trust in them.

It is also vanity to seek honours, and raise ourselves to a high station.

It is vanity to follow the desires of the flesh, and to labour for that, for which thou must afterwards suffer grievous punishment.

It is vanity to wish to live long, and to be careless to live well.

It is vanity to mind only this present life, and not to foresee those things which are to come.

It is vanity to set thy love on that which speedily passeth away, and not to hasten thither, where everlasting joy remains.

5. Call to mind often that proverb, *That the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.*

Endeavour therefore to withdraw thy heart from the love of visible things, and to turn thy self to the invisible.

For they that follow their sensuality, stain their conscience, and lose the favour of God.



C H A P. II.

Of thinking humbly of our selves.

ALL men naturally desire to know; but what availeth knowledge, without the fear of GOD.

Surely, an humble husbandman that serveth GOD, is better than a proud philosopher that, neglecting himself, studies the course of the heavens.

He that knoweth himself well, is vile in his own eyes, and is not pleased with the praises of men.

If I understood all things in the world, and had not charity; what would that help me in the sight of GOD, who will judge me according to my deeds?

2. Cease from an inordinate desire of knowing, for therein is much distraction and deceit.

Learned men are desirous to produce themselves, and to be called Wise.

There are many things, to know which doth little or nothing profit the soul:

And

And he is very unwise, that minds any other things than those that tend to the welfare of his soul.

Many words do not satisfy the soul ; but a good life comforteth the mind, and a pure conscience giveth great confidence towards GOD.

3. The more thou knowest, and the better thou understandest ; the more grievously shalt thou be judged, unless thy life be the more holy.

Be not therefore lifted up for any art or science ; but rather let the knowledge given thee, make thee afraid.

If thou thinkest that thou understandest and knowest much ; yet know that there are many more things which thou knowest not.

Be not over-wise, but rather acknowledge thine own ignorance. Why wilt thou prefer thy self before others, since there are many more learned and skilful in the scripture than thou ?

If thou wilt know or learn any thing profitably, desire to be unknown, and of no account.

4. The highest and most profitable lesson is, the true knowledge and contempt of our selves.

It is great wisdom and perfection to esteem our selves nothing, and to think always well and highly of others.

If thou shouldest see another openly sin, or commit some heinous offence, yet oughtest thou not to esteem thy self better than him : for thou art not sure of thy own perseverance.

We are all frail, but thou oughtest to esteem none more frail than thy self.



C H A P. III.

Of the doctrine of truth.

HAPPY is he, whom *Truth* itself teacheth, not by *figures* and words that pass away ; but by an immediate communication of itself.

Our own opinion and our own sense often deceive us, and discern little.

What availeth it to cavil and dispute about dark and hidden things ; for being ignorant of which we shall not be reprov'd at the day of judgment ?

It is a great folly to neglect the things that are profitable and necessary, and to chuse to think of curious and hurtful things. We have eyes, and see not.

2. And what have we to do with dry notions ?

He

He, to whom the Eternal WORD speaketh, is delivered from a world of vain notions.

From the One WORD are all things, and all speak that One : and this is He, who also speaketh unto us.

No man understandeth or judgeth rightly without Him.

He, to whom all things are One, who reduceth all things to One, and seeth all things in One, may be stable in heart, and remain peaceable in GOD.

O GOD, the Truth, make me One with thee in everlasting love !

I am weary of often reading and hearing many things ; in thee is All that I desire.

Let all doctors hold their peace ; let all creatures be silent in thy sight ; speak thou alone unto me.

3. The more *united* any one is in himself, and inwardly simple, the more and higher things doth he understand without labour ; because he receiveth the light of knowledge from above.

A pure, simple, and stable spirit is not diffipated, tho' it be employed in many works : because it does all to the glory of GOD, and seeks not it self in any thing it doth.

Who hinders and troubles thee more than the unmortified affection of thine own heart ?

B 4

A good

A good and devout man first disposeth within himself those things which he is outwardly to act :

Neither do they draw him to inordinate desires, but he bends them to the prescript of right reason.

Who hath a sharper combat, than he that laboureth to overcome himself ?

This ought to be our business, to conquer our selves, and daily to grow stronger, and to advance in holiness.

4. All perfection in this life hath some imperfection mixt with it : and no knowledge of ours is without some darkness.

An humble knowledge of thy self is a surer way to God, than a deep search after science.

Yet knowledge is not to be blamed, it being good in it self, and ordained by God ; but a good conscience and a virtuous life is always to be preferred before it.

But because many endeavour rather to get knowledge, than to live well ; therefore they are often deceived, and bear either none, or very little fruit.

5. O, if men bestowed as much labour in the rooting out of vices, and planting of virtues, as they do in moving of questions, there would not so great crimes and wickedness, nor so much hurt be done in the world.

Surely,

Surely, at the day of judgment we shall not be examined what we have read, but what we have done : not how well we have spoken, but how religiously we have lived.

Tell me, where are now all those doctors and masters, with whom thou wast well acquainted whilst they lived and flourished in learning ?

Now others possess their preferments, and perhaps do scarce ever think of them. In their life-time they seemed something, but now they are not spoken of.

6. O, how quickly doth the glory of the world pass away ! O, that their life had been answerable to their learning ! then had their study and reading been to good purpose.

How many perish in this world by reason of vain learning, who take little care of the serving of GOD ?

And because they rather chuse to be great than humble, therefore they become vain in their imaginations.

He is truly great, that is great in love.

He is truly great, that is little in his own eyes, and that maketh no account of any height of honour.

He is truly wise, that accounteth all earthly things as dung, that he may gain CHRIST.

And he is truly learned, that doth the will of GOD, and forsaketh his own will.



C H A P. IV.

Of prudence in our actions.

WE must not give ear to every saying or suggestion, but warily and leisurely ponder things according to the will of GOD.

But alas, such is our weakness, that we often more easily believe, and speak, evil of others than good.

Good men do not easily give credit to every thing one tells them; because they know human frailty, prone to evil, and very subject to fail in words.

2. It is great wisdom not to be rash in thy proceedings, nor to stand stiffly in thine own opinion.

It is wisdom likewise not to believe every thing which thou hearest, nor presently to relate again to others what thou hast heard or dost believe.

Consult with a wise and conscientious man, and seek to be instructed by a better than thy self; rather than to follow thine own inventions.

A good

A good life maketh a man wise according to GOD, and giveth him experience in many things.

The humbler one is in himself, and more resigned unto GOD; the more prudent and contented shall he be in all things.



C H A P. V.

Of reading the holy scriptures.

TRUTH, not eloquence, is to be sought for in holy scripture.

All scripture is to be read with the same spirit wherewith it was written.

We should rather search after spiritual profit in the scriptures, than subtilty of speech.

We ought to read plain and devout books as willingly as high and profound ones.

Let not the authority of the writer, whether he be of great or small learning, but the love of pure truth, draw thee to read.

Search not who spake this, but mark what is spoken.

2. Men pass away; but the truth of the LORD remaineth for ever.

GOD speaks unto us sundry ways, without respect of persons.

Our

Our own curiosity often hindereth us in reading of the scriptures, when we will examine and discuss that which we should rather pass over without more ado.

If thou desire to profit, read humbly, simply, and faithfully: nor ever desire the estimation of learning.

Inquire willingly, and hear with silence the words of holy men: dislike not the parables of the elders, for they are not spoken without cause.



C H A P. VI.

Of inordinate affections.

WHENsoever a man desireth any thing inordinately, he is presently disquieted in himself.

The proud and covetous never rest. The poor and humble in spirit live in the multitude of peace.

The man that is not yet perfectly dead to himself, is quickly tempted and overcome in small and trifling things.

He that is weak in spirit, and still in some measure carnal and prone to sensible things, can hardly withdraw himself altogether from earthly desires. And

And therefore he is often afflicted, while he is withdrawing himself from them: and easily falleth into anger, if any one opposes him.

2. Yet if he hath followed his appetite, he is presently disquieted with remorse of conscience; because he yielded to his passion which profiteth him nothing to the obtaining of the peace he sought for.

True quietness of heart therefore is gotten by resisting our passions, not by obeying them.

There is no peace in the heart of a carnal man, nor of him that is addicted to outward things, but in the spiritual and fervent man.



C H A P. VII.

Of avoiding vain hope and pride.

HE is vain that putteth his trust in man or creatures.

Be not ashamed to serve others for the love of JESUS CHRIST; nor to be esteemed poor in this world.

Presume not upon thy self, but place thy hope in GOD.

Do

Do what lieth in thy power, and GOD will assist thy good will.

Trust not in thine own knowledge, nor in the subtilty of any living creature: but rather in the grace of GOD; who helpeth the humble, and humbleth the proud.

2. Glory not in wealth if thou have it, nor in friends because potent; but in GOD, who giveth all things, and desireth to give thee himself above all.

Value not thy self for the strength or beauty of thy body, which is spoiled and disfigured with a little sickness.

Pride not thy self in thy natural gifts or wit, lest thereby thou displease GOD, to whom appertaineth all the good thou hast by nature.

3. Esteem not thy self better than others, lest perhaps in the sight of GOD, who knoweth what is in man, thou be accounted worse than they.

Be not proud of thy good-works: for the judgment of GOD is far different from the judgment of men, and that often offendeth him which pleaseth them.

If there be any good in thee, believe that there is much more in others, that so thou mayest preserve humility.

It hurts thee not if thou thinkest thy self worse than all men: but it hurts thee much to prefer thy self before any one man.

The

The humble enjoy continual peace : but in the heart of the proud is envy and frequent indignation.



C H A P. VIII.

That too much familiarity is to be shunned.

LA Y not thy heart open to every one ; but treat of thy affairs with the wife and such as fear God.

Converse not much with young people and strangers.

Flatter not the rich ; neither do thou appear willingly before great personages.

Keep company with the humble and simple, with the devout and virtuous ; and confer with them of those things that may edify.

Be not familiar with any woman ; but in general commend all good women to God.

Desire to be familiar with God alone and his angels, and fly the knowledge of men.

2. We must have charity towards all ; but familiarity with all is not expedient.

Sometimes it falleth out, that a person unknown to us, is much esteemed from report ; yet upon a nearer acquaintance becomes disagreeable.

We

We think sometimes to please others by our company, and we rather distaste them with those bad qualities which they discover in us.



C H A P. IX.

Of obedience and subjection.

IT is a very great advantage to live in obedience, to be under a superior, and not to be at our own disposal.

It is much safer to obey, than to govern.

Many live under obedience, rather for necessity than for charity; such are discontented, and do easily repine and murmur.

Neither can they attain to freedom of mind, unless they obey with their whole heart for the love of GOD.

Go whither thou wilt, thou shalt find no rest, but in humble subjection under the government of a superior. Many have deceived themselves by imagining, that the change of places would make them happy.

2. True it is, that every one willingly doth that which agreeth with his own sense and liking; and affects those most that are of his own mind:

But if God be amongst us, we must sometimes, for peace-sake, cease to adhere to our own opinion. Who

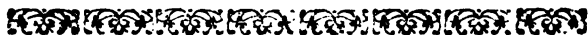
Who is so wise, that he can fully know all things ?

Trust not therefore to thine own opinion : but be willing to hear the judgment of others.

If thy opinion be right, and yet thou recedest from it for God's-sake, and compliest with others, thou shalt thereby make great proficiency.

3. I have often heard, that it is safer to hear and take counsel, than to give it.

It may also fall out, that each one's opinion may be good : but to refuse to yield to others when reason or cause requireth it, is a sign of pride and obstinacy.



C H A P. X.

Of avoiding superfluity of words.

FLY the tumult of the world as much as thou canst : for the treating of worldly affairs is prejudicial, altho' it be done with sincere intention ;

For we are quickly defiled, and enthralled with vanity.

I could wish that I had oftentimes held my peace, and that I had not been in company.

C

Why

Why are we so fond of conversation, when notwithstanding we seldom return to silence without hurt of conscience?

The reason is, because we thereby seek mutual consolation, and desire to ease our mind wearied with sundry thoughts;

And we very willingly talk and think of those things which we most love or desire, or of those which we feel most contrary and troublesome unto us.

But alas, oftentimes in vain, and to no end: for this outward comfort doth not a little obstruct the inward and divine consolation.

Therefore we must watch and pray, lest our time pass away idly.

2. If it be lawful and expedient for thee to speak, speak those things that may edify.

An evil habit, and the neglect of our proficiency in virtue, contribute much to the ill government of our tongues.

However, devout conversation upon spiritual subjects doth greatly further our spiritual-growth, especially where persons of one mind and spirit are associated in God.

C H A P.



C H A P. XI.

Of the obtaining of peace, and zeal for improvement.

WE might enjoy much peace if we would not busy our selves with the words and deeds of others, in which we have no concern.

How can he live long in peace, that meddles with the cares of others, that seeks occasions abroad, that little or seldom recollecteth himself within his own breast?

Blessed are the single-hearted, for they shall enjoy much peace.

2. Why were some of the saints so perfect, and attained to such high degrees of contemplation? Because they laboured to mortify themselves wholly to all earthly desires; and therefore they could with their whole heart cleave to God, and keep their mind free and vacant.

We are too much taken up with our own passions, and too solicitous for transitory things.

We also seldom overcome any one vice perfectly, and are not inflamed with a fervent

desire to grow better every day: and therefore we remain cold and indifferent.

3. If we were perfectly dead unto our selves, and disingaged from all low affecti-
ons; then should we be able to relish divine
things, and experience something of hea-
venly contemplation.

The greatest and indeed the whole impe-
diment is, that we are not disentangled from
our passions and desires, neither do we en-
deavour to enter into that path of perfection,
wherein the saints have walked before us.

And when any small adversity befalleth us,
we are too quickly dejected, and turn our
selves to human comforts.

4. If we would endeavour, like men of
courage, to stand in the battle; we should
surely feel the assistance of God from hea-
ven.

For he who furnisheth us with occasions
of striving, that we may conquer, is ready
to succour those that strive, and trust in his
grace.

If we place our progress in religion only
in exterior observances, our devotion will
quickly be at an end.

But let us lay the axe to the root, that be-
ing freed from passions, we may find rest to
our souls.

5. If every year we would root out one
vice, we should soon become perfect men.

But

But now oftentimes we perceive, on the contrary, that we were better and purer at the beginning of our conversion, than after many years.

Our fervour and proficiency ought to increase daily ; but now it is accounted a great matter, if one can retain but some part of his first zeal.

If we would do ourselves some little violence at the beginning, then should we be able to perform all things afterwards with ease and delight.

6. It is hard to leave that to which we are accustomed, but harder to go against our own wills.

But if thou dost not overcome little and easy things, when wilt thou overcome harder things ?

Resist thy inclination in the very beginning, and unlearn evil customs, lest perhaps by little and little they draw thee to greater difficulty.

O, if thou didst but consider how much inward peace unto thy self, and joy unto others thou shouldst procure by demeaning thy self well, I suppose thou wouldst be more careful of thy spiritual advancement.



C H A P. XII.

Of the usefulness of adversity.

IT is good that we have sometimes some troubles and crosses: for they often make a man enter into himself, and consider that he is here in banishment, and ought not to place his trust in any worldly thing.

It is good that we be sometimes contradicted; and that men think ill of us: and this, altho' we do, and intend well. These things help often to the attaining of humility, and defend us from vain-glory.

For then we more diligently seek God for our inward witness, when outwardly we are contemned and disregarded by men.

2. Therefore a man should settle himself so fully in God, that he need not seek comforts of men.

When a good man is afflicted, tempted, or troubled with evil thoughts; then he understandeth better the great need he hath of God, without whom he perceiveth he can do nothing good.

Then

Then also he sorroweth, groaneth, and prayeth by reason of the miseries he suffereth.

Then he desireth not to live any longer, but rather to die, to be dissolved and to be with CHRIST.

Then also he well perceiveth, that perfect security and full peace cannot be had in this world.



C H A P. XIII.

Of resisting temptation.

SO long as we live in this world, we cannot be without tribulation and temptation.

Hence it is written in *Job*, the life of man is a warfare upon earth.

Every one therefore ought to take care as to his own temptations, and to watch in prayer, lest he be deceived by the devil; who never sleepeth, but goeth about seeking whom he may devour.

No man is so perfect and holy, but hath sometimes temptations: and we cannot be altogether without them.

2. Temptations are often very profitable to men, tho' they be troublesome and grievous: for in them a man is humbled, purified, and instructed.

All the saints have passed through, and profited by, many tribulations and temptations ;

And they that could not bear temptations, became reprobates and fell away.

There is no order so holy, nor place so secret, where there are not temptations or adversities.

3. There is no man that is altogether secure from temptations whilst he liveth : for the root of temptation is in ourselves, being born with inclinations to evil.

When one temptation or tribulation goeth away, another cometh, and we shall ever have something to suffer, because we are fallen from the state of our felicity.

Many seek to fly temptations, and fall more grievously into them.

By flight alone we cannot overcome, but by patience and true humility we conquer all our enemies.

4. He that only avoideth them outwardly, and doth not pluck them up by the roots, shall profit little ; yea, temptations will sooner return unto him, and he shall feel them worse than before.

By little and little, and by patience and longanimity (through GOD'S help) thou shalt more easily overcome, than by harsh and disquieting efforts in thy own strength.

Often take counsel in temptations: and deal not roughly with him that is tempted,
but

but give him comfort as thou wouldst wish to be done to thy self.

5. The beginning of all temptations to evil, is inconstancy of mind, and little confidence in God.

For as a ship without a rudder is tossed to and fro with the waves ; so the man that is negligent, and breaketh his resolutions, is many ways tempted.

Fire trieth iron, and temptation a just man.

We know not often what we are able to do, but temptations shew us what we are.

We must be watchful, especially in the beginning of the temptation ; for the enemy is then more easily overcome, if he be not suffered to enter the door of our hearts, but be resisted without the gate at his first knock.

Wherefore one said, Withstand the beginnings. For an after-remedy comes too late.

First there occurreth to the mind a simple evil thought : then a strong imagination ; then afterward delight, and evil motion ; and lastly consent :

And so by little and little our malicious enemy getteth entrance, whilst he is not resisted in the beginning.

And the longer one is slack in resisting, the weaker he becomes daily, and the enemy stronger against him.

6. Some

6. Some suffer the greatest temptations in the beginning of their conversion; others in the latter end.

Others again are much troubled almost throughout their life.

Some are but slightly tempted according to the wisdom and equity of the divine appointment, which weigheth the states and deserts of men, and ordaineth all things for the good of his elect.

7. We ought not therefore to despair when we are tempted, but so much the more fervently to pray unto GOD, that he will vouchsafe to help us in all tribulations; who surely, according to the words of *St. Paul*, will give with the temptation such a way to escape, that we may be able to bear it.

Let us therefore humble our selves under the hand of GOD in all temptations and tribulations, for he will save and exalt the humble in spirit.

8. In temptations and afflictions, man is proved how much he hath profited; and his reward is hereby the greater, and his virtues do more eminently shine.

Neither is it any such great thing if a man be devout and fervent, when he feeleth no affliction; but if, in time of adversity, he bear himself patiently, there is hope then of great proficiency.

Some are kept from great temptations, and are often overcome in small ones, which
daily

daily occur ; that being humbled, they may never confide in themselves in great matters, who are baffled in so small things.



C H A P. XIV.

Of avoiding rash judgment.

TURN thine eyes unto thy self and beware thou judge not the deeds of other men.

In judging of others a man laboureth in vain, often erreth, and easily sinneth : but in judging and examining himself, he always laboureth fruitfully.

We often judge of things according as we fancy them ; for private affection bereaves us easily of a right judgment.

If God were always the pure intention of our desire, we should not be so much troubled, when our inclination is opposed.

2. But oftentimes something lurks within, or else occurreth from without, which draweth us after it.

Many secretly seek themselves in their actions, and know it not.

They seem also to live in peace of mind, when things are done according to their will

will and opinion ; but if things succeed otherwise than they desire, they are straitways troubled and afflicted.

Diversity of inclinations and opinions, often causes dissensions between religious and devout persons, between friends and countrymen.

3. An old custom is hardly broken, and no man is willing to be led further than himself can see.

If thou dost more rely upon thine own reason or industry, than upon the virtue which was in JESUS CHRIST, and to which thou oughtest to subject thyself; late, if ever, shalt thou become illuminated; for GOD will have us perfectly subject unto him, and that, being enflamed with his love, we transcend the narrow limits of human reason.



C H A P. XV.

Of works done out of charity.

FOR no worldly thing, nor for the love of any man, is any evil to be done: but yet, for the profit of one that standeth in need, a good work is sometimes to be intermitted without scruple, or changed for a better. For

For by thy doing this, a good work is not lost, but changed into a better.

The outward work without charity profiteth nothing; but whatsoever is done out of charity, be it never so little and contemptible in the sight of the world, is become wholly fruitful.

For GOD weigheth more with how much love one worketh, than how much he doeth. He doeth much, that loveth much.

2. He doeth much, that doeth a thing well:

He doeth well, that serveth his neighbour, and not his own will.

Often it seemeth to be charity, and it is rather carnality; because natural inclination, self-will, hope of reward, and desire of our own interest, are motives that men are rarely free from.

3. He that hath true and perfect charity, seeketh himself in nothing; but only desireth in all things that the glory of GOD should be exalted.

He also envieth none, because he seeketh not his own satisfaction: neither will he rejoyce in himself; but chuses GOD only for his portion and beatitude.

He attributeth nothing that is good to any man, but wholly referreth it unto GOD, from whom as from the fountain all things proceed; in whom finally all the saints do rest with perpetual fruition. O,

O, he that had but one spark of true charity, would certainly discern that all earthly things are full of vanity.



C H A P. XVI.

Of bearing with the defects of others.

THOSE things, that a man cannot amend in himself, or in others, he ought to suffer patiently until GOD order things otherwise.

Think that perhaps it is better so for thy trial and patience, without which all our deeds are not much to be esteemed.

Thou oughtest to pray when thou hast such impediments, that GOD would vouchsafe to help thee, and that thou mayest bear them patiently.

2. If one that is once or twice warned will not give over, contend not with him : but commit all to GOD, that his will may be done, and his name honoured in all his servants, who well knoweth how to turn evil into good.

Study to be patient in bearing with the defects and and infirmities of others, of what sort soever they be ; for that thou thy self
also

also hast many, which must be suffered by others.

If thou canst not make thy self such a one as thou wouldst, how canst thou expect to have another in all things to thy liking ?

We would willingly have others perfect, and yet we amend not our own faults.

3. We would have others exactly corrected, and will not be corrected our selves.

The large liberty of others displeaseth us, and yet we will not have our desires denied us.

We will have others kept under by strict laws ; but in no sort will our selves be restrained.

Thus it appears, how seldom we weigh our neighbour in the same ballance with our selves.

4. If all men were perfect, what should we have to suffer of our neighbour for GOD ?

But now GOD hath thus ordered it, that we may learn to bear one another's burdens : for no man is without fault, no man but hath his burden, no man is self-sufficient, no man has wisdom enough for himself ; but we ought to bear with one another, comfort help, instruct, and admonish one another.

Occasions of adversity best discover how great virtue each one hath ;

For occasions make not a man frail, but shew what he is.



C H A P. XVII.

Of living in a religious community.

THOU must learn to break thy own will in many things, if thou wilt have peace and concord with others.

It is no small matter to dwell in a religious community and to converse therein without complaint, and to persevere therein faithfully until death.

Blessed is he that hath there lived well, and ended happily.

If thou wilt persevere and profit as thou oughtest, esteem thy self as a banished man, and a stranger upon earth. Thou must be contented for CHRIST'S sake to be esteemed a fool, if thou desire to lead a holy life.

2. The wearing of a religious habit, little profits ; but change of manners, and perfect mortification of passions, makes a true religious man.

He that seeketh any thing else, but GOD, and the salvation of his soul, shall find nothing but tribulation and sorrow.

Neither can he remain long in peace, that laboureth not to be the least, and subject to all.

3. Thou

3. Thou camest to serve, not to rule. Know that thou was called to suffer and to labour, and not to be idle, or pass your time in unprofitable conversations.

Here therefore men are proved as gold in the furnace.

Here no man can stand, unless he humble himself with his whole heart for the love of GOD.



CHAP. XVIII.

Of the examples of the holy fathers.

CONSIDER the lively examples of the holy fathers, in whom true perfection and religion shined; and thou shalt see how little it is, and almost nothing which we do now.

Alas; what is our life, if it be compared to them!

These faints and friends of CHRIST served the LORD in hunger and thirst, in cold and nakedness, in labour and weariness, in watchings and fastings, in prayer and holy meditations, in persecutions and many reproaches.

2. O, how many and grievous tribulations suffered the apostles, martyrs, confessors,

D

virgins,

virgins, and all the rest that would follow the steps of CHRIST!

They hated their lives in this world, that they might possess their souls in everlasting life.

O how strict and self-renouncing a life, led those holy fathers in the wilderness! How long and grievous temptations suffered they! How often were they assaulted by the enemy! What frequent and fervent prayers offered they to GOD! How rigorous an abstinence did they daily use! How great zeal and care had they of their spiritual proficiency! How strong a combat had they for the overcoming of their lusts! How pure and upright an intention did they persevere unto GOD!

All the day they laboured, and spent part of the night in prayer; altho', even while they laboured, they had not ceased from mental prayer.

3. They spent all their time usefully: all their hours of devotion seemed short: and, by reason of the great sweetness they felt in contemplation, they forgot the necessity of corporal refreshments.

They renounced all riches, dignities, honours, friends, and kinsfolks; they desired to have nothing of the world; they took no more of any thing than was necessary for the sustenance of life.

They

They were poor in earthly things, but rich in grace and virtues.

Outwardly they wanted, but inwardly were refreshed with grace and divine consolation.

4. They were strangers to the world, but near and familiar friends to God.

They seemed to themselves as nothing, and were despised by the world: but they were precious and beloved in the eyes of God.

They were grounded in true humility, lived in simple obedience, walked in love and patience, and therefore they profited daily in spirit, and obtained great favour with God.

They were given for an example to all religious men; and they should more provoke us to profit daily, than the number of the lukewarm to make us remiss.

5. O, how great was the fervour of all religious persons in the beginning of their holy institution!

How devout was their prayer! What zeal to excel in virtue! How exact discipline then flourished! How great reverence and obedience, under the rule of their superiors, observed they in all things!

Their footsteps yet remaining, testify that they were indeed holy and perfect men;

who fighting so valiantly, trod the world under their feet.

Now he is thought extraordinary, that offendeth not, and that can with patience endure that which is laid upon him.

6. O, the lukewarmness and negligence of our times; that we so soon decline from the former fervour, insomuch that our life grows burthensome through sloth and listlessness.

Would to GOD the desire to profit did not sleep in thee, who hast often seen the many examples of devout persons.



C H A P. XIX.

Of the exercises of a religious person.

THE life of a religious person ought to be adorned with all virtues: that he may inwardly be such as outwardly he seems to men.

And with reason ought he to be much more virtuous within, than is perceived without: for GOD beholdeth us, whom we ought most highly to reverence wheresoever we are, and walk in purity like angels in his sight.

Daily

Daily should we renew our purposes, and stir up our selves to fervour, as tho' this were the first day of our conversion; and say,

Help me, O LORD GOD, in this my good purpose, and in thy holy service; and grant that I may now this day begin perfectly: for that which I have done hitherto is nothing.

2. According to our purpose shall be our spiritual profiting; and much diligence is necessary to him that will profit much.

If he that firmly purposeth often faileth, what shall he do, that seldom, or feebly, purposeth any thing.

It may fall out sundry ways that we break our resolution, and a little omission of *spiritual* exercises seldom passes without some loss.

The purpose of just men depends not so upon their own wisdom, as upon the grace of GOD, on whom they always rely, whatsoever they take in hand.

For man doth purpose, but GOD doth dispose; neither is the way of man in himself.

3. If an accustomed exercise be sometimes omitted, either for some act of piety, or profit to thy brother, it may easily afterwards be recovered again.

But to omit it out of sloth, or carelessness, is very blameable, and will be found pernicious.

Let us do the best we can, we shall fail in many things;

Yet must we always purpose some certain course, and especially against those things, which most hinder us.

We must diligently search into, and regulate both the outward and inward man, because both contribute to our advancement.

4. If thou canst not continually recollect thy self; yet do it sometimes, at the least once a day, to wit, at morning, or at night.

In the morning fix what to do, at night examine thy self what thou hast done, how thou hast behaved thy self in thought, word, and deed; for in these perhaps thou hast often offended both GOD and thy neighbour.

Gird thy loins like a man against the assaults of the devil; bridle thy appetite, and thou shalt the more easily bridle all the motions of the flesh.

Be thou at no time idle altogether, but either reading, or writing, or praying, or meditating, or endeavouring something for the publick good.

Yet bodily exercises must be used with discretion, neither are they to be practised of all men alike.

5. Some

5. Some religious exercifes, which are not common, are better practifed in privacy.

Nevertheless beware thou neglect not the duties incumbent on thee, for thofe of thy own choice. But, having fully and faithfully accomplifhed the former, if thou haft any fpare time, thou mayeft follow thy pious inclinations.

All cannot ufe one kind of exercife, but one is more convenient for this perfon, another for that ;

According to the feafonablenefs of times alfo, divers exercifes are fitting. Some fuit better with us on working-days, others on holy-days.

Some we have need of in the time of temptation, and of others in time of peace and quietnefs.

Some, when we are dejected ; and others, when we rejoyce in the LORD.

6. When chief festivals draw near, good exercifes are to be renewed, and the prayers of holy men more frequently to be implored.

From feaft to feaft we fhould make our good purpofes, as tho' we were then to depart out of this world, and to come to the everlafting feaft.

Therefore ought we carefully to prepare our felves at holy times, and to live more devoutly, and exactly, as tho' we were

shortly at GOD'S hands to receive the reward of our labours.

But if it be deferred, let us think with ourselves that we are not sufficiently prepared, and unworthy yet of so great glory, which shall be revealed in us in due time; and let us endeavour to prepare ourselves better for our departure.

Blessed is that servant (saith St. Luke the Evangelist) whom when his Lord cometh he shall find watching; verily, I say unto you, he shall make him ruler over all his goods. ..



C H A P. XX.

Of the love of solitude and silence.

SE E K a convenient time to retire into thy self, and meditate often upon GOD'S benefits.

Meddle not with curiosities;

Read such things as may rather yield compunction of heart, than busy thy head.

If thou wilt withdraw thy self from superfluous talk, and useles visits, as also from hearkening after news and rumours; thou shalt find sufficient and convenient leisure to meditate on good things.

The

The greatest faints avoided the society of men when they could conveniently, and rather chose to serve God in secret.

2. One said, As often as I have been among men, I returned less a man; and this we often find true, when we have been long in company.

It is easier not to speak at all, than not to speak more than we should.

It is easier to keep at home, than to be sufficiently upon our guard when we are abroad.

He therefore, that intends to attain to inward and spiritual things, must with JESUS retire from the multitude.

No man safely goes abroad, but he who is willing to stay at home:

No man can speak safely, but he who is willing to hold his peace.

No man ruleth safely, but he that is willing to be ruled.

No man safely commands, but he that hath learned readily to obey.

3. No man safely rejoyceth, unless he hath within him the testimony of a good conscience;

And yet the security of the faints was always full of the fear of God.

Neither were they less careful and humble in themselves, because they shined outwardly with grace and great virtues.

But

But the security of the wicked riseth out of pride and presumption, and in the end makes them deceive their own souls.

Altho' thou art in a convent, or a desert, yet promise not thy self security in this life.

4. Those have often through confidence in themselves fallen into the greatest dangers, who have been in the greatest esteem among men.

Wherefore it is more profitable to many not to be altogether free from temptations, but to be often assaulted, lest they should be too secure, lest they should be puffed up with pride, or too freely decline to worldly comforts.

O how good a conscience would he keep, that would never seek after transitory joy, nor entangle himself with the things of this world!

O how great peace and quietness would he possess, that would cut off all vain solicitude, and think only upon divine things, and such as are profitable for his soul, and would place all his confidence in GOD!

5. No man is worthy of heavenly comforts, unless he diligently exercises himself in holy compunction.

If thou desirest compunction of heart, enter into thy closet, and shut out the tumults of the world, according to the advice of the Psalmist (iv. 4.) *Commune with your own heart and in your chamber, and be still.*

In

In thy closet thou shalt find what abroad thou often lovest.

The more thou frequentest thy closet, the more thou wilt like it; the less thou comest thereunto, the more thou wilt loath it.

If in the beginning of thy conversion thou passest much time in it, it will afterwards be to thee a dear friend, and pleasant comfort.

6. In silence and in stillness a religious soul profiteth, and learneth the hidden truths of holy scripture.

There she findeth rivers of tears, wherein she may every night wash and cleanse herself, that she may be so much the more familiar with her CREATOR, by how much the further off she liveth from all worldly tumult.

Who so therefore withdraweth himself from his acquaintance and friends, GOD, with his holy angels, will draw near unto him.

It is better for a man to live privately and to have regard to himself, than to neglect his soul, and work miracles.

It is commendable in a religious person seldom to go abroad, and to avoid seeing or being seen.

7. Why art thou desirous to see that which is unlawful for thee to enjoy? for the world passeth away, and the desire thereof.

Our sensual desires draw us to rove abroad; but when the time is past, what carriest thou
home

home with thee, but a burdened conscience and dissipated heart?

A merry going out often bringeth a mournful return, and a joyful evening a sad morning.

So all carnal joy enters pleasantly, but in the end it bites and stings to death.

What canst thou see elsewhere, which thou canst not see here: behold the heaven and the earth and all the elements; for of these are all things created.

8. *What canst thou see any where, that can long continue, under the sun?*

Thou thinkest perchance to satisfy thy self, but thou canst never attain it.

Shouldst thou see all the things of this world, what were it but a vain sight?

Lift up thine eyes to God in the highest, and pray to him to pardon all thy sins and negligences.

Leave vain things to the vain, but be thou intent upon those things which God commandeth thee.

Shut thy door upon thee, and call unto thee JESUS thy beloved.

Stay with him in thy closet; for thou shalt not find so great peace any-where else.

Hadst thou not gone abroad and hearkened to idle rumours, thou mightest the better have remained in peace. But so long as
thou

thou delightest to hear novelties, thou must endure trouble of heart.



. C H A P. XXI.

Of compunction of heart.

IF thou wilt make any progress, keep thy self in the fear of God, and use not too much liberty.

Keep all thy senses under discipline, and give not thy self over to trifling mirth.

Give thy self to compunction of heart, and thou shalt find devotion.

Compunction bringeth much good, which dissoluteness is wont quickly to destroy.

It is a wonder that any man can ever perfectly rejoice in this life, if he duly consider his banishment, and thoroughly weigh the many perils wherewith his soul is invironed.

2. The levity of our minds and want of concern for our faults, maketh us lose the sense of our inward state, and often laugh, when we have just cause to weep.

There is no true liberty nor right gladness, but in the fear of God and a good conscience.

Happy

Happy is he, that can avoid all distracting impediments, and recollect himself to the union of holy compunction.

Happy is he, that can abandon all that may defile or burthen his conscience.

Resist manfully : one custom overcometh another.

If thou canst let others alone, they likewise will let thee do as thou pleatest.

3. Busy not thy self in matters which appertain to others ; neither trouble thy self with the affairs of thy betters.

Still have an eye to thy self first, and be sure to admonish thy self, before all thy friends.

If thou hast not the favour of men, be not grieved at it ; but grieve that thou dost not carry thy self so warily and circumspectly as it becometh the servant of God.

It is often better and safer that a man hath not many consolations in this life, especially worldly ones. But that we have not at all or seldom divine consolations, is our own fault, because we seek not compunction of heart, nor do altogether forsake vain and outward comforts.

4. Know that thou art unworthy of divine consolation, and that thou hast rather deserved much tribulation.

When a man hath perfect contrition, then is the whole world grievous and bitter unto him. A

A good man findeth sufficient cause of mourning and weeping ;

For whether he considers his own or his neighbour's estate, he knoweth that none liveth here without tribulation.

And the more narrowly he looks into himself, the more he sorroweth.

Our sins and wickednesses, wherein we are so enwrapt, that we can seldom apply our selves to heavenly contemplations, do minister unto us matter of most just sorrow and inward compunction.

5. Didst thou oftner think of thy death, than of thy living long, there is no question but thou wouldest be more zealous to amead.

I believe thou wouldest willingly undergo any labour, or sorrow, or austerity, if thou didst consider within thy self the pains of a future state.

But because these things enter not into the heart, and we still love the things of the world, therefore we remain cold and slothful.

6. It is a want of the Spirit which maketh our miserable body so easily complain.

Pray therefore unto the LORD with all humility, that he will vouchsafe to give thee the spirit of compunction. And say with the prophet, *Psal. lxxx. Feed me, O LORD,*
with

with the bread of tears, and give me plentifulness of tears to drink.



C H A P. XXII.

Of the consideration of human misery.

Miserable thou art wheresoever thou be, or whithersoever thou turnest, unless thou turn thy self to GOD.

Why art thou troubled, when things succeed not as thou wouldest or desirest? Who is he that hath all things according to his mind? Neither I, nor thou, nor any man upon earth.

There is none in this world, be he king or lord, without some tribulation.

Who is in the best case? He who can suffer something for GOD.

2. Many weak ones say, behold what an happy life hath such a one, how wealthy, how great is he, in how great power and dignity!

But lift up thine eyes to the riches of heaven, and thou shalt see that all these goods are nothing. They are very uncertain, yea burdensome, because they are never possess'd without carefulness and fear.

Man's

Man's happiness consisteth not in having abundance of wealth, but a mean estate is sufficient for him.

The life of a man upon earth is full of misery : and the more he desires to become spiritual, the more burthensome it proves, because he feels more sensibly the mischievous effects of human corruption.

Woe be to them that know not their own misery ; and a greater woe to them that love this wretched and corrupt life.

Yet some so much dote upon it, that altho' with great labour and pains they can scarce get mere necessaries, yet could they live here always, they would not care for the kingdom of heaven.

4. O foolish and faithless of heart, who are so deeply sunk in the earth, that they can relish nothing but carnal things !

But, miserable wretches as they are, they shall in the end sadly feel how vile and how nothing that was which they loved :

The saints of GOD, and all the devout friends of CHRIST regarded not those things which pleased the flesh, or which were in repute in this life, but their whole hope and aim panting after eternal goods.

Their whole desire was carried upward to things durable and invisible, that the desire of things visible might not draw them to things below.

E

O bro-

O brother, quit not thy hope of profiting in spiritual things: there is yet time, the hour is not yet past.

5. Why wilt thou defer thy good purpose?

Arise, begin this instant, and say, Now is the time to be doing, now is the time to be striving, now is the time to amend.

When thou art uneasy and troubled, then is the time of deserving best;

Thou must pass through fire and water before thou comest to the place of refreshing.

Unless thou doest violence to thy self, thou shalt never get the victory over sin.

So long as we carry about us this frail body, we cannot be without sin, or live without trouble.

We would gladly be freed from all misery; but, seeing by sin we have lost our innocency, we have lost also true felicity.

Therefore we must have patience, and wait for the mercy of God, till this our iniquity pass away, and mortality be swallowed up of life.

6. O how great is human frailty, which is always prone to evil!

To-day thou confessest thy sins, and to-morrow committest the very same thou hast confes'd.

Now

Now thou resolvest to look well unto thy ways, and in an hour behavest thy self, as tho' thou hadst not resolved at all.

Good cause have we therefore to humble ourselves, and never to have any great conceit of our selves; because we are so frail and so inconstant.

That may quickly be lost by our own negligence, which, by the grace of God and our own great pains, we have scarce at length obtained.

7. What will become of us in the end, who grow cold so soon.

Woe unto us, if we go to repose ourselves, as if all were peace and safety, when as yet there appeareth no sign of true holiness in our conversation!

We have need, like young beginners, to be newly instructed again to good life, if haply there may be any hope of our being some time the better, and making greater progress in spiritual things.



C H A P. XXIII.

Of the meditation of death.

THIS life will soon be at an end : consider therefore how thy affairs stand in relation to the next.

There will very quickly be an end of thee here ; therefore see what will become of thee hereafter.

Man is to-day ; to-morrow he is gone.

When he is out of sight, he is soon forgot.

O, the stupidity and hardness of man's heart, who thinketh only upon the present, and hath no more care of what is to come !

Thou shouldst so order thy self in all thy thoughts and all thy actions, as if thou wert to die to-day.

Hadst thou a clear conscience, thou wouldst not much fear death.

It were better to avoid sin, than to fly death.

If thou art not prepared to-day, how wilt thou be to-morrow ?

To-morrow is uncertain, and how knowest thou that thou shalt live till to-morrow ?

2. What availeth it to live long, when we are so little the better.

Alas !

Alas ! long life doth not always mend us :
but often increaseth guilt.

O that we had spent but one day well in
this world !

Many there are, who reckon years since
their conversion ; and yet there is often little
fruit of amendment in them.

If to die be dreadful, to live longer may
perhaps prove more dangerous.

Happy is he, that always hath the hour of
his death before his eyes, and daily prepareth
himself to die.

If at any time thou hast seen another die,
think thou must also pass the same way.

3. When it is morning, think thou mayest
die before night.

When evening comes, dare not to promise
thy self the next morning.

Be therefore always in readiness, and so
live, that death may never take thee unpre-
pared.

Many die suddenly, and when they look
not for it ; for *in such an hour as you think
not, the Son of man cometh.* Matt. xxiv. 44.

When that last hour shall come, thou wilt
have a far different opinion of thy whole life
that is past, and be exceeding sorry thou hast
been so careless and remiss.

4. How wise and happy is he, that labour-
eth to be such in his life, as he will wish to
be found at the hour of his death !

A perfect contempt of the world, a fervent desire to go forward in virtue, the love of discipline, a painful repentance, a ready obedience, the renouncing our selves, and the bearing any affliction for the love of CHRIST, will give us great confidence we shall die happily.

Whilst thou art in health, thou mayest do much good; but when thou art sick, I know not what thou wilt be able to do.

Few by sickness grow better; and they who travel much are seldom sanctified.

5. Trust not in friends and kindred, neither put off the care of thy soul till hereafter; for men will sooner forget thee, than thou art aware of.

If thou beest not careful for thy self now, who will be careful for thee hereafter?

The time present is very precious, now are the days of salvation, now is the acceptable time.

But alas! that thou shouldst spend thy time no better here, where thou mightest purchase life eternal. The time will come when thou shalt desire one day or hour to amend in, and I cannot say that it will be granted thee.

6. O my friend, from how great danger mayest thou deliver thy self! from how great fear, if thou wilt be always mindful of death!

Labour

Labour now to live so, that at the hour of death thou mayest rather rejoyce than fear :

Learn now to die to the world, that thou mayest then begin to live with CHRIST.

Learn now to contemn all earthly things, that thou mayest then freely go to CHRIST.

Chastise thy body now by repentance, that thou mayest then have assured confidence.

7. Ah fool, why dost thou think to live long, when thou canst not promise to thy self one day ?

How many have been deceived and suddenly snatch'd away ?

How often dost thou hear, Such a man is slain, another is drowned, a third has broke his neck with a fall ; this man died eating, and that man playing ;

One perished by fire, another by the sword, another of the plague, another was slain by thieves. Thus death is the end of all, and man's life suddenly passeth away like a shadow.

8. Who shall remember thee when thou art dead ! Do, do now, my beloved, whatsoever thou art able to do : for thou knowest not when thou shalt die, nor yet what shall befall thee after thy death.

Now, whilst thou hast time, lay up for thy self everlasting riches.

Think on nothing but the salvation of thy soul, care for nothing but the things of GOD.

Make now friends to thy self, by honouring the saints of GOD, and imitating their actions, that when thou failest in this life, they may receive thee into everlasting habitations.

9. Keep thy self as a stranger and pilgrim upon earth, who hath nothing to do with the affairs of this world.

Keep thy heart free, and lifted up to GOD, because thou hast here no abiding city.

Send thither thy daily prayers, and sighs, and tears, that after death thy spirit may happily pass to the LORD. *Amen.*



C H A P. XXIV.

Of judgment, and the punishment of sins.

IN all things remember the end, and how thou wilt be able to stand before that severe JUDGE, from whom nothing is hid, who is not pacified with gifts, nor admitteth any excuses, but will judge according to right.

O wretch-

O wretched and foolish sinner, who sometimes fearest the countenance of an angry man; what answer wilt thou make to GOD, who knowest all thy wickedness?

Why dost thou not provide for thy self against that great day of judgment, when no man can excuse or answer for another, but every one shall have enough to answer for himself?

Now are thy pains profitable, thy tears acceptable, thy groans heard, thy grief pacifieth GOD, and purifieth thy soul.

2. The patient man hath a great and wholesome purification, who, tho' he receive injuries, yet grieveth more for the malice of another, than for his own wrong; who gladly prayeth for his adversaries, and from his heart forgiveth their offences; who delayeth not to ask forgiveness of whomsoever he hath offended; who is sooner moved to compassion than to anger; who often doth violence to himself, and laboureth to bring the body wholly into subjection to the spirit.

It is better to purify out our sins, and root out our vices here, than to keep them to be punished hereafter.

Verily we do but deceive our selves thro' an inordinate love of the flesh.

3. *What is it that that infernal fire feeds upon, but thy sins?*

The

The more thou sparest thy self now, and followest the flesh; so much the more hereafter shall be thy punishment, and thou storest up greater fuel for the flame.

In what thing a man hath sinned, in the same shall he be the more grievously punished.

There shall the slothful be drove with burning goads, and the gluttons be tormented with great hunger and thirst.

There shall the luxurious and lovers of pleasure be bathed in burning pitch and stinking brimstone, and the envious shall howl for pain.

4. There is no sin but shall have its proper torment.

There the proud shall be filled with all shame: the covetous shall be pinched with miserable penury,

One hour of pain there, shall be more bitter than a thousand years of the sharpest penance here!

There is no quiet, no comfort for the damned there: here we have some intermission of our labours, and enjoy the comfort of our friends.

Be now solicitous and sorrowful because of thy sins, that at the day of judgment thou mayest be secure with the blessed.

For

For then shall the righteous stand with great boldness before such as have vexed and oppressed them ;

Then shall He stand to judge, who doth now humbly submit himself to the judgment of others.

Then shall the poor and humble have great confidence, but the proud man shall be compassed with fear on every side.

5. Then will it appear, that he was wise in this world, who had learned to be a fool and despised for CHRIST'S sake.

Then shall every affliction patiently undergone delight us, and the mouth of iniquity shall be stopped.

Then shall the devout rejoice, and the profane mourn.

Then shall he more rejoice that hath mortified his flesh, than he that hath abounded in all pleasure.

Then shall the poor attire shine gloriously, and the precious robes appear vile.

Then shall be more commended the poor cottage, than the gilded palace.

Then will constant patience more avail us, than all earthly power.

Then simple obedience shall be preferred before all worldly wisdom.

6. Then shall a good and clear conscience more rejoyce a man, than deep philosophy.

Then

Then shall the contempt of riches weigh more, than all the worldling's treasure.

Then wilt thou be more comforted, that thou hast prayed devoutly, than that thou hast fared daintily.

Then wilt thou be more glad thou hast kept silence, than that thou hast said much.

Then will good works avail more, than many fine words.

Then a strict life and a severe repentance will be more pleasing, than all earthly delights.

Accustom thy self now to suffer a little, that thou mayest then be delivered from more grievous pains.

Prove first here, what thou canst endure hereafter.

If now thou canst endure so little, how wilt thou be able to endure perpetual torments ?

If now a little suffering make thee so impatient, what will hell-fire do hereafter ?

Affure thy self, thou canst no. have two paradises ; thou canst not indulge thy self here, and after reign with CHRIST.

7. Suppose thou hadst hitherto lived always in honours and delights ; what would all this avail thee, if thou wert to die this instant ?

AN

All therefore is vanity, but to love GOD and serve him only.

For he that loveth GOD with all his heart, is neither afraid of death, nor judgment, nor hell : for perfect love gives secure access to GOD.

But he that still takes delight in sin ; what marvel is it, if he be afraid both of death and judgment ?

Yet it is good, altho' love be not yet of force to withhold thee from sin, that at least the fear of hell should restrain thee.

But he, that layeth aside the fear of GOD, can never continue long in good estate, but falleth quickly into the snares of the devil.



C H A P XXV.

Of the zealous amendment of our whole life.

BE watchful and diligent in the service of GOD, and often bethink thy self wherefore thou hast renounced the world. Was it not, that thou mightest live to GOD, and become a spiritual man ?

Be fervent then to improve ; for shortly thou shalt receive the reward of thy labours ;
nor

nor shall there be any more fear of grief in thy coasts.

Labour but a little now, and thou shalt find great rest, yea perpetual joy.

If thou continuest faithful and fervent in doing *good*, no doubt GOD will be faithful and liberal in rewarding thee.

Thou oughtest to have a good hope of getting the victory; but thou must not be secure, lest thou wax either negligent or proud.

2. When one, that was in great anxiety of mind, often wavering between fear and hope, did once, being oppressed with grief, humbly prostrate himself in a church in prayer, and said within himself, *O, if I knew that I should persevere!* he presently heard within him an answer from GOD, which said, *If thou didst know it, what wouldst thou do? Do now what thou wouldst do then, and thou shalt be safe.*

And being herewith comforted and strengthened, he committed himself wholly to the will of GOD, and his anxiety ceased:

Neither had he any mind to search curiously further what should befall him; but rather laboured to understand what was the perfect and acceptable will of GOD, for the beginning and accomplishing of every good work.

3. Hope

3. Hope in the LORD, and do good, faith the prophet, and inhabit the land, and thou shalt be fed.

One thing there is that draweth many back from spiritual progress and diligent amendment, the horror of the difficulty, or the labour of the combat.

But they improve most in virtue, that endeavour most to overcome those things which are grievous and contrary to them.

For there a man improveth more and obtaineth greater *grace*, where he more overcomeh himself and mortifieth himself in *spirit*.

4. But all men have not alike to overcome and mortify ;

Yet he that is zealous and diligent, tho' he have more passions, shall profit more than another that is of a more temperate disposition, if he be less fervent in the pursuit of virtue.

Two things especially further our amendment, to wit, to withdraw ourselves violently from that to which nature is most viciously inclined, and to labour earnestly for that virtue which we most want.

Be careful also to avoid and conquer those things in thy self, which commonly displease thee in others.

5. Gather some profit to thy *soul* where-soever thou be ; so as if thou seeest or hearest
of

of any good examples, stir up thy self to the imitation thereof.

But if thou seeft any thing worthy of reproof, beware thou do not the same. And, if at any time thou haft done it, labour quickly to amend it.

As thine eye obferveth others, fo art thou alfo noted again by others.

O how fweet and pleafant a thing it is, to fee the fervants of CHRIST fervent, devout, and virtuous!

And on the contrary, how grievous a thing it is, to fee them that live diffolutely, not applying themfelves to that for which they are called!

O how hurtful a thing it is, to neglect the good purpofes of their vocation, and to bufy themfelves in that which is not committed to their care!

6. Be mindful of the profeflion thou haft made, and have always before thy eyes the remembrance of thy *Saviour crucified*.

Thou haft good caufe to be afhamed looking upon the life of JESUS CHRIST, feeing thou haft as yet no more endeavoured to conform thy self unto him, tho' thou haft walked a long time in the way of GOD.

A religious perfon that exercifeth himfelf ferioufly, and devoutly in the moft holy *life* and *paflion* of our LORD, fhall there abundantly find whatfoever is neceffary and profitable

fitable for him ; neither shall he need to seek any better thing out of JESUS.

O, if JESUS *crucified* would come into our hearts, how quickly and fully should we be instructed *in all truth*.

7. A fervent religious person taketh and beareth all well that is commanded him.

But he, that is negligent and cold, hath *tribulation upon tribulation*, and on all sides is afflicted ; for he is void of *inward consolation*, and is forbidden to seek *external comforts*.

A religious person, that liveth not according to discipline, lies open to great mischief.

He, that seeketh the loosest and slackest rules, shall ever live in disquiet ; for one thing or other will displease him.

8. When a man cometh to that estate, that he seeketh not his comfort from any creature ; then doth he begin perfectly to relish GOD. Then will he be pleased with whatsoever doth befall him.

Then he will neither rejoyce in having much, nor grieve for having but a little ; but entirely and confidently commit himself to GOD, who is all in all to him ; to whom nothing perishes or dies always, but all things live to him, and instantly obey his command.

9. Remember the end, and that time lost never returns. Without care and diligence thou wilt never get virtue.

F

If

If thou beginnest to be lukewarm, thou wilt soon begin to be in an ill state.

But if thou give thy self up to fervour, thou shalt find much peace, and feel less labour, through the assistance of God's grace, and love of *virtue*.

The fervent and diligent man is prepared for all things.

It is harder labour to resist *vices* and *passions*, than to toil in bodily labours.

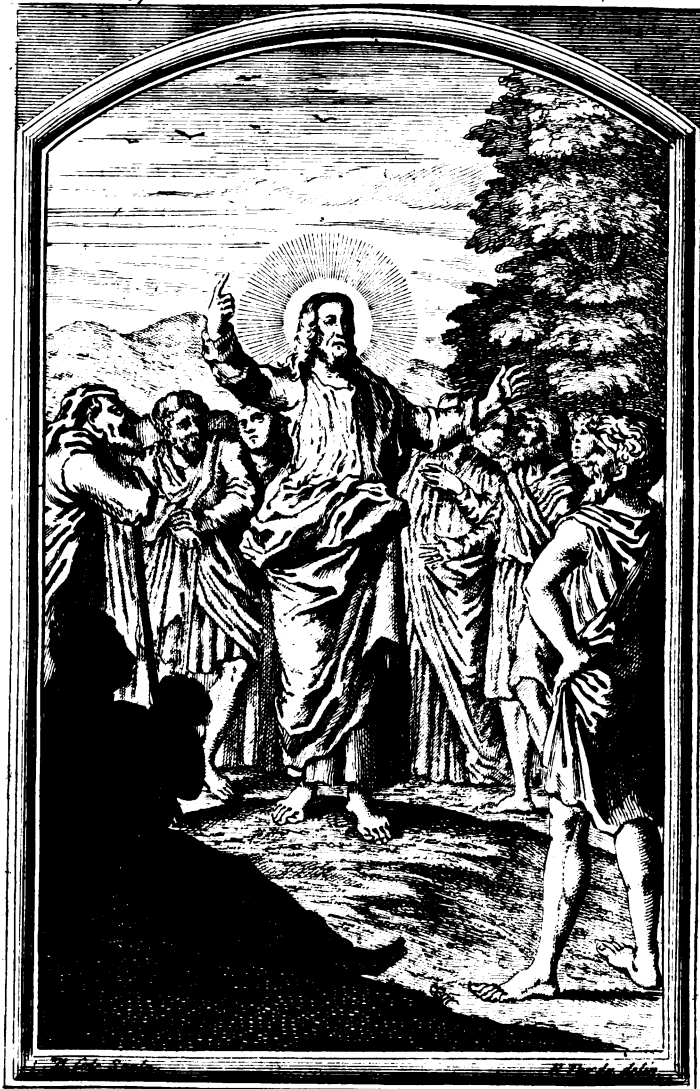
He, that avoideth not small faults, by little and little falleth into greater.

Thou wilt always rejoyce in the evening, if thou spend the day profitably.

Be watchful over thy self, stir up thy self, warn thy self, and, whatsoever becomes of others, neglect not thy self.

So much shalt thou profit, as thou usest violence toward thy self.





*Come unto me all ye that Travel and are heavy—
Laden and I will refresh you. Matt. xi. V. 28.*



B O O K II.



C H A P. I.

Of the inward life.



*T*H E kingdom of GOD is within you, saith the LORD. Turn thee with thy whole heart unto the LORD, and forsake this wretched world, and thy *soul* shall find rest.

Learn to despise exterior things, and to give thy self to the interior, and thou shalt perceive the kingdom of GOD to come into thee.

For the kingdom of GOD is peace and joy in the HOLY GHOST, which is not given to the wicked.

CHRIST will come into thee, and shew thee his *consolations*, if thou prepare for him a worthy *mansion* within thee.

All his *glory* and *beauty* is within, and there he pleaseth himself.

He oftens visits an interior Christian, and hath with him sweet *discourses*, pleasant *consolation*, much *peace*, amazing *familiarity*.

2. O *faithful soul*, make ready thy *heart* for this *bridegroom*, that he may vouchsafe to come unto thee, and dwell within thee.

For he saith, *If any love me, he will keep my words, and we will come unto him, and will make our abode with him.*

Give therefore admittance unto CHRIST, and deny entrance to all others.

When thou hast CHRIST, thou art rich, and he will suffice thee. He will be thy faithful and provident helper in all things, so as thou shalt not need to trust in men.

For men are soon changed, and quickly fail, but CHRIST remaineth for ever, and is with us even unto the end.

3. We ought not to put much trust in man, frail and mortal as he is, tho' he be friendly and serviceable : nor should we be much grieved, altho' he sometimes cross and oppose us.

They, that to-day take thy part, to-morrow may be against thee, and so on the contrary ; they often turn like the wind.

Put thy whole trust in GOD, let him be thy fear, and thy love : he will answer for thee, and do in all things what is best.

Thou

Thou hast not here an abiding city ; and whereſoever thou be, thou art a ſtranger and pilgrim : neither ſhalt thou ever have reſt, unleſs thou be intimately united unto CHRIST.

4. Why doſt thou here gaze about, ſince this is not the place of thy reſt ? In heaven ought to be thy dwelling, and all earthly things are to be look'd upon as they forward thy journey thither.

All things paſs away, and thou together with them.

Beware thou cleave not unto them, leſt thou be entangled, and periſh.

Let thy thoughts be on the Higheſt, and thy *prayer* directed unto CHRIST without ceaſing.

If thou canſt not contemplate high and heavenly things, reſt thy ſelf in the paſſion of CHRIST, and dwell willingly in his holy wounds.

For if thou fly devoutly unto the wounds and precious marks of the LORD JESUS, thou ſhalt feel great comfort in *tribulation* : neither wilt thou regard being deſpiſed of men, and wilt eaſily bear words of detraction.

5. CHRIST was alſo deſpiſed of men, and in his greateſt neceſſity forſaken by his acquaintance and friends in the miſt of reproaches. CHRIST choſe to ſuffer and be

despised ; and darest thou complain of any thing ?

CHRIST had adversaries and slanderers ; and wilt thou have all men thy *friends* and *benefactors* ?

How shall thy patience be crowned, if no adversity happen unto thee ?

If thou wilt suffer nothing, how wilt thou be the friend of CHRIST ?

Suffer with CHRIST, and for CHRIST, if thou desire to reign with CHRIST.

6. If thou hadst but once perfectly entered into the interior of JESUS, and tasted a little of his ardent affection: then wouldst thou not be careful about thine own advantage or disadvantage, but wouldst rather rejoyce at slanders cast upon thee: for the love of JESUS maketh a man despise himself.

A lover of JESUS and of truth, and a true inward *Christian*, free from inordinate *affections*, can freely turn himself unto GOD, and lift himself above himself in spirit, and rest with fruition.

7. He, that relishes all things as they are, and not as they are said or esteemed to be, is truly wise, and taught rather by GOD than men.

He, that can live inwardly and make small reckoning of outward things, neither requirerh places, nor attendeth times, for the exercise of his devotion.

An

An interior *man* soon recollecteth himself, because he is never wholly intent upon outward things.

He is not hindered by outward labour or business: but as things fall out, so he suiteth himself unto them.

He that hath well ordered and disposed all things within, careth not for the strange and perverse carriages of men.

So much is a man hindered and distracted, by how much he cleaveth to outward things.

8. If all went well with thee, and if thou wert well purified, all things would tend to thy good and advantage.

But therefore many things displease and often trouble thee, because thou art not yet perfectly dead unto thy self, nor separated from all earthly things.

Nothing so defileth and entangleth the heart of man, as the impure love of creatures.

If thou refuse outward comfort, thou wilt be able to contemplate the *things of heaven*, and often receive *eternal joy*.



C H A P. II.

Of humble submission.

MIND not much who is with thee, or who is against thee: but endeavour and take care that GOD may be with thee in every *thing* thou doest.

Keep a *good conscience*, and GOD will defend thee:

For whom GOD will help, no malice of man can hurt.

If thou canst hold thy peace and suffer, without doubt thou shalt see the salvation of the LORD.

He knoweth the time and manner how to deliver thee, and therefore thou oughtest to resign thy self unto him.

It belongs to GOD to help, and deliver from all shame.

It is often very profitable for the keeping us more humble, that others know and reprehend our faults.

2. When a man humbleth himself for his faults, then he easily pacifieth others, and quickly

quickly satisfieth those that are offended with him.

GOD protecteth and delivereth the humble; unto the humble man he inclineth himself; unto the humble he giveth great *grace*; and after his *humiliation* he raiseth him unto *glory*.

Unto the humble he revealeth his secrets, and sweetly draweth and inviteth him unto himself.

The humble person, tho' he suffer shame, is yet in peace; for that he resteth in GOD, and not in the world.

Do not think that thou hast profited any thing, unless thou esteem thy self inferior to all.



C H A P. III.

Of a good and peaceable man.

FIRST keep thy self in *peace*, and then mayest thou pacify others.

A peaceable man doth more good than a learned one.

A passionate man turneth even *good* into *evil*, and easily believeth the worst.

A good,

A good, peaceable man turneth all things into good.

He, that is in peace, is not suspicious of any.

But he, that is discontented and troubled, is agitated with divers suspicions: he is neither quiet himself, nor suffereth others to be quiet.

He often speaketh that which he ought not to speak; and omitteth that which he ought to do.

He considereth what others are bound to do; and neglects that which he is bound to himself.

First therefore have a careful zeal over thy self, and then thou mayest justly shew thy self zealous also for thy neighbour's good.

2. Thou knowest well how to excuse and colour thine own deeds and thou wilt not receive the excuses of others.

It were more just to accuse thy self, and excuse thy brother.

If thou wilt be borne with, bear also with another.

Behold, how far thou art yet from true charity and humility, which knoweth not how to be angry with any, but one's self. It is no great matter to live peaceably with the good, and gentle; for that is naturally pleasing to all, and every one willingly enjoyeth

enjoyeth peace, and loveth those best that are of his own mind.

But to be able to live peaceably with unquiet and perverse men, or with the disorderly, or such as cross us, is a great grace, and a very commendable and manly deed.

3. Some there are that keep themselves in peace, and are in peace also with others.

And there are some, that neither are in peace themselves, nor suffer others to be in peace : who are troublesome to others, but always more troublesome to themselves.

And others there are, that keep themselves in peace, and labour to bring others unto peace.

Our whole peace in this life consisteth rather in humble *suffering*, than in not feeling *adversities*.

He, that knows best how to suffer, will best keep himself in peace. *He is a conqueror of himself, a lord of the world, a friend of CHRIST, and an heir of heaven.*



C H A P. IV.

Of a pure mind, and simple intention.

S*implicity* and *purity* are the two wings, by which a man is lifted up above all earthly things.

Simplicity must be in the intention ; *purity* in the affection : *simplicity* tends to God ; *purity* apprehends and tastes him.

No good action will hinder thee, if thou be inwardly free from all inordinate affection.

If thou intend and seek nothing but the will of God and the good of thy neighbour, thou shalt enjoy internal liberty.

If thy heart were right, then every creature would be a looking-glass of life, and a book of holy doctrine.

There is no creature so little and abject, that representeth not the goodness of God.

2. If thou wert inwardly good and pure, thou wouldst see and understand all things without any impediment.

A pure heart penetrateth *heaven* and *hell*.

Such as every one is inwardly, so he judgeth outwardly.

If

If there be joy in the world, surely a man of a pure heart possesseth it.

And if there be any where *tribulation* and *affliction*, an *evil conscience* feels it.

As iron put into the fire loseth its rust, and becometh all bright like fire; so he, that wholly turneth himself unto GOD, is purified from all *slothfulness*, and is changed into the likeness of GOD.

3. When a man beginneth to grow lukewarm, then he is afraid of a little labour, and willingly receiveth external comfort.

But when he once beginneth to overcome himself perfectly, and to walk manfully in the way of GOD; then he esteemeth those things light, which before seemed grievous unto him.



CHAP. V.

Of the consideration of one's self.

WE cannot trust much to our selves, because we have often neither grace nor understanding.

There is but little light in us, and that we quickly lose by negligence.

Often

Often we do not perceive our inward blindness.

We often do evil, and excuse it worse.

We are sometimes moved with passion, and we think it zeal.

We reprehend small things in others, and pass over greater in our selves.

We quickly feel and weigh what we suffer from others; but we mind not what others suffer from us.

He that doth well, and rightly considers his own works, will find little cause to judge hardly of another.

2. The inward *Christian* preferreth the care of himself before all other cares.

He that diligently attendeth unto himself, easily holds his peace concerning others.

Thou wilt never be inwardly religious, unless thou pass over other men's matters, and look especially to thy self.

If thou attend wholly unto GOD and thy self, thou wilt be little moved with whatsoever thou seest abroad.

Where art thou, when thou art not with thy self? and when thou hast run over all, what hast thou profited, if thou hast neglected thy self?

If thou desirest peace of mind and true recollection, thou must reject all other cares, and look only to thy self.

3. Thou

3. Thou shalt profit much, if thou keep thy self free from all temporal cares.

Thou shalt greatly fail, if thou esteem any thing of this world.

Let nothing be great, nothing high, nothing pleasing to thee, but only God himself, or that which is of God.

Esteem all comfort vain, which proceedeth from any creature.

A soul, that loveth God, despiseth all things but God.

God alone, who is everlasting, immense, filling all things, is the comfort of the soul, and the true joy of the heart.



C H A P. VI.

Of the joy of a good conscience.

THE glory of a good man, is the testimony of a good conscience.

Have a good conscience, and thou shalt ever have joy.

A good conscience is able to bear very much, and is very chearful in *adversities*.

An evil conscience is always fearful and unquiet.

Thou shalt rest sweetly, if thy heart condemn thee not.

Never

Never rejoyce, but when thou hast done well.

Sinners have never true joy, nor feel inward *peace*; because *there is no peace to the wicked*, saith the LORD;

And if they should say, we are in *peace*, no evil shall fall upon us, and who shall dare to hurt us? believe them not; for on a sudden will arise the wrath of GOD, and their deeds shall be brought to nought, and their thoughts shall perish.

2. To glory in *tribulation* is no hard thing for him that loveth; for to glory so, is to glory in the *Cross of our LORD*.

That glory is short which is given and received from men.

Sorrow always accompanieth the glory of the world.

The glory of the good is in their *consciences*, and not in the tongues of men. The gladness of the *just* is of GOD, and in GOD; and their joy is of the *truth*.

He that desireth *true and everlasting glory*, regardeth not that which passeth away.

And he that seeketh temporal glory, or contemneth it not from his heart, sheweth that he little regardeth the *glory of heaven*.

He enjoyeth great peace of mind, that careth neither for the praise, nor dispraise of men.

3. He

3. He will easily be content and quiet, whose *conscience* is pure.

Thou art not the more holy, tho' thou art praised ; nor the more abject, tho' thou art dispraised.

What thou art, thou art ; neither canst thou be said to be greater, than thou art in the sight of GOD.

If thou consider what thou art within, thou wilt not care what men say of thee.

Man seeth in the *face*, but GOD looketh into the *heart*.

Man considereth the *deeds*, but GOD weigheth the *intention*.

To do always well and to disesteem himself, is a sign of an humble *soul*.

To disdain comfort from any creature, is a sign of great purity and inward confidence.

4. He that seeketh no witness for himself from without, doth shew that he hath wholly committed himself unto GOD.

For not he that commendeth himself, is approved, saith St. Paul ; but whom GOD commendeth.

To walk inwardly with GOD, and not to love any thing without, is the state of a spiritual man.



C H A P. VII.

Of the love of J E S U S.

BLESSED is he that understandeth what it is to love JESUS, and to despise himself for JESUS.

Thou oughtest to leave what thou hast loved hitherto for the sake of JESUS; for he will be loved alone above all things.

The love of things created is deceitful and unconstant: the love of JESUS is faithful and constant.

He that cleaveth unto a creature, shall fall when it falls: he that embraceth JESUS, shall stand firmly for ever.

Love Him, and keep Him for thy friend, who, when all go away, will not forsake thee, nor suffer thee to perish in the end.

Thou must one day be left of all, whether thou wilt or no.

2. Keep close to JESUS both in life and death, and commit thy self unto his faithfulness, who, when all fail, can alone help thee.

Thy

Thy beloved is of that nature, that He will not admit of a rival ; but will have thy *heart* alone, and sit like a King in his own throne.

If thou couldst empty thy self perfectly of all creatures, JESUS would willingly dwell with thee.

Whatsoever affection thou reposest in men out of JESUS, is all no better than lost.

Trust not, nor lean upon a broken reed ; for all flesh is grass, and all the glory thereof shall wither away as the flower of the field.

3. Thou shalt quickly be deceived, if thou regardest only the outward appearance of men.

If in them thou seekest comfort and profit, thou shalt often feel loss.

If thou seekest JESUS in all things, thou shalt surely find JESUS.

If thou seekest thy self, thou shalt also find thy self, but to thy own destruction.

For if a man do not seek JESUS, he doth more hurt to himself than the world and all his adversaries could do.



C H A P. VIII.

Of familiar friendship with J E S U S.

W H E N J E S U S is present, all is well, and nothing seemeth difficult: but when J E S U S is absent, every thing is hard.

When J E S U S speaketh not inwardly, we have no true comfort: but if J E S U S speak but one word, we feel much consolation.

Did not *Mary* presently rise from the place where she wept, when *Martha* said unto her, *The Master is come, and calleth for thee?*

Happy the hour when J E S U S calleth from tears to *spiritual joy*.

How dry and cold art thou without J E S U S! how foolish and vain, if thou desire any thing out of J E S U S!

Is not this a greater loss, than if thou shouldst lose the whole world?

2. What can the world profit thee without J E S U S?

To be without J E S U S is a *grievous Hell*; and to be with J E S U S a *sweet Paradise*.

If

If JESUS be with thee, no enemy can hurt thee.

He that findeth JESUS, findeth a good treasure, yea a good above all goods:

And he that loseth JESUS, loseth too much, and more than the whole world.

He is most poor, that liveth without JESUS: and he is most rich, that is well with JESUS.

3. It is a great skill to know to converse with JESUS, and great wisdom to know to keep JESUS.

Be humble and peaceable, and JESUS will be with thee.

Be devout and quiet, and JESUS will stay with thee.

Thou mayest soon drive away JESUS and lose his grace, if thou turn aside to outward things.

And if thou shouldst drive him away, and lose him; unto whom wilt thou fly, and what friend wilt thou seek?

Without a friend thou canst not live well: and if JESUS be not above all friends unto thee, thou shalt be very sorrowful and desolate.

Thou doest therefore foolishly, if thou dost trust or rejoyce in any other.

It is better for thee to have all the world against thee, than JESUS offended with thee.

Of all things that are dear to thee therefore, let JESUS alone be peculiarly thy beloved.

4. Love all for JESUS, but JESUS for himself.

JESUS CHRIST alone is singularly to be beloved; who alone is good and faithful above all friends.

For him, and in him, let as well friends as foes be dear unto thee, and thou art to pray to him for all these, that all may know and love him.

Never desire to be singularly commended or beloved, for that appertaineth only unto GOD, who hath none like unto himself.

Neither do thou desire that the heart of any should be set on thee, nor do thou set thy heart on any: but let JESUS be in thee, and in every good man.

5. Be pure and free within, and entangle not thy heart with any creature.

Thou must be naked, and carry a pure heart to GOD, if thou wouldst be at liberty to see how sweet the LORD is.

And truly, unless thou be prevented and drawn by his grace, thou shalt never attain to this, to forsake and cast off all, that thou alone mayest be united to him alone.

For when the grace of GOD cometh unto a man; then he has power to do all things. And when that retires, he is poor and
weak,

weak, and as it were left only to affliction.

In this thou oughtest not to be dejected, nor despair; but to resign thy self with all indifferency unto the will of GOD, and to bear all things that befall thee for the *glory of CHRIST*: for after winter followeth summer, after night cometh day, and after a storm a great calm.



C H A P. IX.

Of the want of all comfort.

IT is not hard to despise *human comfort*, when we have *divine*.

It is much and very much, to be able to want both *human* and *divine comfort*; and, for the glory of GOD, to be willing to endure desolation of heart; and to seek himself in nothing, nor to regard his own merit.

What great matter is it, if thou be chearful and devout at the coming of *grace*? This hour is wished for of all men.

He rideth easily enough, whom the *grace of GOD* carrieth.

And what marvel, if he feel no burthen, who is borne up by the *Almighty*, and led by the sovereign Guide.

2. We are always willing to have something for our *comfort*: and a man doth hardly put off himself.

The *holy martyr* St. *Laurence* overcame the world, because he despised whatsoever was delightful in it; and for the love of CHRIST patiently suffered *Sixtus* to be taken from him, whom he most dearly loved.

He overcame therefore the love of man by the love of the *Creator*; and he rather chose the *divine good pleasure*, than *human comfort*.

See thou also learn to forsake thy intimate and beloved friend, for the love of GOD.

Be not grieved when thou art forsaken by a friend, knowing that we all at length must be separated one from another.

3. A man must fight long and mightily with himself, before he get the full victory over himself, and draw his whole heart unto GOD.

When a man trusteth in himself, he easily slideth unto *human comforts*.

But a true lover of CHRIST, and a diligent follower of virtue, betakes not himself to *human comforts*, nor seeketh sensible sweetneses, but rather to sustain hard exercises, and great labour for CHRIST.

4. When therefore *spiritual comfort* is given thee from GOD, receive it thankfully: but

but know that it is the gift of GOD, not thy desert.

Be not puffed up, joy not too much, neither do thou presume vainly; but be rather the more humble for that gift, and more wary and careful in all thine actions: for that hour will pass away, and temptation will succeed.

When consolation is taken away, despair not presently, but with humility and patience wait for the heavenly visitation: for GOD is able again to give thee greater *consolation*.

This is not new nor strange unto them that have experience in the way of GOD: for the great *saints* and antient *prophets* had oftentimes experience of such vicissitudes.

5. Hence *David*, in the presence of the *divine grace*, said, *I said in my prosperity, I shall never be removed,*

But in the absence of it, having experienced what he was in himself, he adds, *Thou didst turn thy face from me, and I was troubled.*

Yet doth he not despair, but more earnestly prayeth unto the LORD, and saith, *Then cried I unto Thee, O LORD, and gat me to my LORD right humbly.*

Lastly, he receiveth the fruit of his prayer, and witnesseth that he was heard, saying,
The

The LORD hath heard me, and taken pity on me ; the LORD is become my helper.

But wherein ? *Thou hast turned, faith he, my heaviness into joy, thou hast compassed me about with gladness.*

If great *saints* have been so dealt with, we that are weak and poor ought not to despair, if we be sometimes fervent, and sometimes cold ; for the spirit cometh and goeth, according to the good pleasure of his will. For which cause blessed *Job* faith, *Thou visitest him early in the morning, and provest him every moment.*

6. Whereupon therefore can I hope, or wherein ought I to trust, but in the great mercy of GOD alone, and in the only hope of *heavenly grace* ?

For whether I enjoy the presence of good men, or religious brethren, or faithful friends, or holy books, or excellent treatises, or sweet songs and hymns, all these help little, and have little relish, when grace forsaketh me, and I am left in my own *poverty*.

At such a time there is no better remedy than patience, and the renouncing my own, according to the will of GOD.

7. I never found any so religious and devout, that hath not had sometimes a withdrawing of *grace*, or felt not some decrease of *fervour*.

There

There was never *saint* so highly rapt and illuminated, who at first or last was not tempted.

For he is not worthy of the high *contem- plation* of GOD, who hath not been exer- cised with some *tribulation* for GOD'S sake.

For temptation going before, is wont to be a sign of ensuing *comfort*.

And to those that are proved by *tempta- tions*, heavenly *comfort* is promised. *He that shall overcome*, saith he, *I will give him to eat of the tree of life*.

8. *Divine comfort* is given, that a man may be stronger to bear *adversities*.

There followeth *temptation*, lest he should grow proud thereof.

The devil sleepeth not, neither is the flesh as yet dead; therefore cease not to prepare thy self to the battle: for on thy right hand and on thy left are enemies that never rest.



C H A P. X.

Of thankfulness for the grace of GOD.

WH Y seekest thou rest, since thou art born to labour?

Dispose thy self to patience, rather than to comfort; and to the bearing of the *cross*, rather than to *joy*.

What worldly man would not willingly receive *spiritual joy* and *comfort*, if he could always have it?

For *spiritual comforts* exceed all the delights of the world and pleasures of the flesh.

All worldly delights are either vain or unclean; but *spiritual delights* are only pleasant and pure, sprung from *virtue*, and infused by GOD into pure minds.

But no man can always enjoy these *divine comforts* according to his desire; for the time of *temptation* is not long away.

2. False freedom of mind, and great trust in our selves, is very contrary to heavenly visitations.

GOD

God doth well in giving the *grace of consolation*; but man doth evil in not returning all again unto God with *thanksgiving*.

And therefore the *gifts of grace* cannot flow in us, because we are not thankful to the *Giver*, and return them not wholly to the *Fountain*.

For *grace* ever attendeth him that is thankful; and from the proud shall be taken that which is given to the humble.

3. I desire not that *consolation* that taketh from me compunction; nor would I have that contemplation which leadeth to haughtiness.

For all that is high, is not holy; nor all that is sweet, good; nor every desire, pure; nor every thing that is dear unto us, grateful to God.

I willingly accept that *grace*, whereby I may ever become more humble and careful, and more ready to renounce my self.

He that is taught by the gift of *grace*, and instructed by the withdrawing thereof, will not dare to attribute any good to himself, but will acknowledge himself poor and naked.

Give unto God that which is God's, and ascribe unto thy self that which is thine own; that is, give thanks to God for his *grace*, and acknowledge that nothing is
thine,

thine, but only *fin* and the *punishment* due thereto.

4. Set thy self always in the lowest place, and the highest shall be given thee ; for thou canst not be in the highest, till thou hast been in the lowest.

The chief *saints* before GOD, are the least in their own eyes : and how much the more glorious, so much the more humble.

Those that are full of *truth* and *heavenly glory*, are not desirous of *vain glory*.

Those that are firmly settled and grounded in GOD, can no way be proud.

And they that ascribe all unto GOD, what good soever they have received, seek not *glory* one of another ; but would have that *glory* which is from GOD alone ; and desire that GOD should be praised above all in themselves and in all his *saints*, and always aim at this very thing.

5. Be therefore thankful for the least gift, so shalt thou be meet to receive greater.

Let the least appear unto thee very great, and the most contemned as an especial gift.

If thou consider the worth of the *Giver*, no gift will seem little or of too mean esteem. For that is not little which is given by the *most high* GOD.

Yea, if he should give *punishment* and *stripes*, it ought to be grateful ; for he doth
it

it always for our welfare, whatsoever he permitteth to befall us.

He that desireth to keep the *grace* of GOD, let him be thankful for the *grace* given, and patient for the taking away thereof. Let him pray that it may return. Let him be wary and humble, lest he lose it.



C H A P. XI.

That there are few who love the Crofs of CHRIST.

JESUS hath many lovers of his *heavenly kingdom*, but few bearers of his *Crofs*.

He hath many desirous of *comfort*, but few of *tribulation*.

He findeth many *companions* of his *table*, but few of his *abstinence*.

All desire to rejoyce with him, few will suffer any thing for him.

Many follow JESUS unto the breaking of *bread*, but few to the drinking of the *cup of his passion* :

Many reverence his *miracles*, few follow the ignominy of his *Crofs* :

Many

Many love JESUS, as long as adverstities happen not :

Many *praise* and *blefs* him, as long as they receive any *comforts* from him.

But if JESUS hide himself, and leave them but a while ; they fall either into complaint, or into dejection.

2. But they that love JESUS for JESUS, and not for some *comfort* of their own, blefs him in all *tribulation* and *anguish* of *heart*, as well as in the greatest *comfort*.

And altho' he should never give them *comfort*, they yet would ever *praise* him, and always give him *thanks*.

3. O how powerful is the pure love of JESUS, which is mixed with no self-love, or self-interest ! Are not all those to be called hirelings, that always seek *comfort* ?

Do they not shew themselves to be rather lovers of themselves than of CHRIST, that always think of their own pleasure and gain ?

Where may one be found that is willing to serve GOD *gratis* ?

4. It is hard to find any one so spiritual, that is stript of *the love of* all *earthly* things.

For where is any one to be found, that is indeed poor in spirit, and free from all *affection* to creatures ?

He is a jewel scarce to be met with in these parts.

If

If a man should give all his substance, yet it is as nothing.

And if he should do great penances, yet are they but little.

And if he should attain to all knowledge, he is yet far off.

And if he should be of great virtue, and very fervent devotion, yet there is much wanting; to wit, one thing, which is most necessary for him.

What is that? That having left all, he leave himself, and go wholly out of himself, and retain nothing of self-love:

And that when he hath done all which he knew ought to be done, he knows, that he hath done nothing.

5. Let him not think that a great thing, which others may think so: but according to truth let him affirm himself to be an unprofitable servant, as our SAVIOUR hath said, *When you have done all things that are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants.*

Then may he be truly poor and naked in spirit, and say with the *prophet*, I am helpless and poor:

Yet no man richer, no man more powerful, no man more free, than he that can leave himself and all things, and set himself in the lowest place.



C H A P. XII.

Of the royal way of the Holy Cross.

THIS speech seemeth hard to many,
Renounce thy self, take up thy Cross,
and follow JESUS.

But it will be much harder to hear that
 last word, *Depart from me, ye cursed, into*
everlasting fire.

They that now willingly follow the doc-
 trine of the *Cross*, shall not then fear to hear
 the sentence of *everlasting damnation.*

This sign of the *Cross* shall be in *heaven*,
 when our **LORD** shall come to *judgment.*

Then all the servants of the *Cross*, who in
 their life-time conformed themselves unto
CHRIST crucified, shall draw near unto
CHRIST the Judge with great confidence.

2. Why therefore fearest thou to take up
 the *Cross*, which leadeth to a *kingdom*?

In the *Cross* is *salvation*, in the *Cross* is
life, in the *Cross* is *protection* against our
enemies, in the *Cross* is *heavenly sweetness*,
 in the *Cross* is *strength of mind*, in the *Cross*
 is *joy of spirit*, in the *Cross* is the *height of*
virtue,

virtue, in the Cross is the perfection of holiness.

There is no *salvation of the soul*, nor hope of *everlasting life*, but in the *Cross*.

Take up therefore thy Cross and follow JESUS, and thou shalt go into life everlasting.

He is gone before bearing his *Cross*, and is dead for thee on the *Cross*; that thou mayest also bear thy *Cross*, and desire to die on the *Cross with him*.

For if thou diest with him, thou shalt also live with him. And if thou be his companion in *pain*, thou shalt be partaker with him in *glory*.

3. Behold in the *Cross* all doth consist, and all lieth in our dying *upon it*: for there is no other way to life, and to true inward peace, but the way of the *holy Cross*, and of daily *mortification*.

Go where thou wilt, seek whatsoever thou wilt, thou shalt not find a higher way above, nor a safer way below, than the way of the *holy Cross*.

Dispose and order all things according to thy will and judgment; yet thou shalt ever find, that of necessity thou must suffer somewhat either willingly or against thy will, and so thou shalt ever find the *Cross*.

For either thou shalt feel pain in thy *body*, or in thy *soul tribulation of spirit*.

4. Sometimes thou shalt be forsaken of GOD, sometimes thou shalt be exercised by thy neighbour; and, which is more, often thou shalt be irksome to thy self;

Neither canst thou be delivered or eased by any remedy or comfort; but, so long as it pleaseth GOD, thou must bear it.

For GOD will have thee learn to suffer *tribulation* without *comfort*; and that thou subject thy self wholly to him, and become more humble by *tribulation*.

No man hath so cordial a feeling of the *passion of CHRIST*, as he who hath suffered the like himself.

The *Cross* therefore is always ready, and every where waits for thee.

Thou canst not escape it whithersoever thou runnest; for wheresoever thou goest thou carriest thy self with thee, and shall ever find thy self.

Both above and below, without and within, which way soever thou dost turn thee, every where thou shalt find the *Cross*; and every where of necessity thou must have patience, if thou wilt have inward *peace*, and enjoy an everlasting *crown*.

5. If thou bear the *Cross* willingly, it will bear thee, and bring thee to thy desired end, to wit, where there shall be an end of suffering, tho' here there shall not.

If

If thou bear it unwillingly, thou encreasest thy load, and yet thou must bear it.

If thou cast away one *Cross*, without doubt thou shalt find another, and that perhaps a more heavy one.

6. Thinkest thou to escape that which no man could ever avoid? Which of the *saints* in the world was without *crosses*, and *tribulation*?

Verily, JESUS CHRIST our LORD was never one hour without suffering, so long as he lived. CHRIST (saith he) *ought to suffer, and arise again from the dead, and so to enter into his glory.*

And dost thou seek any other way than this royal way, which is the way of the *Holy Cross*?

7. The whole life of CHRIST was a *Cross* and a *martyrdom*; and dost thou seek rest and joy?

Thou art deceived, if thou seekest any other thing than to suffer *tribulations*; for this whole mortal life is environed on every side with *crosses*.

And the more one hath profited in spirit, so much the heavier *crosses* he often findeth, because love maketh him more sensible of the misery of his banishment.

8. But yet this man, tho' so many ways afflicted, is not without some refreshing comfort, for he perceiveth much benefit to accrue unto him by the bearing of his *Cross*.

For whilst he willingly submits to it, all the burthen of *tribulation* is turned into the confidence of *divine comfort*.

And the more the flesh is wasted by *affliction*, the more is the spirit strengthened by inward *grace*.

And sometimes he is so strengthen'd with the love of suffering, for the sake of conformity to the *Cross* of CHRIST, that he would not wish to be without *sorrow* and *tribulation*; because he believeth that he is the more acceptable unto GOD, the more grievous things he can suffer for him.

This is not the power of man, but the *grace* of CHRIST, which can, and doth so much in frail flesh, that what naturally it always abhorreth and flieth, that by fervour of spirit it encounters and loves.

9. It is not of man to bear and love the *Cross*, to chastise and keep the body under, to fly honours, to suffer reproaches gladly, to despise himself, and to rejoyce in being despised, to bear all adversities and losses, and to desire no prosperity in this world.

If thou considerest thy self, thou art able to perform nothing of this sort thy self.

But if thou trustest in the LORD, strength shall be given thee from *heaven*, and the world and flesh shall be made subject to thy command.

Neither

Neither shalt thou fear thy enemy the *devil*, if thou beest armed with faith, and bearest the *Cross of CHRIST*.

10. Set therefore thy self, like a good and faithful servant of *CHRIST*, to bear manfully the *Cross of thy LORD*, who was crucified for thee out of love.

Prepare thy self to bear many adversities and various troubles: for so it will be with thee, wheresoever thou be; and so surely thou wilt find it, wheresoever thou hide thy self.

So it must be, and there is no remedy or means to avoid *tribulation* and *sorrow*, but to bear them.

Drink of the *Cup of the LORD* gladly, if thou wilt be his friend, and desirest to have part with him.

As for comforts, leave them to *GOD*; let him do therein as shall best please him.

Set thou thy self to suffer tribulations, and account them the greatest comforts; for the sufferings of this life are not worthy of the glory which is to come, altho' thou alone couldst suffer them all.

11. When thou shalt come to this, that tribulation shall be sweet unto thee for *CHRIST*; then think it well with thee, for thou hast found a paradise upon earth.

As long as it is grievous to thee to suffer, and thou desirest to fly it; so long shalt thou

be ill at ease; and the tribulation thou fliest will follow thee every where.

12. If thou dost set thy self to be what thou oughtest, to wit, to suffer, and to die to thy self, it will quickly be better with thee, and thou shalt find peace.

Altho' thou hadst been rapt unto the third heaven with *Paul*, thou wouldst not for this be secure from suffering adversity. *I, saith JESUS, will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name.*

It remaineth therefore, that thou suffer, if thou wilt love JESUS, and perpetually serve him.

13. O that thou wert worthy to suffer something for the name of JESUS! how great glory would it be unto thee! what joy to all the *saints of GOD!* how great edification also to thy neighbour.

For all commend patience, tho' few are willing to suffer.

With great reason thou oughtest to be willing to suffer a little for CHRIST; since many suffer far greater things for the world.

14. Know for certain that thou art to lead a dying life. And the more every one dieth to himself, the more he liveth to GOD.

No man is fit to attain unto heavenly things unless he submit to suffer for CHRIST.

Nothing is more grateful unto GOD, nothing more wholesome to thee in this world,

world, than to suffer willingly for CHRIST.

And if it were in thy choice, thou shouldst rather wish to suffer *adversities* for CHRIST, than to enjoy many comforts; because hereby thou shouldst be more like CHRIST, and more conformable to all the *saints*.

For our worthiness and proficiency consisteth not in many *sweetnesses* and *comforts*, but rather in suffering great *afflictions* and *tribulations*.

15. If any thing had been better and more profitable to the salvation of man than *suffering*, CHRIST surely would have shewed it by word and example.

But he plainly exhorteth all that follow him, to the bearing of the *Cross*, and saith, *If any will come after me, let him renounce himself, and take up his Cross, and follow me.*

So that when we have read and searched all, let this be the last conclusion, *That by many tribulations we must enter into the kingdom of GOD.*

B O O K



* B O O K III.



C H A P. I.

*Of the inward speech of CHRIST unto
a faithful soul.*

Christian.



*WILL bear what
the LORD GOD will
speak in me.*

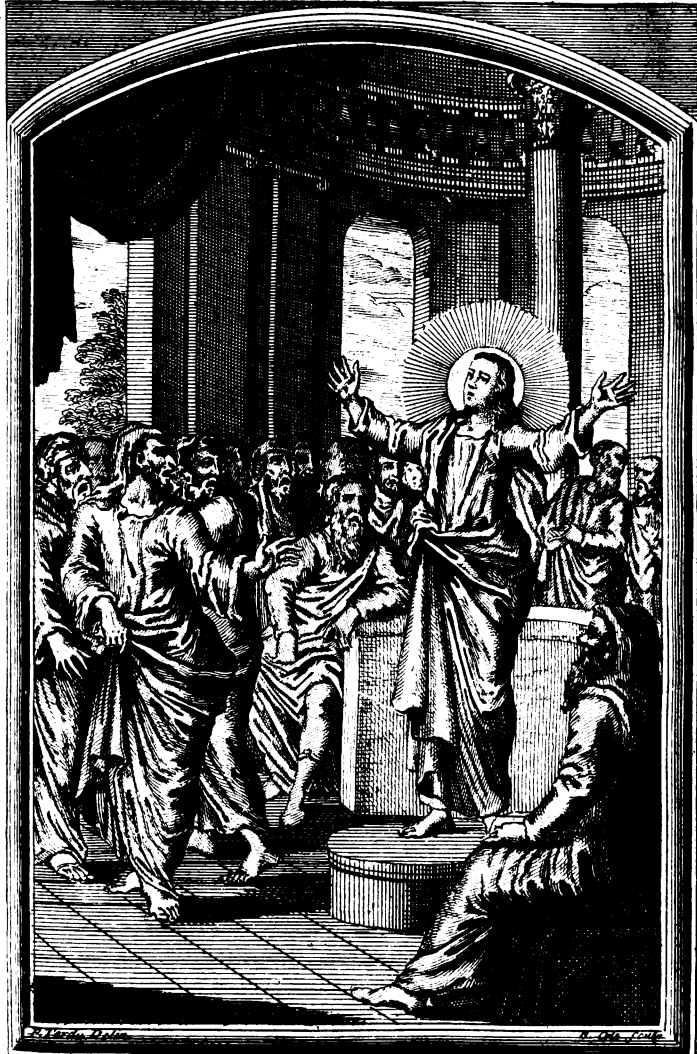
Blessed is the soul
that heareth the LORD
speaking in her, and receiveth from his mouth
the word of *comfort*.

Blessed are those ears that receive the whif-
pers of the *divine voice*, and listen not to
the whisperings of the world.

Blessed indeed are those ears that hearken
not to the *voice* which soundeth *outwardly*,

* This and the following book are by way of dialogue.

but



Thou shalt love y^e Lord thy God with all thy heart. & with all thy mind, & with all thy soul, & with all thy strength Luke 10 V. 27

7 AP 53

but unto the *Truth*, which teacheth *inwardly*.

Blessed are the eyes which are shut to *outward things*, but open to those that are *internal*.

Blessed are they that penetrate *inward things*, and endeavour to prepare themselves more and more by daily exercise to the attaining of *heavenly secrets*.

Blessed are they that delight to be at leisure for GOD, and rid themselves of all worldly impediments.

2. Consider these things, *my soul*, and shut up the door of thy sensual desires, that thou mayest hear what thy LORD GOD *speaketh in thee*.

Christ. I am thy *peace*, thy *life*, and thy *salvation*.

Keep thy self with me, and thou shalt find *peace*.

Leave all *transitory*, and seek things *everlasting*.

What are all *temporal things*, but *snares*? and what do all creatures avail thee, if thou be forsaken by thy CREATOR?

Forsake therefore all earthly *things* and labour to please thy CREATOR, and be faithful unto him, that thou mayest attain *true happiness*.



C H A P II.

*That Truth speaketh inwardly without noise
of words.*

Christian. **S**PEAK, LORD, for thy servant heareth. I am thy servant, grant me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.

*Incline my heart to the words of thy mouth.
Let thy speech distil as the dew.*

The children of *Israel* said unto *Moses*, *Speak thou unto us, and we will hear thee : Let not the LORD speak unto us, lest we die.*

Not so, LORD, not so, I beseech thee : But rather with the prophet *Samuel*, I humbly and earnestly intreat, *Speak, LORD, for thy servant heareth.*

Let not *Moses* speak unto me, nor any of the *prophets* ; but do thou rather speak, O LORD GOD, the inspirer and enlightner of all the *prophets* : for thou alone without them canst perfectly instruct me, but they without thee can profit nothing.

2. They indeed may sound forth words, but they cannot give *spirit*.

They

They speak well, but if thou be silent, they inflame not the *heart*.

They teach the *letter*, but thou openest the *sense*.

They bring forth *mysteries*, but thou unlockest the meaning of them.

They declare thy *commandments*, but thou helpest to *fulfil them*.

They shew the *way*, but thou givest strength to *walk in it*.

They work only *outwardly*, but thou instructest and enlightenest the *heart*.

They water, but thou givest the increase.

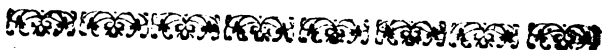
They make a noise with *words*, but thou givest to understand them.

3. Let not therefore *Moses* speak unto me, but thou, *my LORD GOD*, the *everlasting Truth*, lest I die, and prove unfruitful; if I be warned outwardly only, and not enflamed within.

Let not the word heard and not fulfilled, known and not loved, believed and not observed, turn to my *condemnation*.

Speak therefore, LORD, for thy servant beareth, for thou hast the words of eternal life.

Speak unto me to the comfort of my *soul*, and to the amendment of my whole life, and to thy *praise and glory*, and *everlasting honour*.



C H A P. III.

That the words of GOD are to be heard with humility, and that many weigh them not.

Christ. SON, hear my words, words of greatest sweetness, excelling all the knowledge of the philosophers and wise men of this world.

My words are *spirit* and *life*, not to be weighed by the *understanding* of man.

They are to be heard with silence, and to be received with all humility and great affection.

Christian. *Blessed is the man whom thou shalt instruct, O LORD, and shall teach thy law, that thou mayest give him rest from the evil days, and that he be not destroyed upon earth.*

2. *Christ.* I have taught the prophets from the beginning, and cease not in these days to speak to every one: but many are harden'd and deaf to my speech.

Most men more willingly listen to the world, than to God: and follow sooner the desires of their flesh, than the will of God.

The world promiseth temporal and small things, and is served with great eagerness:

I pro-

I promise high and eternal things, and the hearts of men are unmoved.

Who is he, that serveth and obeyeth me with such care as the world and the lords thereof are served with?

Blush, O Sidon, saith the sea, and if thou ask the cause, hear it.

For a little money a long journey is undertaken: for *everlasting life* many will scarce once lift a foot from the ground.

A thing of small value is sought after greedily: for the slight hope of a trifle men cease not to toil day and night.

3. But *alas!* for an unchangeable *good*, for an inestimable *reward*, for the highest *honour* and *everlasting glory*, they are loth to take the least pains.

Blush therefore, slothful and complaining *servant*, that they are more eager for *destruction*, than thou for *life*.

They rejoyce more in *vanity*, than thou in the *truth*.

And yet they are often frustrated of their hope: but my promise deceiveth none, nor sendeth him away empty that trusteth in me.

What I have promised, I will give, I will fulfill what I have said to him that remains faithful in my love to the end.

I am the Rewarder of all that are good, and do try my devout servants with strong trials.

4. Write

4. Write my words in thy heart, and think diligently of them : for they will be very necessary in the time of *temptation*.

What thou understandest not when thou readeſt, thou ſhalt know in the day of *viſitation*.

I am wont to viſit my elect two ways, with *temptation* and with *comfort*.

And I daily read two *leſſons* unto them, one reprehending their *vices*, another exhorting them to the increaſe of *virtues*.

He that hath my words and deſpiſeth them, hath him that ſhall judge him at the laſt day.

5. *Chriſtian*. O LORD my GOD, thou art to me whatſoever is good. Who am I, that I dare ſpeak unto thee? I am thy pooreſt ſervant and a moſt vile worm, much more poor and contemptible than I can or dare expreſs.

Yet remember, O LORD, that I am nothing, have nothing, and can do nothing.

Thou alone art good, juſt, and holy : thou canſt do all things, thou filleſt all things, only the ſinner thou ſendeſt empty away.

Remember thy mercies, and fill my heart with thy grace, thou who willeſt not that thy works be empty.

6. How can I bear my ſelf, unleſs thou ſtrengthen me with thy mercy and grace?

Turn

Turn not thy face from me: delay not thy visitation; take not away thy comfort, lest my soul become as the thirsty land.

LORD, teach me to fulfill thy will, teach me to live worthily, and humbly in thy sight; for thou art my Wisdom, thou dost truly know me, and didst know me before the world was made, and before I was born in the world.



C H A P. IV.

That we ought to live in truth and humility before G O D.

Christ. S O N, walk before me in *truth*, and ever seek me in simplicity of *heart*.

He that walketh before me in *truth*, shall be defended from evil accidents; and the *truth* shall deliver him from *seducers*, and from the detractions of the wicked.

If the *truth* shall have made thee free, thou shalt be free indeed, and shalt not care for the vain speeches of men.

Christian. LORD, it is true. According as thou saidst, so I beseech thee let it be with
I me;

me; let thy *Truth* teach me, and keep me, and bring me safe to an happy end.

Let it deliver me from all evil affection and inordinate love; and I shall walk with thee in great freedom of heart.

2. *Christ*. I will teach thee those things that are right and pleasing in thy sight.

Think of thy sins with great displeasure and grief, and never esteem thy self any thing for thy *good works*.

Thou art in very deed a *sinner*, thou art subject to, and encumber'd with many *passions*.

Of thy self thou always tendest to nothing; thou art quickly cast down, quickly overcome, quickly troubled, quickly dissolved.

Thou hast nothing wherein thou canst glory, but many things for which thou oughtest to despise thy self; for thou art much weaker than thou art able to comprehend.

3. Make no account therefore of any things that thou doest.

Let nothing seem great, nothing precious and wonderful; let nothing seem worthy of estimation, nothing high, nothing truly praise-worthy and desirable, but that which is everlasting.

Let the *eternal Truth* above all things please thee. Let thy own great *unworthiness* always *displease* thee.

Fear nothing, blame and fly nothing so much as thy *vices* and *sins*; which ought to displease

displease more than the losses of any thing whatsoever.

Some walk not sincerely in my fight; but out of curiosity and pride, will know my secrets, and understand the high things of God, neglecting themselves and their own *salvation*.

These often, because I resist them, fall into great *temptations* and *sins*, for their pride and curiosity.

4. Fear the *judgments* of God, dread the *wrath* of the *Almighty*. But discuss not the works of the highest. Search thine own iniquities, how much thou hast offended, and how much good thou hast neglected.

Some place their *Religion* only in *books*, some in *images*, some in outward *forms* and *ceremonies*.

Some have me in their *mouths*, but little in their *hearts*.

There are others, that being illuminated in their *understandings*, and purged in their *affection*, continually pant after things *eternal*; hear of earthly things with reluctance, and unwillingly serve the necessities of nature: these perceive what the spirit of *truth* speaketh in them.

Because it teacheth them to despise *earthly*, and love *heavenly things*; to neglect the world, and all the day and night to desire *heaven*.



C H A P. V.

Of the wonderful effects of divine love.

Christian. **I** Praise thee, O heavenly Father, Father of my Lord JESUS CHRIST, for that thou hast vouchsafed to remember me a poor creature.

O Father of mercies, and GOD of all comfort, thanks be unto thee, who sometimes with thy comfort refresheth me unworthy of all comfort.

I ever bless and glorify thee with thy only begotten Son, and the HOLY GHOST, for ever and ever.

O LORD GOD, the holy lover of my soul, when thou shalt come into my heart, all that is within me will rejoyce.

Thou art my glory, and the joy of my heart. Thou art my hope and refuge in the day of my tribulation.

2. But because I am still weak in love, and imperfect in virtue, I have need therefore to be strengthened and comforted by thee.

Visit

Vifit me therefore often, and inſtruct me with thy holy diſcipline.

Deliver me from evil paſſions, and heal my heart of all inordinate affections; that being healed within and well purged, I may be made fit to love, ſtrong to ſuffer, and conſtant to perfevere.

3. *Chriſt*. Love is a great thing, a very great good, which alone maketh every burden light, and beareth with equanimity all the viciffitudes of life.

For it carrieth a burden without a burden, and maketh every thing that is bitter, ſweet and ſavory.

The noble love of JESUS impelleth to do great things, and ſtirreth up continually to deſire greater perfection.

Love will be aloft, and not kept down with any earthly thing.

Love will be free and looſe from all worldly affection, leſt its inward fight be hindered, leſt it be entangled by any temporal *proſperity*, or ſubdued by *adverſity*.

Nothing is ſweeter than *love*, nothing ſtronger, nothing higher, nothing more large, nothing more pleaſant, nothing fuller nor better in *heaven* or in *earth*.

Becauſe *love* is born of GOD, and cannot reſt but in GOD, above all creatures.

4. He that loveth; flyeth, runneth, and rejoyceth: he is free, and not bound.

He giveth all for all, and hath all in all ; for he resteth in the supreme One, from whom all good floweth and proceedeth.

He respecteth not the gifts, but turneth himself above all goods unto the Giver.

Love often knoweth no measure, but is inflamed above all measure.

Love feeleth no burden, weigheth no pains, desireth above its strength ; complaineth not of impossibility, for it thinketh all things possible.

It is therefore able to undertake all things, and performeth and bringeth many things to pass ; whereas, he that doth not *love*, fainteth and sinketh under them.

5. Love watcheth and sleeping sleepeth not ;

Being tired, is not weary ; straitned, is not pressed ; frightned, is not disturbed ; but, like a lively flame and burning torch, it bursteth out aloft, and securely passeth through all.

If any one loveth, he knoweth what this meaneth.

The ardent affection of the soul crieth aloud in the ears of God, when it saith, *My GOD, my love, thou art wholly mine, and I wholly thine.*

6. *Christian.* Enlarge me in *love*, that with the inward mouth of my *heart* I may taste

taste how sweet it is to *love*, and to be melted, and swim in thy *love*.

Let me be possessed by *love*, mounting above my self with excessive fervour and admiration.

Let me sing the song of *love*, let me follow thee on high my beloved; let my *soul* die away in thy praise, rejoicing through *love*.

Let me love thee more than my self, and not my self but for thee, and all in thee that truly love thee, as the law of *love* commandeth, which shineth out from thee.

7. *Christ*. Love is swift, sincere, pious, pleasant and delightful, strong, patient, faithful, prudent, long-suffering, manly, and never seeking it self.

For where one seeketh himself, there he falleth from *love* :

Love is circumspect, humble and upright : not soft, not light, not attending unto vain things ; sober, chaste, constant, quiet, and guarded in all the senses :

Love is subject and obedient to superiors, vile and despicable to it self, devout and thankful unto GOD, trusting and hoping always in him, even when GOD imparteth no sweetness unto it ; for without sorrow none liveth in *love*.

8. He that is not ready to suffer all things, and stand to the will of his beloved, is not worthy to be called a *lover*.

A *lover* ought to embrace willingly all that is hard and distasteful for his beloved; and not to turn away from him for any contrary accidents.



C H A P. VI.

Of the proof of a true lover.

Christ. SON, thou art not yet a valiant and prudent lover.

Christian. *Wherefore, Lord?*

Christ. Because thou givest over thy undertakings for a small *difficulty*, and too greedily seekest after *comfort*.

A valiant *lover* standeth firmly in *temptations*, and giveth not credit to the crafty persuasions of the *enemy*.

As I please him in *prosperity*, so I am not unpleasant to him in *adversity*.

2. A prudent *lover* considereth not so much the gift of his *lover*, as the *love* of the giver.

He

He regardeth the *love* more than the value, and valueth his beloved above all his gifts.

A generous *lover* resteth not in the gift, but in me above every gift.

All therefore is not lost, if sometimes thou hast less taste of me than thou wouldst.

That good and sweet affection, which thou sometimes feelest, is the effect of present *grace*, and a fore-taste of the *heavenly country*; whereon thou mayest not rely too much, for it goeth and cometh.

But to fight against evil thoughts, and to despise the suggestions of the devil, is a notable sign of *virtue*, and shall have a great reward.

3. Be not therefore troubled at any fancies suggested to thee.

Retain a strong purpose and an upright intention to GOD.

Neither is it an illusion that sometimes thou art suddenly rapt on high, and presently returnest again unto the accustomed *vainities* of thy *heart*.

For thou dost rather unwillingly suffer them, than commit them:

And, as long as they displease thee, and thou strivest against them, is matter of reward, and no loss.

4. Know that thy ancient *enemy* doth ever strive to hinder thy desire to good, and to divert thee from all religious exercises; to wit,
from

from the devout memory of my *passion*, from the profitable remembrance of thy *sins*, from the guard of thine own *heart*, and from the firm purpose of profiting in *virtue*.

He injecteth many evil thoughts, that he may cause a wearisomness and horror in thee, to draw thee from *prayer and holy reading*.

Humble confession is displeasing unto him ; and if he could, he would cause thee to cease from receiving the *sacrament*.

Trust him not, nor care for him, altho' he should often set snares for thee.

Charge him with it when he suggesteth evil and unclean thoughts unto thee ; say unto him,

Away *unclean spirit*, blush *miserable wretch* ; thou art very unclean that bringeth such things to mine ears.

Away from me *wicked deceiver*, thou shalt have no part in me ; but JESUS shall be with me as a strong Warrior, and thou shalt stand confounded.

I had rather die, and undergo any torment, than to consent unto thee.

Hold thy peace and be silent ; I will hear thee no more, tho' thou shouldst work me many troubles.

The LORD is my light, and my salvation ; whom shall I fear ?

Tho'

Tho' hosts of men rose up against me,
yet should not my heart be afraid.

The LORD is my Helper and my Redeemer.

5. Fight like a good *soldier* : and, if thou sometimes fall through frailty, take greater strength than before, trusting in more abundant *grace* .

And take great heed of vanity and pride.

This brings many into *error*, and makes them sometimes fall into almost *incurable blindness*.

. Let this fall of the *proud*, foolishly presuming of themselves, serve thee for a warning, and keep thee perpetually *humble*.



C H A P. VII.

That grace is to be guarded by humility.

Christ. S O N, It is more profitable and safe for thee to hide the *grace of devotion* ; not to extol thy self, nor to speak much of it, nor to think much thereof ; but rather to despise thy self, and fear it, as given to one unworthy thereof.

This

This *affection* is not to be cleaved unto, which may be quickly changed unto the contrary.

Think, when thou art in *grace*, how miserable and needy thou art wont to be without *grace*.

Neither doth the proficiency of a *spiritual life* consist wholly in the *grace of comfort*; but rather in humbly, self-denyingly and patiently suffering the withdrawing thereof, so that thou be not then less diligent in *prayer*, nor remit the rest of thy accustomed *duties*.

But willingly perform what lieth in thee, according to the best of thy power and understanding: not neglecting thy self wholly for the dryness and trouble of *mind* which thou feelest.

2. There are many, who, when it succeedeth not well with them, presently become impatient or slothful.

The way of man is not always in his power, but it belongeth to God to give and to comfort when he will, and how much he will, and whom he will; as it shall please him, and no more.

Some unadvised persons have overthrown themselves for *the greedy desire which they had of* the grace of devotion; attempting more than they were able to perform, not weighing their *weakness*, but following rather

ther the desire of their *heart*, than the judgment of *reason*.

And, because they presumed on greater matters than was pleasing to God, they quickly lost his *grace*.

They became needy and left destitute, who had built themselves nests in *heaven*: that, being humbled and impoverished, they might learn not to fly with their own wings, but to trust under my wings.

They, that are yet but novices and unacquainted in the way of the LORD, unless they govern themselves by the counsel of discreet persons, may easily be deceived and overthrown.

3. And if they will rather follow their own judgment, than give credit to others that are experienced, the event will be dangerous, if they will not be drawn from their own conceit.

Seldom those that are self-wise suffer themselves humbly to be governed by others.

A little *knowledge* with *humility*, and a slender *understanding*, is better than great treasures of learning with self-conceit.

It is better for thee to have little, than much, whereof thou mayest be *proud*.

He doeth not discreetly, that wholly giveth himself to *mirth*, forgetting his former *poverty*, and the chaste fear of GOD,
which

which feareth to lose the *grace* he hath obtained.

Neither is he virtuously *wise*, that in time of *adversity* or any *tribulation*, yieldeth to despair, and trusteth in me less confidently than he ought.

4. He, that will be over-secure in time of *peace*, shall be often found in time of *war* too dejected and fearful.

If thou couldst always continue humble and lowly within thy self, and order and govern thy *spirit* well, thou shouldst not so soon fall into danger and offence.

It is good counsel, that when fervour of spirit is kindled within thee, thou shouldst think what will become of thee, when that light shall leave thee.

And when that doth happen, remember the light may return again, which for thy *instruction* and my *glory* I have withdrawn for a time.

5. Such a trial is often more profitable, than if thou shouldst always enjoy *prosperity* according to thy desire.

For a man's worthiness is not to be judged by the number of *visions* and *comforts* which he hath, neither by his knowledge in *scripture*, or by his being placed in a high degree ;

But by his being grounded in true *humility*, and filled with *divine love* ; by his always

ways

ways purely and entirely seeking the honour of GOD; by his esteeming himself nothing, and despising himself, and rejoycing more to be despised and humbled by others, than to be honoured.



C H A P. VIII.

*Of the contempt of our selves in the sight of
G O D.*

Christian. SHALL I speak unto my
LORD, who am *dust* and
ashes?

If I esteem better of my self, behold thou standest against me, and my *iniquities* bear true witness *against me*: neither can I contradict it.

But if I abase and know my self to be nothing; if I renounce all self-esteem, and (as I am) account my self to be but dust, thy *grace* will be favourable unto me, and thy light will be near unto my *heart*.

And all self-esteem, how little soever, shall be swallowed up in the deep valley of my nothingness, and perish everlastingly.

There

There thou shewest my self unto me, what I am, what I have been, and whither I am come ; for I am nothing, and I knew it not.

And if I be left to my self, behold I become nothing and all weakness.

But if thou suddenly look upon me, I am presently made strong, and filled with new joy.

And it is a great marvel, that I am so suddenly lifted up, and so graciously embraced by thee, who by mine own weight always sink downward.

2. Thy *love* is cause thereof, freely preventing me, and relieving me in so many *necessities*, preserving me also from *grievous dangers*, and delivering me (as I may truly say) from *innumerable evils*.

For, by inordinate loving my self, I lost my self ; and, by seeking thee alone, and purely loving thee, I have found both my self and thee, and by that *love* have more deeply brought my self to nothing.

For thou, O most sweet LORD, dealest with me above all desert, above all that I dare hope or ask.

3. *Blessed be thou, my GOD : for altho' I be unworthy of any benefits ; yet the nobleness of thy bounty and thy infinite goodness, never ceaseth to do good even to the ungrateful, and them that are far from thee.*

Turn

us unto thee, O LORD, that we may be thankful, humble and holy; for thou art our power, and our strength, and our salvation.



C H A P. IX.

That all things are to be referred unto GOD, as unto their last end.

Christ. **S**ON, I ought to be thy *chief* and *last end*, if thou desire to be truly *blessed*.

By this intention thy *affection* shall be *purified* which is often inordinately bent down to it self and unto *creatures*.

For if in any thing thou seekest thy self, thou soon fallest into a languor and spiritual dryness.

Refer therefore all things unto me, for I am *He* that have given all.

Consider every thing as flowing from the highest *Good*; and therefore all things are to be reduced unto me as unto their original.

2. Out of me, as out of a living *fountain*, the *little* and the *great*, the *poor* and the *rich*, draw the *water of life*: and they that willingly and freely serve me, shall receive *grace* for *grace*.

K

But

But he, that will glory out of me, or be delighted in any *good* that tends not to me, shall not be grounded in true *joy*, nor enlarged in his *heart*, but shall be many ways incumbered and straitened.

Thou oughtest therefore to ascribe nothing of *good* unto thy self, nor attribute *goodness* unto any man : but give all unto GOD, without whom man hath nothing.

I have bestowed all, and will that all be returned unto me again : and with great strictness I require thanks.

3. This is the *truth* that putteth to flight *vain-glory*.

And if *heavenly grace* and *true love* enter in, there shall be no envy nor straitness of heart, neither shall there be any place for self-love.

For *divine love* overcometh all, and enlargeth all the powers of the *soul*.

If thou beest *truly wise*, in me alone thou wilt *rejoyce*, in me alone thou wilt *hope* : for none is good, but GOD *alone*, who is to be praised above all things, and to be blessed in all.

CHAP.



C H A P. X.

*That it is a sweet thing to despise the world,
and serve G O D.*

Christian. **N**OW I will speak again, O LORD, and will not be silent; I will say in the ears of my GOD, my LORD, and my KING that is on high.

O how great is the abundance of thy goodness, O LORD, which thou hast laid up for those that fear thee!

But what art thou to them that love thee? What to them that serve thee with their whole heart.

Truly unspeakably is the sweetness of contemplating thee, which thou bestowest on them that love thee.

In this chiefly thou hast shewed me the sweetness of thy love: in that when I was not, thou *madest me*; and when I went astray afar off from thee, thou broughtest me back again, that I might serve thee, and hast commanded me to love thee.

2. *O Fountain of everlasting love, what shall I say of thee?*

K 2

How

How can I forget thee, that hast vouchsafed to remember me, even after I had pined away, and perished ?

Thou hast shewed *mercy* to thy *servant* beyond all my expectation.

Thou hast exhibited thy *favour* and *friendship* beyond all my desert. What shall I return to Thee for this favour ?

Is it much that I should serve thee, whom all *creatures* are bound to serve ?

It ought not seem much unto me to serve thee : but this rather seemeth much and marvellous unto me, that thou vouchsafest to receive into thy service one so *poor* and *unworthy*, and to join him with thy *beloved servants*.

3. Behold, all is thine which I have, and whereby I serve thee.

And yet, contrariwise, thou rather servest me than I thee.

Behold, *heaven* and *earth*, which thou hast *created* for the *service* of man, are ready at hand, and do daily perform whatsoever thou dost command ;

And this is little : thou hast also appointed the *angels* to the *service* of man.

But that which *excelleth* all this, is, that thou thy self hast vouchsafed to *serve* man, and hast promised to give thy *self* unto him.

4. What shall I give thee for all these thousands of *benefits* ?

Would

Would I could serve thee all the days of my *life*.

Would I were able at least for one day, to do thee *worthy service*.

Verily thou art *worthy* of all *service*, of all *honour*, and everlasting *praise*.

Verily thou art my LORD, and I thy *poor servant*, that am bound to serve thee with all my *might*, neither ought I ever to be weary of *praising thee*.

This I wish to do, this I desire; and whatsoever is wanting unto me, *vouchsafe I beseech thee to supply*.

5. It is a great *honour*, a great *glory* to serve thee, and despise all *things* for thee.

For great *grace* shall be given unto them that shall willingly subject themselves to thy most *holy service*.

They shall receive the most *sweet comfort* of the HOLY GHOST, that for thy love renounce all *carnal delights*:

They shall attain great freedom of *mind*, that for thy Name's sake enter into the narrow way, and throw off all worldly care.

6. O sweet and delightful service of God, by which man is truly made free and holy!

O sacred state of religious service, which maketh man equal to *angels*, pleasing to God, terrible to *devils*, grateful to all the *faithful*!

O service to be embraced and always wished for, by which we obtain the greatest good, and acquire that joy which never shall have an end!

C H A P. XI.

That the desires of our heart are to be examined and moderated.

Christ. SON, thou must still learn many things, which thou hast not yet well learned.

Christian. What are those, LORD?

Christ. That thou frame thy *desires* wholly according to my pleasure; and be not a lover of thy self, but a zealous follower of my will.

Thy *desires* often enflame thee, and that vehemently. But consider, whether thou art moved rather for my *honour*, or for thy own *profit*.

If I be the cause, thou wilt be well content, howsoever I shall ordain:

But if there lurk in thee any *self-seeking*, behold this is it that hindereth thee and weigheth thee down.

2. Beware

2. Beware therefore thou lean not too much upon any *desire* conceived without asking my *counsel*, lest perhaps afterwards it *repent thee*, and thou dislike what before *pleased thee*, and which thou zealously *desiredst* as the best.

For every *affection* that seemeth good, is not presently to be followed: Nor every *affection* that at first seemeth evil to be avoided.

It is expedient sometimes to use a restraint even in good *desires* and *endeavours*, lest by importunity of *desire* thou incur distraction of *mind*, and by thy want of self-government be a scandal to others; or being gain-said by others thou be suddenly troubled and fall.

3. But thou oughtest sometimes to use *violence*, and resist manfully thy sensual *appetites*, and respect not what the *flesh* would or would not; but rather to labour, that even perforce it be subject to the *spirit*.

And it is to be *chastised* so long, and to be forced under servitude, until it readily obey in all things; and learn to be content with a little, and to be pleased with plain things, and not to murmur at any *inconvenience*.



C H A P. XII.

Of patience, and of striving against concupiscence.

Christian. **O** LORD GOD, I perceive *patience* is very necessary unto me, for many *adversities* happen in this *life*.

For howsoever I aim at *peace*, my *life* cannot be without *war* and *affliction*.

Christ. So it is, son. And my *will* is, that thou seek not such a *peace*, as is void of *temptations*, or as feeleth no contrariety :

But then think that thou hast found *peace*, when thou art exercised with sundry *tribulations*, and tried in many *adversities*.

2. If thou say, that thou art not able to suffer much, how then wilt thou endure the *fire hereafter* ?

Of *two evils*, the less is always to be chosen. That thou mayest therefore avoid *everlasting punishment*, endeavour to suffer patiently for God the present evils.

Dost thou think that the men of this world suffer little or nothing ? Look into the

the *life* of them that are most at ease, and thou wilt find it otherwise.

But thou wilt say, they have many *delights*, and follow their own *wills*, and therefore make small account of their *tribulations* :

Be it so, that they have whatsoever they will ; but how long dost thou think it will last ?

3. Behold, the *rich* of this world vanish away like smoke, and there shall be no memory of their past *pleasures*.

Yea, even while they live, they rest not in them without *bitterness*, *irksomeness*, and *fear*.

For the self-same thing, in which they take their *delight*, is often to them the cause of sorrow ;

And it is but just that they, who inordinately seek such *pleasures*, should not enjoy them without *bitterness* and *confusion*.

4. O how short and false, how inordinate and base are all those *pleasures* !

Yet so *blind* and *intoxicated* are, men that they understand it not : but, like *dumb beasts*, for a little *pleasure* of a *corruptible life*, they incur the *death* of their *soul*.

Thou therefore, my son, go not after thy *lusts*, but forsake thine own will.

Delight

Delight thou in the LORD, and he will give thee thy heart's desire.

5. For if thou desire true *delight*, and to be more plentifully comforted by me, behold, in the contempt of all *worldly things*, and in the cutting off all *base delights*, shall be thy *blessing*, and abundant *comforts* shall be given thee.

And the more thou withdrawest thy self from all comfort of *creatures*, the sweeter and more powerful *consolations* shalt thou find in me.

But thou canst not attain unto them without some sorrow at first, nor without a laborious *conflict*.

Thy inveterate habits will resist for a time, but they will be overcome by better habits.

Thy *flesh* will mutmur; but thou shalt bridle it by the fervour of thy *spirit*.

The old *serpent* will tempt and provoke thee; but by *prayer* he shall be put to flight: moreover useful labour will much contribute to prevent his having access to thee.



C H A P. XIII.

Of the obedience of an humble inferior, according to the example of CHRIST.

Christ. SON, he that endeavoureth to withdraw himself from obedience, withdraws himself from grace.

• And he that seeketh his own pleasures, loseth my blessings. —

He that doth not willingly and freely submit himself to his *superior*, it is a sign that his *flesh* is not as yet perfectly obedient unto him, but oftentimes kicketh and muttoureth against him.

Learn therefore readily to submit thy self to thy superior, if thou desirest to subdue thy *flesh*.

For the outward *enemy* is sooner overcome, if the inward man be not in disorder.

There is no worse, nor more troublesome *enemy* of the *soul*, than thou art unto thy self, when disobedient to the *spirit*.

Thou must of necessity have a true contempt of thy self, if thou wilt prevail against *flesh* and *blood*.

2. Because

2. Because thou still lovest thy self inordinately, therefore thou art afraid to resign thy self wholly to the will of others.

But what great matter is it, if thou that art *dust* and *nothing*, submit thy self to a man for God, when I the *Almighty*, the most High, who created all things of nothing, humbly submitted my self unto man for thee?

I became the lowest and most abject of all, that thou mightest overcome thy *pride* with my *humility*.

Thou *dust*, learn to obey.

Thou *earth* and *clay*, learn to humble thy self, to bow down beneath the feet of all men.

Learn to break thine own will, and to yield thy self to all *subjection*.

3. Be zealous against thy self: and suffer not *pride* to live in thee.

Shew thy self so lowly, such a little child, that every one may go over thee, and tread thee as dirt of the streets under their feet.

Vain man, what hast thou to complain of?

Vile *sinner*, what canst thou answer to them who reproach thee, who hast so often offended God, and so many times *deserved bell*?

But mine eye hath spared thee, because thy *soul* was precious in my fight;

That

That thou mightest know my *love*, and always remain thankful for my *benefits*;

And that thou mightest continually study true *subjection* and *humility*, and patiently endure to be despised.



C H A P. XIV.

Of the considering the secret judgments of GOD, lest we be exalted on account of our good deeds.

Christian. **T**HOU thunderest forth thy judgments over me, O LORD; thou shakest all my bones with fear and trembling, and my soul is sore afraid.

I stand astonished, when I consider that the heavens are not pure in thy sight.

If thou hast found *wickedness* in angels, and hast not pardoned them; what shall become of me?

Stars fell from heaven, and am I, who am dust, proud?

They, whose works seemed commendable, have fallen greatly: and I have seen them, that did eat the bread of angels, delighted with the husks of swine.

2. There

2. There is therefore no *sanctity*, if thou, O LORD, withdrawest thy *band*.

No wisdom availeth, if thou ceaseſt to *govern*.

No strength helpeth, if thou leaveſt to *defend*.

No chaſtity is ſecure, if thou doſt not *protect* it.

No vigilance profits, if thy ſacred watchfulneſs be not *preſent*.

For, if we be left, we ſink and periſh : but, if thou viſit us, we are raiſed up and live.

We are inconstant, but by thee we are eſtabliſhed : we grow cold, but by thee we are inflamed.

3. O how meanly and humbly ought I to think of my ſelf ! how nothing ought I to eſteem it, if I ſeem to have any good !

O LORD, with what profound *humility* ought I to ſubmit my ſelf to thy *inſcrutable judgments* ; where I find my ſelf to be a *Nothing*, a very *Nothing* !

O unmeaſurable weight ! O unpaſſable *ſea*, where I find my ſelf to be nothing, how altogether nothing ! Where then is the hiding-place of *glory* ? Where is the *confidence* I once conceived of my own *virtue* ?

All vain-glorying is ſwallowed up in the depth of thy judgments over me.

4. What

4. What is all *flesh* in thy sight?

Shall the clay *glory* against him that frameth it?

How can he be lifted up with vain words, whose *heart* is truly subject to GOD?

All the world cannot lift him up, whom the *truth* hath subjected unto it self? Neither shall he be moved with the *tongues* of all his *praisers*, that hath settled his whole *hope* upon GOD.

For as for them that speak, behold, they are all *nothing*, they shall pass away, as doth the found of their *words*: but the *truth* of the LORD remaineth for ever.



C H A P. XV.

How we are to be affected, and what we are to say, in every thing which we desire.

Christ. **S**ON, say thus in every thing:
LORD, if it be pleasing unto thee, let this be thus;

LORD, if it be to thy honour, let this be done in thy Name;

LORD, if thou seeest it expedient for me, and knowest it to be profitable, then grant me, to use this unto thy *honour*;

But

But if thou knowest it will be hurtful unto me, and not profitable to the health of my *soul*, take away this desire from me.

For every desire proceedeth not from the HOLY GHOST, tho' it seem unto man right and good.

It is hard to judge rightly, whether a *good spirit* or the contrary incline thee to desire this or that; or whether thou be not moved by thine own *spirit* :

Many are deceived in the end, who at the first seemed to be led by a *good spirit*.

2. Always therefore, whatsoever seemeth desirable to thee, let it be desired and prayed for in the fear of GOD, and with *humility of heart* :

And above all thou oughtest to resign thy self, and to commit the whole unto me, and say :

LORD, thou knowest what is best, let this or that be done as thou pleasest.

Give what thou wilt, and how much thou wilt, and when thou wilt.

Deal with me as thou thinkest good, and as best pleaseth thee, and is most for thy *honour*.

Set me where thou wilt, and deal with me in all *things* according to thy will.

I am in thy hand; turn me, and turn me again which way soever thou pleasest.

AMEN

Behold

Behold I am thy *servant*, prepared for all things : for I desire not to live unto my self, but unto thee : and O that I could do it *worthily* and *perfectly* !

3. Grant me thy grace, O *most gracious* JESUS, that it may be with me, and labour with me, and continue with me until the end.

Grant me always to desire and will that which is most acceptable unto thee, and best pleaseth thee.

Let thy *will* be mine, and let my *will* ever follow thine, and agree perfectly with it.

Let my *will* and *nill* be all one with thine, and let me not be able to *will* nor *nill* any thing else, but what thou *willest* or *nillest*.

4. Grant that I may die to all things that are in the world, and for thy sake to love to be contemned, and not to be known in this world.

Grant that above all things that can be desired, I may rest in thee, and may quiet my *heart* in thee.

Thou art the true *peace* of the *heart*, thou art the only rest ; out of thee all things are troublesome and unquiet.

In this very *peace*, that is, in thee, the one chief *eternal Good*, may I sleep and rest. *Amen.*



C H A P. XVI.

That true comfort is to be sought in GOD alone.

WHatsoever I can desire or imagine for my *comfort*, I look not for it here, but hereafter.

For if I should alone have all the *comforts* of the world, and enjoy all the *delights* thereof, it is certain, that they could not long endure.

Wherefore, my *soul*, thou canst not be fully comforted, nor have perfect delight, but in GOD, the *comforter* of the *poor*, and the *helper* of the *humble*.

Wait a while, O my *soul*, wait the *divine promise*, and thou shalt have abundance of all good things in *heaven*.

If thou desire inordinately the things that are present, thou shalt lose the *celestial* and *eternal*.

Use *temporal things*, desire *eternal*.

Thou canst not be satisfied with any *temporal good*, because thou art not created to enjoy them.

2. Altho'

2. Altho' thou hadst all created *good*, yet wouldst thou not not be happy, or blessed; but in GOD, that hath created all things, thy whole *beatitude* and *happiness* consisteth.

Not such happiness as is seen and commended by the foolish lovers of the world; but such as the good and *faithful servants* of CHRIST expect, and the *spiritual* and *pure in heart*, whose conversation is in *heaven*; sometimes have a *foretaste* of.

Vain and short is all *human comfort*.

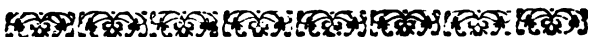
Blessed and real is that *comfort* which is received inwardly from the *truth*.

A devout man every where carrieth with him JESUS his comforter, and saith unto him: Be present with me, LORD JESUS, in every place and time.

Let this be my *comfort*, to be willing to want all *human comfort*.

And if thy *comfort* be wanting, let thy will and just proving of me be unto me as the greatest *comfort*:

For thou wilt not be angry always, neither wilt thou threaten for ever.



C H A P. XVII.

That all our care is to be cast on GOD.

Christ. SON, suffer me to do with thee what I please. I know what is expedient for thee.

Thou thinkest like a man; thou judgest in many things, as *human affection* persuadeth thee.

Christian. LORD, what thou sayest is true. Thy care for me is greater than all the care that I can take for my self.

For he standeth very totteringly, that casteth not his whole care upon thee.

LORD, so that my will may remain right and firm towards thee, do with me whatsoever shall please thee.

For it cannot be but good whatsoever thou doest with me.

2. If it be thy will I should be in darkness, be thou blessed: and if it be thy will I should be in light, be thou again blessed.

If thou vouchsafest to *comfort* me, be thou blessed: and if thou wilt *afflict* me, be thou equally blessed.

Christ. Son, such must be thy disposition, if thou wilt walk with me.

Thou

Thou must be as ready to *suffer*, as to *rejoice*:

Thou oughtest to be as willing to be poor and needy, as full and rich.

3. *Christian*. LORD, I willingly suffer for thee whatsoever thy pleasure is shall befall me.

I will receive indifferently from thy hand *good* and *evil*, *sweet* and *bitter*, *delightful* and *sorrowful*, and give thee thanks for all that befall me.

Keep me from all sin, and I will neither fear *death* nor *hell*.

So thou dost not for ever cast me from thee, nor blot me out of the *book of life*, what *tribulation* soever befall me shall not hurt me.



C H A P. XVIII.

That temporal miseries, after the example of CHRIST, must be borne patiently.

Christ. SON, I descended from *heaven* for thy *salvation*: I took upon me thy *miserias*, my own love, and not any necessity, drawing me thereunto; that thou mightest learn *patience*, and bear temporal *miserias* without repining.

L 3

For

For, from the hour of my *birth*, until my *death on the cross*, I was not without suffering.

I suffered great want of temporal things ; I often heard many complaints against me : I bore patiently *shame* and *reviling* : for *benefits* I received *ingratitude* ; for *miracles, blasphemies* ; for *heavenly doctrine, reproaches*.

2. *Christian*. LORD, since thou wert patient in thy life-time, herein chiefly fulfilling the commandment of thy *Father*, it is reason, that I, a *miserable sinner* ; should shew my self patient according to thy *will*, and for my *soul's* welfare bear the burden of this corruptible life as long as thou wilt.

For altho' this present life be burthensome ; yet notwithstanding it is now, by thy *grace*, made very gainful ; and by the example and the footsteps of thy *saints*, more plain and tolerable to the weak : yea, much more comfortable also than it was in times past, in the old law, when the gate of *heaven* remained shut, and the way also to *heaven* seemed darker, when so few took care to seek after thy *kingdom*.

3. O how many and great thanks am I bound to render unto thee, that thou hast vouchsafed to shew unto me and to all the *faithful*, a direct and sure way to thy *everlasting kingdom* !

If

thou mayest the easier bear thy little adversities.

And if they seem not little unto thee, beware lest thy impatience be the cause thereof.

Yet, whether they be little or great, endeavour to bear all patiently.

2. How much the better thou disposeth thy self to suffering; so much the more wisely thou doest, and so much the greater reward shalt thou receive:

Thou shalt more easily also endure it, if, both in mind, and by exercise, thou art well prepared thereunto.

Do not say, I cannot suffer these things at the hands of such a person, nor ought I to suffer such things; for he hath done me great wrong and upbraided me with those things which I never thought of; but of another I will willingly suffer, as proper occasions of suffering shall offer.

Such a thought is foolish; it considereth not the virtue of *patience*, nor by whom it shall be crowned; but rather weigheth the persons, and the injuries offered.

3. He is not truly patient, that will not suffer but as much as he thinketh good, and by whom he listeth.

But the true patient man mindeth not by whom he is exercised, whether by his superior, or some of his equals, or by his inferior;

inferior ; whether by a good and holy man, or by a perverse and unworthy person :

But indifferently from all creatures, how much soever, or how often soever, any adversity befalleth him, he taketh all thankfully from the hands of GOD, and esteemeth it a great gain :

Seeing nothing, how little soever, so it be suffered for GOD, shall pass without its reward from GOD.

4. Be thou therefore prepared for the fight, if thou wilt have the victory.

Without a combat thou canst not attain unto the *crown of patience*.

If thou wilt not suffer, thou refuseth to be crowned :

But if thou desirest to be crowned, fight manfully, and endure patiently.

Without labour there is no coming to rest, nor without fighting can victory be obtained.

5. *Christian*. LORD, let that be made possible to me by thy *grace*, which seemeth impossible to me by nature.

Thou knowest, that I can suffer but little, and that I am quickly dismayed, when a small adversity ariseth.

Let every exercise of *tribulation* be made amiable unto me, and be welcome for thy name ; for to suffer and to be troubled for thy sake, is very profitable for my *soul*.



C H A P. XX.

*Of the acknowledging of our own infirmities,
and of the miseries of life.*

Christian. I WILL confess against me my unrighteousness ; I will confess unto thee, O LORD, my infirmities.

It is often a small matter that dejecteth and grieveth me.

I purpose to act with courage ; but when a small temptation cometh, it bring me into great straits.

It is sometimes a very trifle, from whence great temptations proceed.

And, whilst I think my self somewhat safe, when I least expect it, I find my self sometimes overcome with a small blast.

2. Behold therefore, LORD, my low estate, and my frailty every way known unto thee.

Have mercy on me, and deliver me out of the mire, that I stick not fast therein, and that I may not be cast down altogether.

This is that, which often strikes me, and confounds me in thy *fight* ; for that I am so subject to fall, and weak in resisting of my passions. And

And tho' I do not altogether consent, yet their continual assaults are grievous unto me : and it is a very irksome thing to live thus daily in conflict. Hereby my infirmity is made known unto me, that wicked thoughts always much more easily invade, than forsake me.

3. O mighty GOD of *Israel*, the zealous lover of faithful *souls*, let it please thee to consider the *labour* and *sorrow* of thy *servant*, and assist him in all whatsoever he undertaketh.

Strengthen me with heavenly strength, lest the old man, the miserable *flesh*, not yet fully subject to the *spirit*, prevail and get the upper hand ; against which I ought to fight as long as I breathe in this miserable *life*.

Alas, what a wretched kind of life is this, where all is full of *snares* and *enemies* !

For when one *temptation* goeth away, another cometh ; yea, and during the first conflict also, many others come unlooked for, one after another.

4. And how can a *life* be loved, that hath so many *embitterments*, and is subject to so many *calamities*, and *miseries* : How is it called a *life* that begetteth so many *deaths* and *plagues* ? And yet it is loved, and many seek to delight themselves therein. The world is oftentimes blamed that it is deceitful and vain ; and yet it is not easily forsaken,
because

because the desires of the *flesh* bear so great a sway.

Some things draw us to love it, others to contemn it. To the *love* of the world, the *lust* of the *flesh*, the *lust* of the *eyes*, and the *pride* of *life* do draw us: but the pains and miseries, that do justly follow them, cause a hatred and loathsomeness thereof.

5. But alas! vile *pleasure* overcometh the *mind* which is addicted to the world; and she esteemeth it a delight to be even under thorns, because she hath neither seen nor tasted the sweetness of GOD, and the inward pleasantness of virtue.

But they that perfectly contemn the world, and endeavour to live to GOD under *holy discipline*, these are not ignorant of the *divine sweetness* promised to the true forsakers of the world, but clearly see how grievously the world erreth, and how many ways it is deceived.



C H A P. XXI.

That we are to rest in GOD above all his gifts and benefits.

Christian. **A**BOVE all things, and in all things, O my *soul*, thou shalt ever rest in the LORD; for he is the everlasting rest of the *saints*. Grant

Grant me, O most sweet and loving JESUS, to rest in thee above all creatures,

Above all *health* and *beauty*, above all *glory* and *honour*, above all *power* and *dignity*, above all *knowledge* and *subtilty*, above all *riches* and *arts*, above all *joy* and *gladness*, above all *fame* and *praise*, above all *sweetness* and *comfort*, above all *hope* and *promise*, above all *desert* and *desire*,

Above all *gifts* and *presents* that thou canst give and impart unto us,

Above all *joy* and *triumph*, that the mind of man can receive and feel :

Lastly, above *angels* and *archangels*, and above all the *host* of *heaven*, above all *visible* and *invisible things*, and above all that thou art not, O my GOD.

2. For thou, my LORD GOD, art best above all, thou alone art most *high*, thou alone most *powerful*, thou alone most *full* and *sufficient*, thou alone most *sweet* and overflowing with *comfort*, thou alone most *lovely* and *loving*, thou alone most *noble* and *glorious* above all things, in whom all good things are together and most perfectly, and ever have been and shall be :

And therefore it is too little and not sufficient, whatsoever thou bestowest on me besides thy self, or revealest unto me of thy self, or promigest whilst thou art not seen, and not fully obtained :

For

For surely my *heart* cannot truly rest nor be fully contented, unless it rest in thee, and surmount all *gifts* and *creatures* whatsoever.

3. O my most beloved *Bridegroom* JESUS CHRIST, the most pure *lover*, the governor of all *creatures* ! O that I had the wings of true *liberty*, that I might fly away and rest in thee !

O when shall it be fully granted me to consider in quietness of mind, and see how sweet thou art, my LORD GOD !

When shall I fully gather up my self into thee, that by reason of my love to thee I may not feel my self, but thee alone, above all sense and measure, in a manner not known unto every one ?

But now I oftentimes sigh, and bear my infelicity with grief, for that many *evils* occur in this vale of *miseries*, which often trouble, grieve, and overcloud me ; often hinder and distract me, allure and entangle me ; so that I can have no free access unto thee, nor enjoy thy sweet *embracings* wherewith thou ever favourest the *blessed spirits*.

O let my sighs and manifold *desolations* on earth affect thee.

4. O JESUS, the brightness of *eternal glory*, the *comfort* of the *banish'd soul*, with thee is my tongue without voice, and my very silence speaketh unto thee.

How long doth my LORD delay to come ?

Let

Let him come unto me his poor *servant*, and make me glad.

Let him put forth his hand, and deliver me from all trouble.

Come, O come ; for without thee I shall have no joyful hour : for thou art my joy, and without thee my table is empty.

A wretched *creature* I am, and in a manner imprisoned and loaded with irons, until thou comfortest me with the light of thy presence and settest me at liberty, and shewest a friendly countenance unto me.

5. Let others seek what they please instead of thee : but for me, nothing else doth, or shall delight me, but thou only, *my GOD, my hope, my everlasting salvation.*

I will not hold my *peace*, nor cease to *pray*, until thy *grace* return again, and thou speak inwardly unto me.

Christ. Behold I am here : behold I come unto thee, because thou hast called upon me.

Thy tears and the desire of thy *soul*, thy *humiliation* and the *contrition* of thy *heart*, have inclined and brought me unto thee.

Christian. LORD, I have called thee, and have desired to enjoy thee, being ready to cast away all things for thee.

For thou first hast stirred me up that I might seek thee.

Blessed be thou therefore, O LORD, that hast shewed thy goodness to thy *servant* according to the multitude of thy *mercies.* 6. What

6. What hath thy servant more to say before thee, but greatly to humble himself in thy sight, and always mindful of his own *iniquity* and *vileness*!

For there is none like unto thee in all that are wonderful in *heaven* and *earth*.

Thy *works* are very good, thy *judgments* true, and by thy providence all things are governed.

Praise therefore, and *glory* be unto thee, O wisdom of the *Father* : let my *mouth*, my *soul*, and all *creatures* together *praise* and *bleſs* thee.



C H A P. XXII.

Of the remembrance of the manifold benefits of G O D.

Christian. O P E N, O L O R D, my *heart* in thy *law*, and teach me to walk in thy *commandments*.

Grant me to understand thy *will* and remember thy *benefits*, as well in general as in particular, with great reverence and diligent consideration ; that henceforward I may be able worthily to give thee thanks.

But

But I know, and confess, that I am not able to give thee due thanks for the least of thy favours.

I am less than the least of all thy *benefits*: and, when I consider thy noble *bounty*, the greatness thereof maketh my *spirit* to faint.

2: All that we have in our *souls* and *bodies*, and whatsoever we possess outwardly or inwardly, naturally or supernaturally, are thy *benefits*, and do speak thee *bountiful*, *merciful* and *good*, from whom we have received all *good things*.

Altho' one have received more, another less; all notwithstanding are thine, and without thee even the least cannot be had.

He that hath received greater cannot *glory* in his own desert, nor extol himself above others, nor insult over the less: for he is greater and better that ascribeth least unto himself, and is more humble and devout in rendering thanks.

And he that esteemeth himself vilest of all men, and judgeth himself most unworthy, is fittest to receive greater blessings.

3. And he that hath received fewer, ought not to be sorry nor to repine, nor envy them that have greater store; but attend rather unto Thee, and highly praise thy goodness, who bestowest thy gifts so bountifully, so freely, and so willingly, without respect of persons.

M

All

All things proceed from thee, and therefore in all things thou art to be praised.

Thou knowest what is fit to be given to every man, and why one hath less, and another more.

It is not ours, but thine to judge, who dost exactly know what is meet for every one.

4. Wherefore, my LORD GOD, I esteem it a great *mercy*, not to have much of that which outwardly, and in the opinion of men, might seem worthy of *glory* and *applause*:

He, who considereth the poverty and unworthiness of his person, ought not therefore to grieve or be dejected, but rather to take great *comfort* and to be glad:

For thou, O GOD, hast chosen the *poor* and *humble*, and the despised of this world for thy self, to be thy friends and servants.

Witness thy *apostles* themselves, whom thou hast made *princes* over all the *earth*.

And yet they lived without complaint in the world, so humble and simple, without all malice and deceit, that they even rejoiced to suffer reproach for thy name; and they ardently loved what the world abhorreth.

5. Nothing therefore ought so to rejoyce him that loveth thee and acknowledgeth thy *benefits*, as thy will in him, and the good pleasure of thy *eternal appointment*.

With this he ought to be so contented and comforted, that he would be willing to be the *least*, as another the *greatest*. He

He is as peaceable and contented in the *last* as in the *first* place.

He is as willing to be *despised* and *contemned*, and to be of no *esteem* or *account*, as to be preferred in *honour* before all others, and to be *greater* in the world.

For thy *will* and the *love* of thy *glory* ought to be preferred before all things,

And to comfort him more, and please him better, than all the *benefits* which either he hath *received*, or may *receive*.



CHAPTER XXIII.

Of four things that bring much peace.

Christ. SON, now I will teach thee the way of *peace*, and true *liberty*.

Christian. Do, LORD, as thou sayest, for I shall be very glad to hear it.

Christ. Endeavour, my son, to do rather the *will* of another than thy own.

Ever choose rather to have less than more.

Always seek the *lowest* place, and to be beneath every one.

Continually wish and pray, that the will of God may be wholly fulfilled in thee.

Behold, such a man entereth into the *bounds of peace and quietness.*

2. *Christian.* LORD, this thy short *speech* containeth much perfection.

It is little in words, but full in sense, and abundant in fruit.

For if I could faithfully keep it, then should I not so easily be troubled.

For, as often as I feel my self *unquiet* and *afflicted*, I find that I have strayed from this *doctrine.*

But thou, who canst do all things, and ever lovest the profiting of my soul, increase in me thy *grace*, that I may fulfil thy *words*, and work out my own *salvation.*

3. My LORD GOD, be not far from me ; my GOD, consider and help me : for sundry thoughts have risen up against me, and great fears afflicting my soul.

How shall I pass through them without hurt ? How shall I utterly break them ?

Christ. *I will go before thee, and will bumble the great ones of the earth. I will open the doors of the prison, and reveal unto thee hidden secrets.*

Christian. Do, LORD, as thou sayest, and let all *evil thoughts* fly before thy *face.*

This is my *hope*, my only *comfort*, to fly unto thee in every *tribulation*, to trust in thee, to call upon thee from my *heart*, and to expect patiently thy *comfort.*

5. En-

4. Enlighten me, O good JESUS, with a clear-shining inward *light*, and drive away all *darkness* from the *habitation* of my *heart*.

Repress my many wandering *thoughts*, and drive away those *temptations* which violently assault me.

Fight *strongly* for me, and vanquish these evil *beasts*, these enticing *lusts*, that so *peace* may be obtained by thy *power*, and abundance of thy *praise* sound in the *holy court* of a pure *conscience*.

Command the *winds* and the *tempest*: say unto the *sea*, be still, and to the *north-wind*, blow not; and there shall be a great calm

5. Send forth thy *light* and thy *truth*, that they may shine upon the *earth*; for I am as the *earth* without *form*, and *void*, until thou enlighten me.

Pour out thy *grace* from above, let thy *heavenly dew* distil upon my *heart*.

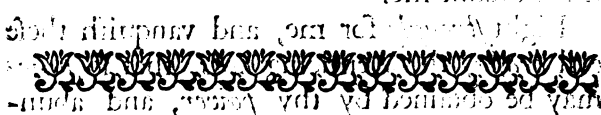
Supply streams of *devotion* to water the face of the *earth*, that it may bring forth good and excellent fruit.

Lift up my *mind* which is pressed down by the weight of *sins*. Draw up my whole *desire* to *heavenly things*; that having tasted the sweetness of *supernal happiness*, it may be irksome to me even to think of *earthly vanities*.

6. Snatch me, and deliver me from all the *unlasting comfort* of *creatures*; for no

created thing can fully comfort and quiet my desire.

Joyn me unto thee with an inseparable band of love; for thou alone dost satisfy him that loveth thee, and without thee all things are frivolous.



C H A P. XXIV

Of avoiding curious enquiry into the life of others.

Christ. SON, be not curious, trouble not thy self with idle cares.

What is this or that to thee? Follow thou me.

For what is it to thee, whether that man be such or no; whether this man do, or speak, this or that?

Thou shalt not need to answer for others, but shalt give account of thy self. Why therefore dost thou trouble thy self?

Behold I know every one, and see all things that are under the sun, and understand how it is with every one; what he thinks, what he desires, and at what his intention aims.

A

§ M

All things, therefore are to be committed unto me; but do thou keep thy self in peace, and let him that acts, act as he will.

Whatsoever he shall have done, or said, shall fall upon himself, for he cannot deceive me.

2. Be not careful for the shadow of a great name, or for the friendship of many; nor for the affection of particular men:

For these things distract and greatly darken the heart.

I would willingly utter my words, and reveal my secrets unto thee, if thou didst diligently observe my coming, and open the door of thy heart unto me.

Be careful and watch in prayer, and humble thy self in all things.

CHAP. XXV.

Wherein firm peace of heart, and true profiting consisteth.

Christ. SON, I have said, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

All desire peate, but all care not for those things that appertain unto true peace.

My *peace* is with the humble and meek of *heart*. Thy *peace* doth consist in much *patience*.

If thou wilt hear me and follow my *voice*, thou mayest enjoy much *peace*.

Christian. What then shall I do, LORD?

Christ. In ever thing attend unto thy self what thou doest, and what thou sayest: and direct thy whole intention unto this, that thou mayest please me alone, and desire or seek nothing besides me.

Of the sayings and doings of others judge not rashly, neither do thou entangle thy self with things not committed unto thee: and doing thus, thou shalt be little or seldom troubled.

But, never to feel any trouble at all, nor to suffer any grief of *heart* or pain of *body*, is not the state of this life, but of everlasting rest.

Think not therefore that thou hadst found true *peace*, if thou feelest no *sorrow*; nor that then all is well, if thou have no *adversary*; nor that all is perfect, if all things be done according to thy *desire*.

Neither do thou then esteem highly of thy self, or account thy self to be specially beloved, if thou be in great *devotion* and *sweetness*: for by these things a true lover of *virtue* is not known, neither doth the
profiting

profiting and *perfection* of a man consist in these things.

3. *Christian*. Wherein then, LORD?

Christ. In offering thy self with thy whole *heart* unto the will of GOD, not seeking thine own neither in great nor little, neither in time nor in eternity.

So that thou keepest one and the same even *countenance* with *thanksgiving*, both in *prosperity* and in *adversity*, weighing all in an equal ballance.

If thou be of such courage and so patient in hope, that when inward *comfort* is withdrawn from thee, thou preparest thy *heart* to suffer greater things; and dost not justify thy self, as tho' thou oughtest not to suffer these and so great *afflictions*, but justifiest me in whatsoever I appoint, and praifest my *holy name*; then thou walkest in the true and right way of *peace*: and thou shalt have undoubted hope to see my face again with *joy*.

And if thou attain to the full contempt of thy self, then shalt thou enjoy as great abundance of peace, as this thy state of sojourning is capable of.

ni didaoo nam e lo williboy has yindiq



skidz qd1 d w lbt yd gaidto of A d d d

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C H A P. XXVI.

Of the excellent liberty which humble prayer sooner gaineth than reading.

Christian. LORD, it is the work of a perfect man, never to slack his mind from the attentive thought of *heavenly things*, and as it were to pass without care amongst many cares; not like a dull sluggard; but by the privilege of a free mind, adhering to no creature with *inordinate affection*.

I beseech thee, my most gracious God, preserve me from the cares of this *life*, lest I be too much entangled thereby; and from the many *necessities* of the *body*, lest I should be caught by *pleasure*; and from whatsoever is an *obstacle* to the *soul*, lest broken with *troubles*, I should be overthrown.

I say not from those things that worldly *vanity* so greatly desireth; but from those *miseries*, that as *punishments* and as the common curse of *mortality*, do weigh down and hinder the *soul* of thy servant, that it cannot

TAHO

cannot enter into freedom of *spirit*, as often as it would.

3. O my God, who art ineffable sweetness, embitter unto me all carnal *comfort*, which draws me away from the love of *eternal things* to itself by the hope of present delight.

Let me not be overcome, O LORD, let me not be overcome by *flesh* and *blood*. Let not the *world* and the short *glory* thereof deceive me. Let not the *devil* and his subtilty supplant me.

Give me strength to resist, patience to suffer, and constancy to persevere.

Give me, instead of all the *comforts* of the world, the most sweet *unction* of thy *Spirit*; and in lieu of carnal love pour into my soul the love of thy name. Behold, meat, drink, cloaths, and other *necessaries* for the maintenance of the body, are burdensome to a fervent *spirit*. Grant me to use such *refreshments* moderately; and not to be entangled with an over great desire of them.

It is not lawful to cast them all away, for nature is to be sustained: but to desire *superfluous* pleasures, and those things that are most pleasing, thy holy law forbiddeth: for otherwise the *flesh* would rebel against the *Spirit*.

Herein, I beseech thee, let thy hand govern me, and teach me, that I may fall into no extreme.



C H A P. XXVII.

That self-love most bindereth our attainment of the supreme Good.

Christ. SON, thou oughtest to give all for all, and to retain nothing of thy self.

Know that the *love* of thy self doth hurt thee more than any thing in the *world*.

According to the *love* and *affection* thou bearest them, every thing cleaves unto thee more or less.

If thy *love* be pure, simple and well ordered, thou shalt not be in bondage to any thing.

Covet not that which thou mayest not have. Be not willing to have that which may hinder thee and deprive thee of inward *liberty*.

It is strange that thou committest not thy self wholly unto me, from the bottom of thy heart, with all things that thou canst desire or have.

2. Why

2. Why dost thou consume thy self with vain *grief*? Why art thou tired with needless *cares*?

Stand to my will, and thou shalt suffer no detriment.

If thou seekest this or that, and wouldst be here or there, to enjoy thy own *will* and *pleasure*; thou shalt never be at quiet, nor free from care:

For in every thing somewhat will be wanting, and in every place there will be some that will cross thee.

3. It availeth thee therefore, not to attain and multiply outward things, but to despise them, and utterly root them out from thy *heart*:

And this thou must not understand only of revenues and wealth, but of seeking *honour* also, and desiring of *praise*, all which pass away with this *world*.

Place availeth little, if the *spirit* of fervour be wanting; neither will that *peace* which is sought abroad long continue, if the state of thy *heart* be destitute of a true *foundation*:

That is, unless thou stand stedfast in me, thou mayest change, but not better thy self.

For when occasion of change happens and is embraced, thou shalt find not only those things which thou soughtest to fly, but a great deal more.

4. *Christian.*

Christian. Strengthen me, O God, by the grace of thy Holy Spirit.

Give me to be strengthened in my inward man, and to empty my heart of all unprofitable care and anguish;

Not to be drawn away with the fondry desires of any thing, either mean or precious, but to look upon all things as passing away, and my self as passing away together with them.

For nothing is permanent under the sun, where all things are vanity and vexation of spirit: O how wise is he that to considereth them!

5. Grant me, LORD, heavenly wisdom, that I may learn above all things to seek and find thee, above all things to relish thee, and to love thee,

And to think of all other things as they are, according to the disposal of thy wisdom.

Grant me prudently to avoid him, that flatters me, and to suffer patiently him that contradicts me.

For it is a great part of wisdom not to be moved with every blast of words; not to give ear to an ill-flattering *Siren*; for so we shall go on securely in the way which we have begun.



CHAP. XXVIII.

Against the tongues of slanderers.

Christ. SON, grieve not, if some think evil of thee, and speak that which thou wouldst not willingly hear.

Thou oughtest to judge worse of thy self, and to think no man weaker than thy self.

If thou dost walk *spiritually*, thou wilt not regard flying words.

It is no small wisdom to keep silence in an evil time, and inwardly to run to me, and not to be troubled with the judgment of men.

2. Let not thy *peace* depend on the tongues of men: for whether they interpret well or evil, thou art not therefore another man.

Where is true *peace*, and true *glory*? Is it not in me?

And he, that desireth not to please men, nor feareth to displease them, shall enjoy much *peace*.

From inordinate *love* and vain *fear* ariseth all *disquietness* of heart and *distraction* of mind.

CHAP.



C H A P. XXIX.

*How we ought to call upon G O D, and
bless him in tribulation.*

Christian. BLESSED (O LORD) be
thy name for ever ; who art
pleased that this *temptation* and *tribulation*
should come upon me.

I cannot fly it ; but must needs fly to thee
that thou mayest help me, and turn it to
my *good*.

LORD, I am now afflicted, and it is not
well with me. I am much troubled with
this present suffering.

And now, dear Father, what shall I say?
I am in a strait, save me from this hour.

Yet therefore came I unto this hour, that
thou mayest be glorified, when I shall have
been brought very low, and then delivered
by thee.

Let it please thee, LORD, to deliver me :
for, poor *wretch* that I am, what can I do,
and whither shall I go without thee ?

Grant me *patience*, LORD, even this time
also.

Help

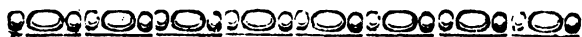
Help me, my GOD, and then I will not fear how grievously soever I be afflicted.

2. And now in these my *troubles* what shall I say? LORD, thy will be done; I have deserved to be afflicted and grieved.

Surely I ought to bear it: and O that I could bear it with *patience* until the *tempest* be passed over, and it become *calm*.

But thy *omnipotent hand* is able to take even this *temptation* from me, and to aswage the violence thereof, that I utterly sink not under it, as often heretofore thou hast done unto me, O my GOD, my merciful GOD.

And how much the more hard it is to me, so much the more easy is this *change to the right hand of the most High*.



C H A P. XXX.

Of craving the divine aid, and confidence of recovering grace.

Christ. **S**ON, I am the LORD that give strength in the day of *tribulation*.

Come unto me when it is not well with thee.

N

This

This is that which most of all hindreth *heavenly consolation*, that thou art slow in turning thy self unto *prayer*.

For before thou dost earnestly pray unto me, thou seekest in the mean while many *comforts*, and triest to refresh thy self with outward things.

And hence it comes to pass that all doth little profit thee, until thou consider that I am he that deliver those that trust in me, that out of me there is neither powerful *help*, nor profitable *counsel*, nor lasting *remedy*.

But now having recovered breath after the tempest, gather strength again in the light of my mercies, for I am at hand to repair all, not only intirely, but also abundantly, and in a very plentiful measure.

2. Is there any thing hard to me? Or am I like unto him that promiseth and performeth not?

Where is thy *faith*? be firm and constant.

Take courage and be patient; *comfort* will come to thee in due time.

Wait, wait for me, I will come and heal thee.

It is a *temptation* that vexeth thee, and a vain fear affrighteth thee.

What else doth the care of future contingencies bring thee, but sorrow upon sorrow?

Sufficient

Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.

It is a vain and unprofitable thing to be grieved, or to rejoyce for future things that perhaps will never come to pass.

3. But it is incident to man, to be deluded with such imaginations: and a sign of a weak mind to be so easily drawn away by the suggestion of the *enemy*.

For he careth not, so he delude and deceive thee, whether it be by *truth* or *falsehood*: whether he overthrow thee with the *love* of present, or the *fear* of future things.

Let not therefore thy *heart* be troubled, neither let it fear.

Believe in me, and put thy trust in my *mercy*.

When thou thinkest thy self furthest off from me, oftentimes I am nearest unto thee.

When thou judgest that almost all is lost, then often is the greatest opportunity of improvement.

All is not lost, when something falleth out contrary.

Thou must not judge according to that which thou feelest for the present: nor so take, or give thy self over to any *grief*, from whencesoever it cometh, as tho' all hope of delivery were quite gone.

4. Think not thy self wholly left, altho' for a time I have sent thee some *tribulation*,

or withdrawn thy desired *comfort* : for this is the way to the *kingdom of heaven*.

And without doubt it is more expedient for thee and the rest of my *servants*, that ye be exercised with *adversities*, than that ye should have all things according to your *desires*.

I know the secret thoughts of thy *heart*, and that it is very expedient for thy *salvation*, that thou be left sometimes without taste of *spiritual sweetness*, lest perhaps thou shouldst be puffed up with thy prosperous estate, and shouldst please thy self in that which thou art not.

That which I have given I can take away ; and restore it again when I please.

5. When I give it, it is mine ; when I withdraw it, I take not any thing that is thine ; for mine is every *good* and every perfect *gift*.

If I send thee *affliction*, or any *cross* whatsoever, repine not, nor let thy *heart* fail thee : I can quickly succour thee and turn all thy *heaviness* into *joy*.

Nevertheless I am *righteous*, and greatly to be *praised* when I deal thus with thee.

6. If thou be wise, and considerest this rightly, thou wilt never mourn so dejectedly for any *adversity*, but rather rejoyce and give thanks.

Yea,

Yea, account this thy only *joy*, that afflicting thee with *sorrows*, I do not spare thee.

As my Father hath loved me, I also love you, said I unto my beloved *disciples*; whom I sent not to temporal *joys*, but to great *conflicts*: not to *honours*, but to *contempts*: not to *idleness*, but to *labours*: not to *rest*, but to bring forth much *fruit* with *patience*.

My son, remember these words.



C H A P. XXXI.

Of the contempt of all creatures, in order to find out the C R E A T O R.

Christian. **L** O R D, I stand in need of yet greater *grace*, if I am to attain to that state wherein no man nor any creature may be a hindrance unto me.

For as long as any thing detains me, I cannot freely take my flight unto thee.

He desired to fly freely, that said, *Who will give me wings like a dove, and I will fly and be at rest?*

What is more quiet than a single eye? And what more free, than he that desireth nothing upon earth?

Man ought therefore to pass over all creatures, and perfectly to renounce himself, and to go out of himself, and to see that thou the *Creator* of all things hast nothing amongst *creatures* like unto thee.

And unless a man be free from *the affection of all creatures*, he cannot freely attend unto *divine things*.

For this cause there are so few contemplative men, because few can wholly withdraw themselves from things created and perishing.

2. To do this, there is need of much *grace*, which may raise up the *soul*, and lift it above it self.

And unless a man be raised up in *spirit*, and freed from all *creatures*, and wholly united unto GOD; whatsoever he knoweth and whatsoever he hath, is of little account.

A long while shall he be little and lye groveling below, that esteemeth any thing great, but the one only infinite and eternal GOOD.

For whatsoever is not GOD, is nothing; and ought to be accounted as nothing.

There is great difference between the wisdom of an illuminated and devout man, and the knowledge of a learned and studious scholar.

For that learning which floweth from above from the divine influence, is far more excel-

excellent than that which is painfully gotten by the wit of man.

3. There are many that desire *contemplation*, but they endeavour not to practise those things that are required thereunto.

The great hindrance is this, that we rest in signs and sensible things, and take little care about perfect mortification.

I know not what it is, nor by what *spirit* we are led, nor what we pretend, we that would be called spiritual, that we take so much pains and so great care for transitory and vile things, and seldom think of our own inward concernments with the full recollection of our minds.

4. Alas, presently after a slight recollection, we break out again, and weigh not our works with diligent examination.

We mind not where our affections lie; nor bewail the impurity that is in all our actions.

For all *flesh* had corrupted his way, and therefore did that general flood ensue.

Since then our inward affection is much corrupted, it must needs be that our actions proceeding thence be corrupted, as a sign of the want of inward vigor.

From a pure heart proceedeth the fruit of a good life.

5. We ask how much one hath done ; but on how good a principle he acts, is not so diligently considered.

We enquire whether he be valiant, rich, beautiful, ingenious, a good writer, a good singer, or a good labourer : but how poor he is in *spirit*, how *patient* and *meeke*, how *devout* and *spiritual*, is seldom spoken of.

Nature respecteth the outward things of a man. *Grace* turneth it self to the inward.

That is often deceived : this hath her trust in GOD, to the end she be not deceived.



C H A P. XXXII.

Of self-renunciation, and forsaking all inordinate desire.

Christ: SON, thou canst not possess perfect liberty, unless thou wholly renounce thy self.

All who are lovers of themselves are fettered and *in bondage*, full of desires, curious, wanderers, seeking self-indulgence, and not the things of JESUS CHRIST ; but often devising and framing that which shall not stand.

For

For all that is not of GOD shall perish.

Keep this short and perfect saying, *For-
sake all, and thou shalt find all. Leave de-
sire, and thou shalt find rest.*

Consider this well : and when thou hast fulfilled it, thou shalt understand all things.

2. *Christian.* LORD, that is not one day's work, nor children's sport : yea, in this short word is contained all perfection.

Christ. Son, thou must not go back, nor straitways be dejected when thou hearest of the way of the perfect ; but rather be stirred up to higher things, and at least desire and sigh after them.

I would it were thou wert come to this, that thou wert no longer a lover of thy self, but didst stand merely at my beck, and at his, whom I have appointed a Father over thee :

Then thou wouldst exceedingly please me, and all thy life would pass away in *joy and peace.*

Thou hast yet many things to forsake, which unless thou wholly resign up unto me, thou shalt not attain to that which thou desirest.

I counsel thee to buy of the gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest become rich : that is, heavenly wisdom, which treadeth under foot all earthly things.

Cast

Cast away earthly wisdom, and all study to please others or thy self.

3. I said, that thou art to prefer mean things before precious things and such as were with men of great esteem.

For the true *heavenly wisdom* seemeth mean and of small account, and is almost forgotten by men ;

It thinketh not highly of it self, nor seeketh to be magnified upon earth.

Many praise it with their mouths, but in their life they are far from it ;

Yet it is the precious *pearl* which is hidden from many.



C H A P. XXXIII.

Of inconstancy of heart, and of directing our intention unto G O D.

Christ. **S**ON, trust not to thy present *affection* ; for it will quickly be changed into another.

As long as thou livest thou art subject to mutability, even against thy will :

So that now thou art chearful, now sad ;
now quiet, now troubled ; now devout, now
undevout ;

undevout ; now zealous, now slothful ; now grave, now light.

But he that is wise and well instructed in *spirit*, standeth fast above these changes, not heeding what he feels in himself, or which way the wind of instability bloweth ; but that the whole intention of his *mind* may tend to the right and desired end.

For thus he may continue one, and the self-same, and unshaken in the midst of so many various events, directing continually the single eye of his intention unto me.

2. And the purer the eye of the intention is, the more steddily doth he pass through various storms.

But in many things the eye of a pure intention waxeth dim, for it quickly looketh upon any delightfome object that occurs.

And it is rare to find *one* that is wholly free from all blemish of self-seeking.

So the *Jews* of old came to *Bethany* to *Martha* and *Mary*, not for *JESUS* alone, but to see *Lazarus* also.

The eye of our intention therefore, is to be purged, that it may be single and right, directed unto me beyond the manifold earthly objects that come between,

C H A P.



C H A P. XXXIV.

That GOD is sweet above all things, and in all things, to him that loveth.

Christian. **M**Y GOD, *and my all.* What would I have more, and what greater happiness can I desire ?

O sweet and pleasing word ! but to him that loveth the word, not the world, nor those things that are in the world.

My GOD, and my all ! Enough is said to him that understandeth ; and to him that loveth, it is pleasant to repeat it often.

For when thou art present, all things please ; but when thou art absent, all things disgust.

Thou givest quiet of *heart*, and much *peace*, and pleasant *joy*.

Thou makest us think well of all things, and praise thee in all things : neither can any thing please long without thee :

But that any thing may be pleasant and grateful, thy *grace* must be present, and it must be seasoned with the sweetness of thy *wisdom*.

2. What

2. What is not tasteful unto him, who tasteth thee ?

And him who delighteth not in thee, what can delight ?

But the *wise* of this *world*, and they that relish the things of the *flesh*, come short of thy *wisdom* : for in the *world* is much *vanity*, and in the *flesh* is *death*.

But they that follow thee by the contempt of worldly things, and mortification of the flesh, are proved to be truly wise ; for they change from *vanity* to *truth*, from the *flesh* to the *spirit*.

These relish GOD ; and what *good* soever is found in *creatures*, they wholly refer unto the praise of their *Maker*.

Notwithstanding great, yea very great, is the difference between the sweetness of the *Creator*, and of the *creature* ; of *eternity*, and of *time* ; of light uncreated, and of light enlighten'd.

3. O thou everlasting *Light*, surpassing all created *lights*, dart the beams of thy brightness from above, piercing the most inward parts of my *heart* :

Purify, rejoyce, enlighten, and enliven my *spirit*, with all the powers thereof, that I may cleave unto thee with abundance of *joy* and *triumph*.

O when

O when will that blessed and desired hour come, when I shall be filled with thy presence, and thou be unto me all in all!

As long as this is not granted me, I shall not have full joy.

Alas! the old man yet liveth in me, he is not wholly crucified, he is not perfectly dead.

He doth yet lust strongly against the *spirit*, he stirreth up inward *wars*, and suffereth not the kingdom of my *soul* to be in *peace*.

4. But thou that rulest the *raging* of the *sea*, and stillest the *waves* thereof when they arise, arise and help me:

Scatter the people that delight in *war*, destroy them in thy *might*.

Display thy greatness, and let thy right-hand be *glorified*, for there is no other *hope* nor *refuge* for me, but in thee, my LORD God.

C H A P.



C H A P. XXXV.

That there is no security from temptation in this life.

Christ. SON, there is no security in this life : as long as thou livest, thou shalt always have need of *spiritual armour*.

Thou livest among *enemies*, and art assaulted on the right-hand and on the left.

If therefore thou defendest not thy self on every side with the shield of *patience*, thou canst not be long unwounded.

Moreover, if thou fix not thy *heart* on me with a sincere will to suffer all things for me, thou canst not bear the heat of this *battle*, nor obtain the crown of the blessed.

Thou oughtest therefore manfully to go through all, and to use a strong hand against whatsoever withstandeth thee.

For to him that overcometh is *Manna* given ; but for the negligent there remains much misery.

2. If thou seekest rest in this *world*, how wilt thou then attain to *everlasting rest* ?

Prepare not thy self for much *ease*, but much *patience*.

Seek

Seek true *peace*, not in *earth*, but in *heaven*; not in *men*, nor in any other *creature*, but in *God alone*.

Thou oughtest for the *love* of *God* willingly to undergo all things, even labours, griefs, temptations, vexations, anxieties, necessities, infirmities, injuries, detractions, reproaches, humblings, shame, corrections, and contempts.

These help to *virtue*: these try a young foldier of *Christ*: these make the *heavenly crown*.

I will give an everlasting *reward* for a *short labour*, and infinite *glory* for *transitory shame*.

3. Thinkest thou that thou shalt always have *spiritual consolation* at will!

My *saints* had not so, but they had many *afflictions*, and sundry *temptations*, and great *desolations*.

But they bare all patiently, and trusted in *God*, not in themselves, knowing that the *sufferings* of this time are not worthy of the *glory* that shall be revealed.

Wilt thou have that strait way, which many after many *tears* and great *labours* have hardly obtained!

Wait upon the *LORD*, do manfully, be of good courage, do not despair, do not fly, but with constancy expose both *body* and *soul* for the glory of *God*.

I will

I will reward thee most plentifully, and I will be with thee in all thy *tribulations*.



C H A P. XXXVI.

Against the vain judgments of men.

Christ. SON, cast thy heart firmly upon GOD, and fear not the judgment of men, when thy *conscience* giveth testimony of thy *piety* and *innocency*.

It is a good and happy thing so to suffer : neither will it be burthenfome to an humble heart, nor to him that trusteth in GOD, not in himself.

The most part of men are given to talk much, and therefore little heed is to be given to them :

Neither is it possible to satisfy all.

Altho' *Paul* endeavoured to please all in the LORD, and made himself all things unto all ; yet with him it was a very small thing that he should be judged of man's judgment.

2. He did for the *edification* and *salvation* of others, as much as he could, and lay in him ; yet could he not hinder but that he was sometimes judged and despised by others.

O

There-

Therefore he committed all to GOD, who knew all, and defended himself with *patience* and *humility* against them that spoke perverse things, and such as thought *vanities* and *lies*, and said what they listed :

Yet sometimes he answered, lest the weak should be offended by his silence,

3. Who art thou that fearest a mortal man ? To-day he is, and to-morrow he is not seen.

Fear GOD, and thou shalt not fear the terrors of men.

What harm can the words or injuries of any do thee ? He rather hurteth himself than thee ; neither can he avoid the judgment of GOD whosoever he be.

Have thou GOD before thine eye, and contend not with complaining words.

And if for the present thou seemest to be worsted, and to suffer shame without desert ; do not therefore repine, neither do thou lessen thy *crown* by thy impatience :

But rather lift up thine eyes to me in heaven, who am able to deliver thee from all shame and wrong, and to render to every one according to his *works*.

C H A P.



C H A P. XXXVII.

Of a pure and entire resignation of our selves, for the obtaining freedom of heart.

Christ. SON, forsake thy self and thou shalt find me.

Stand without chusing any thing, and without seeking to have any thing as thy own, and thou shalt ever be a gainer.

For greater *grace* shall be given thee, as soon as ever thou hast perfectly resign'd thy self, without resuming thy claim.

Christian. LORD, how often shall I resign my self? And wherein shall I forsake my self?

Christ. Always, and every hour, as well in *little* things as in *great*, I except nothing, but require that thou be *naked* and *void* of all things.

Otherwise how canst thou be mine, and I thine, unless both within and without thou be free from all self-will?

And the sooner thou dost this, the better it will be with thee; and, the more fully and sincerely thou dost it, the more shalt

thou please me, and the more shalt thou gain.

2. Some resign themselves, but with some exception ; for they put not their whole trust in GOD, and therefore they study how to provide for themselves.

Some also at first offer all, but afterwards being assaulted with *temptation*, return again to that which they had left, and therefore they go not forward in *virtue*.

These shall not attain to the true liberty of the *purity of heart*, nor to the favour of my sweetest familiarity, unless they first make an entire resignation and a daily oblation of themselves unto me. For without this there neither is nor can be the fruitive union with me.

3. I have often said unto thee, and now again I say the same, Forsake thy self, resign thy self, and thou shalt enjoy much inward *peace*.

Give all for all ; seek nothing, require back nothing, abide purely and with a firm confidence in me, and thou shalt enjoy me ;

Thou shalt be free in heart, and darkness shall not have any power over thee.

Let this be thy whole endeavour, let this be thy *prayer*, let this be thy *desire* : that, being stript of all selfishness, thou mayest follow naked the naked JESUS, and dying

dying to thy self, mayest live eternally to me.

Then shall all vain *imaginations*, evil *perturbations*, and superfluous *cares* fly away :

Then shall immoderate *fear* leave thee, and inordinate *love* shall die.



C H A P. XXXVIII.

Of the good government of our selves in outward things, and of recourse to G O D in danger.

Christ. S O N, thou oughtest with all diligence to endeavour, that, in every place and action or external business, thou be inwardly free and master of thy self, and that all things be under thee, and not thou under them ;

That thou mayest be lord of thy actions, not a servant or a hireling, but rather a free-man and a true *Hebrew*, enjoying the lot and liberty of the sons of G O D,

Who stand above the things that are present, and view the things which are eternal ;

Who look on transitory things with the left eye, and with the right behold the things of *heaven*.

Whom temporal things cannot draw to cleave unto them, but they rather draw temporal things to serve them, in such a way as they are ordained by God, and appointed by the *Creator* of all, who hath left nothing in his *creatures* without due order.

2. If thou remain stedfast in all events, and dost not weigh by the outward appearance, nor with a carnal eye, the things which thou seest and hearest; but presently in every affair dost enter with *Moses* into the *tabernacle* to ask counsel of the LORD; thou shalt sometimes hear the *divine oracle*, and return instructed concerning many things both present and to come.

For *Moses* had always recourse to the *tabernacle* for the deciding of *doubts* and *controversies*, and fled to the help of *prayer*, for a defence against the iniquity and dangers of men.

So oughtest thou to fly to the closet of thy heart, earnestly craving the *divine favour*.

For the *scripture* testifieth, that therefore were *Joshua* and the children of *Israel* deceived by the *Gibeonites*, because they asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD, but giving too lightly credit to their fair words, were deluded with their counterfeit piety.

CHAP.



C H A P. XXXIX.

That a man be not over-earnest in his affairs.

Christ. SON, always commit thy cause to me, I will dispose well of it in due time.

Wait for my ordering of it, and thou shalt find it will be for thy good.

Christian. LORD, I most willingly commit all unto thee, for my care can avail little.

O that I cleaved not too much to future events, but offered my self with all readiness of mind to thy good pleasure!

2. *Christ.* Son, a man often earnestly labours for what he desireth; and when he hath gotten it; he beginneth to be of another mind.

For men's *affections* do not long continue fixed on one thing, but do pass from one to another.

It is therefore no small thing for a man to forsake himself even in the smallest things.

3. The true profiting of a man consisteth in the denying of himself: and he that is

O 4

thus

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thus deny'd, liveth in great freedom and security.

But the *old enemy*, who always sets himself against all that are good, ceaseth at no time from tempting, but day and night layeth grievous snares, if haply he may cast the unwary into them.

Therefore *watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.*



C H A P. XL.

That man hath no good of himself, nor any thing whereof he can glory.

Christian. LORD, *What is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

What hath man deserved, that thou shouldst give him thy grace?

LORD, what cause have I to complain, if thou forsake me? Or if thou doest not that which I desire, what can I justly say against it?

Surely, this I may truly think and say, LORD, I am nothing, I can do nothing, I have nothing that is good of my self; but in all things I am defective, and do ever tend to nothing:

And

And unless thou help and inwardly instruct me, I become altogether cold and dissipated.

2. But thou, O LORD, art always the same, and endurest for ever; always *good*, *just*, and *holy*, doing all things well, justly, and holily, and disposing all things with wisdom :

But I, that am more ready to go backward than forward, do not ever continue in one estate, for seven times are passed over me;

Yet it is soon better with me, when it so pleaseth thee, and when thou vouchsafest to stretch forth thy helping hand.

For thou alone canst help we without the aid of man, and so strengthen me, that my *countenance* shall be no more changed, but my *heart* shall be turned to thee alone, and there shall rest.

3. Wherefore if I could once perfectly forsake all *human comfort*, either for the attaining of *devotion*, or for my own *necessity*, which enforceth me to seek after thee (for none else can *comfort* me)

Then might I well hope in thy *grace*, and rejoyce for the gift of new *consolation*.

4. Thanks be unto thee, from whence all proceedeth, as often as it goeth well with me :

But I am mere *vanity* and nothing in thy sight, an inconstant and weak man.

Whereof

Whereof then can I *glory*? Or for what do I desire to be esteemed?

For nothing? But this is most vain.

Truly vain-glory is an evil *plague*, and a very great *vanity*; because it draweth man from true *glory*, and robbeth him of *heavenly grace*.

For whilst a man is pleased with himself, he displeaseth thee; whilst he gapeth after the praise of men, he is deprived of true *virtues*.

5. But the true *glory* and holy rejoycing is for a man to *glory* in thee, and not in himself;

To rejoyce in thy name, and not in his own virtue; nor to delight in any *creature*, but for thee.

Praised be thy name, not mine: magnified be thy *work*, not mine.

Let thy *holy name* be blessed, but to me let no part of men's praises be given.

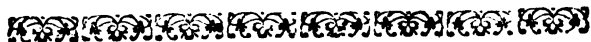
Thou art my *glory*, thou art the joy of my *heart*.

In thee will I *glory* and rejoyce all the day; but as for my self I will not *glory*, but in my *infirmities*.

6. Let the *Jews* seek honour one of another; I will desire this which is from God only.

For all *human glory*, all *temporal honour*, all *worldly highness*, compared to thy *eternal glory*, is *vanity* and *folly*. O

O my *truth*, my *mercy*, my GOD, most blessed TRINITY, to thee alone be *praise*, *honour*, *power*, and *glory* for evermore.



C H A P. XLI.

Of the contempt of all temporal honour.

Christ. SON, trouble not thy self, if thou seest others honoured and advanced, and thy self contemned and debased.

Lift up thy *heart* unto me in *heaven*, and the contempt of men on *earth* will not grieve thee.

Christian. LORD, we are blind, and quickly seduced by *vanity*.

If I look well into my self, I cannot say that any *creature* hath done me wrong; and therefore I cannot complain justly of thee.

2. But because I have often and grievously sinned against thee, all *creatures* might justly take *arms* against me :

Therefore shame and contempt is due unto me ; but unto thee, *praise*, *honour*, and *glory*.

And unless I bring my self to be entirely willing to be despised and forsaken of all *creatures*,

creatures, and to be esteemed nothing at all; I cannot obtain inward *peace* and *strength*, nor be spiritually enlightened, nor fully united unto thee.



C H A P. XLII.

That our peace is not to be placed in men.

Christ. SON, if thou placest thy *peace* in any one, because he thinketh like thee and liveth with thee, thou shalt be unstable and intangled.

But if thou have recourse unto the ever-living and eternal *Truth*, a friend going from thee or dying shall not grieve thee.

The love of thy friend ought to be grounded in me; and for me is he to be beloved, whosoever he be whom thou thinkest well of, and is very dear unto thee in this life.

No friendship can avail, or continue without me; neither is that *love* true and pure, which is not knit by me.

Thou oughtest to be so dead to such affections towards men, that (as far as appertaineth unto thee) thou shouldst wish to be without all friendship purely human.

Man

Man approacheth the nearer unto GOD, the further off he departeth from all earthly *comfort* :

So much the higher also he ascendeth unto GOD, by how much lower he descendeth into himself, and how much the meaner he is in his own sight.

2. But he, that attributeth any good unto himself, hindereth GOD's *grace* from coming into him.

For the *grace* of the HOLY GHOST ever seeketh an humble heart.

If thou couldest perfectly annihilate thy self, and empty thy self of all created *love* ; then should I flow into thee with great abundance of *grace*.

When thou castest thine eyes on *creatures*, the sight of thy *Creator* is taken from thee.

Learn to overcome thy self in all things, for the *love* of thy *Creator* ; and then thou shalt be able to attain to *divine knowledge*.

How little soever the thing be, if it be loved and regarded inordinately ; it defileth the *soul* and hindereth the enjoyment of the supreme good.



C H A P. XLIII.

Against vain and secular knowledge.

Christ. **S**ON, let not the fair speeches and subtle sayings of men move thee :
For the kingdoms of GOD consisteth not in word, but in power.

Observe well my words ; for they inflame hearts and enlighten minds, they cause compunction and bring sundry comforts.

Do thou never read any thing, that thou mayest appear more learned and wise.

Labour to mortify thy sins ; for that will profit thee more than the knowledge of many difficult questions.

2. When thou hast read and knowest many things, thou must ever return to one principle.

I am He, that teacheth man knowledge, and giveth unto babes a more clear understanding, than can be taught by man.

He, to whom I speak, shall quickly be wise, and he shall profit much in the *spirit*.

Wo be to them that enquire many curious things of men, and little mind the way how to serve me.

The

The time will come, when the Master of masters shall appear, CHRIST the Lord of angels, to hear the lessons of all, that is, to examine the *consciences* of every one :

And then he will search *Jerusalem* with a candle, and the hidden things of darkness shall be laid open, and the arguings of men's tongues shall be silent.

3. I am He, that in an instant raiseth up the humble mind to understand more of the *eternal truth*, than can be gotten by ten years study in the schools :

I teach without the noise of words, without the confusion of opinions, without the desire of honour, without bandying of arguments.

I am He, that teacheth to despise earthly things, to disdain things present, to seek the everlasting, to relish things eternal, to fly *honours*, to suffer *injuries*, to place all hope in me, to desire nothing out of me, and above all things ardently to love me.

4. For a certain person, by loving me entirely, learned *divine things*, and spake that which was wonderful : he profited more by forsaking all things, than by studying subtilties.

To some I speak common things, to others uncommon ; to some I appear sweetly by signs and figures, but to some I reveal mysteries with much light.

The

The voice of books is indeed one, but it teacheth not all men alike.

For I am within, the *Teacher of truth*, the Searcher of the *heart*, the Discerner of the *thoughts*, the Promoter of good actions, distributing to every one as I judge meet.



C H A P. XLIV.

Of not concerning our selves with outward things.

Christ. SON, in many things thou must be ignorant, and esteem thy self as dead upon earth, and as one to whom the whole world is crucified.

Thou must also pass by many things with a deaf ear, and rather think of that which appertaineth to thy *peace*.

It is better to turn thine eyes from what thou dislikest, and to leave unto every one his own opinion, than to strive with contentious words.

If all stand well betwixt thee and God, and thou hast his judgment in thy mind, thou shalt the more easily bear to be overcome.

2. *Christian.*

2. *Christian.* O LORD, to what a pass are we come! Behold we bewail a temporal loss, for a little gain we toil and run; and the damage of our *soul* is forgotten, and hardly at length called to mind.

That which little or nothing profiteth, is minded; and that which is necessary in the highest degree, is slightly passed over;

Because the whole man doth slide down into external things; and unless he speedily repent, lieth willingly immers'd in them.



C H A P. XLV.

*That credit is not to be given to all men:
and that we easily offend in words.*

Christian. **H**ELP me, O LORD, in my *tribulation*, for vain is the help of man.

How often have I found want of *fidelity* where I have thought it sure?

And how often have I found it where I least expected it?

It is vain therefore to trust in men; but the *salvation* of the just, O LORD, is in thee.

P

Blessed

Blessed be thou, my LORD GOD, in all things that befall us.

We are weak and inconstant, quickly deceived, and soon changed.

2. Who is he, that can in all things so warily and circumspectly keep himself, that he never falls into any deceit or perplexity.

But he that trusteth in thee, O LORD, and seeketh thee with a single heart, doth not so easily fall.

And if he fall into any *tribulation*, however intangled he is, he shall quickly be either delivered or comforted by thee.

For thou wilt not finally forsake him that trusteth in thee.

A friend is rare to be found, that continueth faithful in all his friend's distresses ;

But thou, O LORD, thou alone art most faithful at all times, and there is none like unto thee.

3. O how wise was that holy *soul* that said, my mind is firmly settled and grounded in CHRIST !

If it were so with me, then would not the fear of man so easily trouble me, nor the darts of words move me.

Who can foresee all things ? Who is able to beware before-hand of future evils ?

If things foreseen often hurt us, how can things unlooked for chuse but wound us grievously ?

But

But why did I not provide better for my self, miserable *wretch*? Why also have I so easily given credit to others?

We are men, nothing but frail men, altho' by many we are reputed and called *angels*.

To whom shall I give credit, LORD? To whom but to thee? Thou art the *Truth*, that neither dost deceive, nor can be deceived.

On the contrary, every man is a liar, weak, unconstant, and subject to fall, especially in words.

And therefore we must not easily give credit to that, which in outward shew seemeth right.

4. How wisely hast thou warned us to beware of men! that a man's foes are they of his own household, and that we are not to believe, if one should say, *Lo here*, or *Lo there*.

I have learned it to my cost; and O that I might thereby increase my care, and not my folly!

Be wary, saith one, be wary, keep to thy self what I tell thee: and whilst I hold my *peace*, and think it is secret, he cannot keep that secret, which he desired should be secret, but presently betrayeth me and himself, and goeth his way.

From such tales, and such indiscreet persons protect me, O LORD, that I fall not

into their hands, nor ever commit such things.

Give me to observe *truth* and *constancy* in my *words*, and remove far from me a deceitful tongue.

What I am not willing to suffer, I ought by no means to do.

5. O how good is it and tending to *peace*, to be silent of others! not to believe promiscuously all that is said, nor easily to report what we have heard;

To lay one's self open to few; always to seek after thee who art the beholder of the *heart*:

Not to be carried about with every wind of words, but to desire that all things both within and without, be accomplished according to thy will.

How safe is it for the keeping of *heavenly grace*, to avoid the sight of men, and not to seek those things that cause admiration abroad, but to follow that with all diligence, which bringeth amendment of *life*, and zeal.

6. To how many hath *virtue* known and imprudently commended, been *hurtful*?

How *profitable* hath *grace* been, kept with *silence* in this *mortal life*, which is nothing but a *temptation* and a *warfare*?

C H A P



C H A P. XLVI.

Of putting our trust in G O D, when we are evil spoken of.

Christ. **S**ON, stand firm, and put thy trust in me.

For what are words but words? They fly through the air, but hurt not a stone.

If thou be guilty, see that thou be willing to amend thy self: if thou be innocent, resolve to suffer this willingly for the sake of God.

It is but a small matter to suffer sometimes a few words, if thou hast not yet the courage to endure hard stripes.

And why do small matters go to thy heart, but because thou art yet carnal, and regardest men more than thou oughtest?

Because thou art afraid to be despised, therefore thou wilt not be reprov'd for thy faults, but seekest the shades of excuses.

2. But look better into thy self, and thou shalt see that the world is yet alive in thee, and a vain desire to please men.

For when thou shunneſt to be humbled and reprov'd for thy faults, it is evident that thou art neither truly humble, nor truly dead to the world, nor the world crucified to thee.

But give diligent ear to my words, and thou shalt little regard ten thousand words spoken by men.

Behold, if all should be spoken against thee that could be most maliciously invented, what would it hurt thee, if thou suffer'dst it to pass, and madest no more reckoning of it than of a mote?

Could all those words pluck as much as one hair from thy head?

3. But he that hath no *heart* in him, nor hath GOD before his eyes, is easily moved with a word of dispraise:

He that trusteth in me, and will not confide in his own judgment, shall be free from the fear of man.

For I am the *Judge* and the discerner of all secrets: I know how the matter passed. I know him that offereth the injury, and him that suffereth it.

From me hath this proceeded: this hath happened by my permission, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed;

I shall judge the *guilty*, and the *innocent*, but by a secret judgment I would beforehand try them both.

4. The

4. The *testimony* of men often deceiveth: but my *judgment* is true, it shall stand and not be overthrown.

It is commonly hidden, and not known in every thing, but to few: notwithstanding it never erreth, neither can it err, altho' to the eyes of the foolish it seems not right.

Men ought therefore to have recourse to me in every judgment, and not to cleave to their own opinions:

For the just man will not be troubled, whatsoever befalleth him from GOD:

And if any thing be wrongfully said against him, he will not much care;

Neither will he rejoyce much, if by others he be with reason excused.

For he considereth, that I am He that searcheth the *heart* and *reins*, and do judge not according to human appearance.

For that is often found culpable in my sight, that in the judgment of men is thought commendable.

5. Christian. O LORD GOD, *thou just Judge, strong and patient, thou who knowest the frailty and wickedness of man, be thou my strength, and my whole trust, for mine own conscience sufficeth me not.*

Thou knowest that which I know not, and therefore in every reproof, I ought to

P 4 *have*

have humbled my self, and to have borne meekly :

Vouchsafe mercifully to pardon me as often as I have failed herein, and give me grace to bear it better hereafter.

For thy abundant mercy is more available to me for the obtaining of pardon, than my fancied justice for my defence, since I cannot see to the bottom of conscience :

Altho' I know nothing by my self, yet I cannot hereby justify my self : For without thy mercy no man living shall be justified in thy sight.



C H A P. XLVII.

That all grievous things are to be endured for life everlasting.

Christ. **S**ON, be not dismayed with the labours which thou hast undertaken for me, neither be thou wholly discomforted for the tribulations which befall thee :

But let my promise strengthen and comfort thee in all events.

I am able to reward thee infinitely and above all measure.

Thou

Thou shalt not long toil here, nor always be pressed with griefs.

Wait a while and thou shalt see a speedy end of all evils.

There will come an hour, when all *labour* and *trouble* shall cease.

Little and short is all that which passeth away with time.

2. Apply thy self to the business in hand ; labour faithfully in my *vineyard*, and I will be thy reward.

Write, read, say the service of the church, live in silence and in penitence, pray, suffer crosses manfully : *life everlasting* is worthy of all these, yea and greater combats.

Peace shall come in the day which is known unto the LORD, and it shall neither be day nor night, such as now is, but everlasting light, infinite brightness, stedfast peace, and secure rest.

Then thou shalt not say, *Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?* Nor cry, *Wo is me, that my sojourning is prolonged!*

For *death* shall be destroyed and *salvation* shall appear which never shall have end : there shall be no anxiety ; but blessed joy, sweet and lovely company.

3. O, if thou hadst seen the everlasting *crowns* of the *saints* in *heaven*, and with how great *glory* they now rejoyce who in times past were contemptible to this world,
and

and esteemed unworthy of *life* it self, verily thou wouldst presently humble thy self even unto the *earth*; and wouldst rather seek to be under the feet of all, than to have command so much as over one :

Neither wouldst thou desire the pleasures of this life, but rather rejoyce to suffer affliction for GOD, and esteem it thy greatest gain to be reputed nothing amongst men.

4. O if thou hadst a relish of these things, and didst suffer them to sink into the bottom of thy *heart*, how wouldst thou dare so much as once to complain ?

Are not all *labours* to be endured for *everlasting life* ?

It is no small matter, to lose or to gain the kingdom of *heaven*.

Lift up thy face therefore unto *heaven* : behold I and all my *saints* with me, who in this world had great *conflicts*, do now rejoyce, now are comforted, now are secure, now are at rest, and shall remain with me everlastingly in the *kingdom* of my *Father*.

CHAP.



C H A P. XLVIII.

Of eternity, and shortness of this life.

Christian. O Most blessed mansion of the heavenly city! O most clear day of eternity, which night obscureth not; but the highest truth ever enlighteneth!

A day of continual joy, of perpetual quietness, and never changing into a contrary state!

O that that day would once appear, and all these temporal things were at an end!

To the *saints* it shineth with everlasting brightness, but to those that are *pilgrims* upon earth, it appeareth only afar off, and through a glass.

2. The *citizens of heaven* know how joyful that day is: but the banished children of *Eve* bewail the bitterness and tediousness of this.

The days of this life are short and evil, full of sorrow and difficulties; where man is defiled with many *sins*, perplexed with many *passions*, oppressed with many *fears*, filled with many *cares*, distracted with many *curiosities*, entangled with many *vanities*, compassed

passed about with many *errors*, worn away with many *labours*, grieved with *temptations*, unnerved with *pleasures*, tormented with *want*.

3. O, when shall these *evils* be at an end! When shall I be delivered from the miserable bondage of *sin*!

When shall I think, O LORD, of thee alone! When shall I fully rejoyce in thee!

When shall I enjoy true liberty without any impediment, without any heaviness of mind or body!

When shall I have solid *peace*, secure and undisturbed *peace*, *peace* within and without, *peace* every way assured!

O good JESUS, when shall I stand to behold thee! When shall I contemplate the *glory* of thy *kingdom*! When wilt thou be unto me all in all!

O when shall I be with thee in thy *kingdom*, which thou hast prepared for thy beloved from all *eternity*!

I am left a poor and banished man in the land of mine enemies, where there are daily wars and great calamities.

4. Comfort my banishment, assuage my sorrow; for my whole desire figheth after thee.

For all is burthensome to me whatsoever this world offereth for my *comfort*.

I long to enjoy thee most inwardly, but I cannot attain unto it. My

My desire is, that I may be wholly given up to *heavenly things*, but *temporal things* and unmortified *passions* weigh me down.

My *mind* would be above all things, but my *flesh* enforces me to be subject against my will.

Thus unhappy man that I am, I fight against my self, and am become grievous to my self, whilst my *spirit* seeketh to be above, and my *flesh* to be below.

5. O what do I inwardly suffer, when in my *mind* I consider *heavenly things*, and presently in my *prayers* a multitude of carnal imaginations present themselves before me!

My God, be not far from me, depart not in thy wrath from thy servant.

Cast forth thy lightning, and disperse them: shoot out thine arrows, and consume all the imaginations of the *enemy*.

Gather in, call home my senses unto thee, make me forget all the things of this world:

Grant me to cast away speedily the imaginations of wickedness.

Succour me, O thou the everlasting *Truth*, that no vanity may move me.

Come heavenly sweetness, and let all impurity fly from before thee.

Pardon me also, and mercifully forgive me as often as I think upon any thing besides thee in *prayer*.

I truly

I truly confefs, that I am wont to be ſubject to many diſtractions :

For oftentimes I am not there, where I ſtand, or ſit, but I am rather there, whither my thoughts do carry me.

Where my thought is, there am I: there is oftentimes my thought, where my *affection* is.

That quickly offereth it ſelf unto me, which nature or custom hath made pleaſing.

6. And for this cauſe, thou that art *Truth* it ſelf haſt plainly ſaid, *Where thy treaſure is, there thy heart is alſo.*

If I love *heaven*, I willingly think of *heavenly things*.

If I love the *world*, I rejoyce at the *felicity* of the *world*, and grieve for the *adverſity* thereof.

If I love the *fleſh*, I ſhall *fancy* often thoſe *things* that are pleaſing to the *fleſh* :

If I love the *ſpirit*, I delight to think of *ſpiritual things*.

For whatſoever I *love*, thereof do I *willingly ſpeak*, and *hear*, and carry home with me the *representations* thereof.

But bleſſed is that man, that for thee, O LORD, diſmiſſeth all *creatures*, that violently reſiſteth nature, and through fervour of *ſpirit*, crucifieth the luſts of the *fleſh*, that ſo with a ſerene *conſcience* he may offer pure
prayer

prayer unto thee, and be meet to be admitted into the *angelical choirs*, all earthly things both outwardly and inwardly being excluded.



C H A P. XLIX.

Of the desire of everlasting life, and how great rewards are promised to those that fight valiantly.

Christ. S O N, when thou perceivest the desire of everlasting bliss to be given thee from above, and desirest to depart out of the *tabernacle* of this *body*, that thou mayest behold my brightness without shadow of turning; open thy *heart* wide, and receive this holy *inspiration* with thy whole desire.

Give most ardent thanks to the heavenly *Goodness*, that dealeth with thee so favourably, visiteth thee mercifully, stirreth thee up fervently, sustaineth thee powerfully, lest thro' thine own weight thou fall down to the things of the *earth*.

Neither dost thou obtain this by thine own thought or endeavour, but by the mere condescension of *heavenly grace* and *divine favour* ;

To

To the end that thou mayest make a further progress in *holiness* and *humility*, and prepare thy self for future *battles*.

And that thou mayest study to cleave unto me with the whole *affection* of thy *heart*, and serve me with a fervent desire.

2. Son, the *fire* burneth many times, but the *flame* ascendeth not up without *smoak* ;

So likewise the *desires* of some men burn towards *heavenly things*, and yet they are not free from *temptation* of carnal *affection* :

And therefore they do not act altogether purely for the *honour* of GOD, in what they so earnestly request of him.

Such is also oftentimes thy desire, which thou hast pretended to be so serious.

For that is not pure and perfect, which is tinged with self-love.

3. Ask not that which is delightful and profitable to thee, but that which is acceptable to me, and for my *honour* :

For if thou judgest aright, thou oughtest to prefer and follow my *appointment*, rather than thine own *desire*, or any desired thing.

I know thy *desire*, and have heard thy frequent *groans*.

Thou wouldst now enjoy the glorious liberty of the sons of GOD: the everlasting *habitation*, and thy heavenly *country*, replenished with all joy, now delights thee.

But

But that hour is not yet come: as yet there is another time, to wit, a time of war, a time of labour and tryal.

Thou desirest to be filled with the supreme good, but thou canst not attain it for the present.

I am that supreme Good, patiently wait for me, until the kingdom of GOD come.

4. Thou art yet to be tried upon earth, and to be exercised in many things.

Comfort shall be sometimes given thee, but the abundant fulness thereof shall not be granted.

Take courage therefore, and be valiant, as well in doing as in suffering things contrary to nature.

Thou must put on the new man, and be changed into another man.

Thou must often do that which thou wouldst not, and leave undone that thou wouldst do.

That which is pleasing to others, shall go well forward: that which thou wisheth, shall not speed.

That which others say, shall be heard: what thou sayest, shall be nothing regarded.

Others shall ask and shall receive: thou shalt ask and not obtain.

5. Others shall be great in the praise of men, but of thee there shall be no speech.

Q

To

To others this or that shall be committed ; but thou shalt be accounted fit for nothing.

At this nature will sometimes be troubled, and it is much if thou bearest it with silence.

In these and many such like, a faithful servant of the LORD is wont to be tried, how he can deny himself and break his will in all things.

There is scarce any thing, wherein thou hast such need to dye to thy self, as in seeing and suffering those things that are contrary to thy will ;

Especially when that is commanded, which seems unto thee inconvenient or less profitable.

And because being placed under *authority*, thou darest not resist the *higher power*, therefore it seemeth hard to thee to walk at the beck of another, and wholly to give up thine own *opinion*.

6. But consider, son, the fruit of these labours, the end near at hand, and the exceeding great reward : and thou shalt be so far from sustaining them grievously, that thou wilt feel great *comfort* in thy *patience*.

For in regard of that little of thy will, which now thou willingly forsakest, thou shalt always have thy will in *heaven*.

There thou shalt find all that thou wilt or canst desire :

There

There thou shalt enjoy all good without fear of losing it :

There shall thy will be ever one with me ; it shall not covet any outward or private thing.

There no one shall withstand thee, no man complain of thee, no man hinder thee, nothing shall cross thee ;

But all things desired shall be there together present, and refresh thy whole *affecti-
on*, and fill it up to the brim.

There I will give thee *glory* for the reproach which here thou sufferedst ; the garment of praise for heaviness ; for the lowest place a kingly throne for ever.

There shall the fruit of obedience appear, the labour of *repentance* rejoyce, and humble *subjection* shall be gloriously crowned.

7. Now therefore be humbly obedient unto all, and regard not who said or commanded this ;

But take great heed, that whether thy *superior*, *inferior*, or thine *equal*, require any thing of thee, or do insinuate their desire, thou take it all in good part, and endeavour to fulfil it with a sincere will.

Let one seek this, another that ; let him *glory* in this, the other in that, and be praised a thousand thousand times ; but do thou neither rejoyce in this, nor in that, but in

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the

the contempt of thy self, and in my good *pleasure* and *honour* alone.

This art thou to wish, that whether it be by thy *life* or by thy *death*, GOD may be always glorified in thee.



C H A P. L.

*How a person in a state of desertion ought to give up himself into the hands of
G O D.*

Christian. **L**ORD GOD, Holy Father, be thou blessed both now and for evermore; because as thou wilt, so is it done, and what thou doest, is good.

Let thy *servant* rejoyce in thee, not in himself nor in any thing else; for thou alone art the true *gladness*, thou art my *hope* and my *crown*, thou art my *joy* and my *honour*,
O LORD.

What hath thy servant, but what he hath received from thee, even without any merit of his?

Thine is all that thou hast given, and whatsoever thou hast made.

I am poor, and in labours from my *youth*: and sometimes my *soul* is sorrowful even unto tears; sometimes also it is troubled in it self
by

by reason of the evils which hang over mine head.

2. I long after the joy of *peace*, I earnestly crave the *peace* of thy children that are fed by thee in the light of thy *comfort*.

If thou give *peace*, if thou pour in my *heart* holy joy; the *soul* of thy *servant* shall be full of *gladness*, and shall become devout in thy *praise* :

But if thou withdraw thy self (as many times thou doest) he will not be able to run the ways of thy *commandments*, but rather he will bow his knees, and smite his *breast*, for it is not with him as it was heretofore, when thy candle shined upou his head, and he was protected under the shadow of thy *wings*, from the temptations which violently assaulted him.

3. O righteous Father, and ever to be praised, the hour is come, that thy *servant* is to be tried!

Behold, dear Father, meet it is that in this hour thy *servant* suffer something for thy sake.

O Father, evermore to be honoured, the hour is come, which from all *eternity* thou didst foreknow should come; that for a short time thy *servant* should outwardly be oppressed, but inwardly live for ever with thee.

That he should be a little despised, humbled, and made abject in the sight of men,

men, and worn down with *passions*, and *beaviness*; that he may rise again with thee in the morning of the new light, and be glorified in *heaven*.

Holy Father, thou hast so appointed it and wilt have it so: and this is fulfilled which thy self hast commanded.

4. It is a favour to thy friend that he may suffer, and be afflicted in the *world* for the *love* of thee, how often soever, and by whomsoever, thou permittest it to fall upon him.

Nothing cometh to pass on *earth*, without thy *counsel*, without thy *providence*, or without a cause.

It is good for me, LORD, that thou hast afflicted me, that I may learn thy *righteous judgments*, and cast away all *haughtiness of heart*, and *presumption*.

It is profitable to me, that shame hath covered my *face*, that I may the rather seek to thee for *comfort* than to men.

I have learned also hereby to dread thy *unsearchable judgments*, who afflictest the *just* with the *wicked*, but not without *equity* and *justice*.

5. I give thee thanks, for that thou hast not spared my sins, but hast worn me away with bitter stripes, inflicting *sorrows*, and sending *griefs* within and without.

There is none under *heaven* that can *comfort* me, but thou my LORD GOD, the *heavenly*

venly Physician of souls, that strikest and healest, bringest down to hell and bringest back again.

Let thy *correction* be upon me, and let thy *rod* instruct me.

6. Behold, dear Father, I am in thy hands, I bow my self under the *rod* of thy correction :

Strike my back and my neck, that my *perverfeness* may be conformed to thy will.

Make me an holy and humble disciple of thine (as thou art wont well to do) that I may be ready at every beck of thy pleasure.,

I commend my self and all that is mine unto thee to be corrected.

It is better to be corrected here, than hereafter.

Thou knowest all and every thing, and there is nothing in the *conscience* of man hidden from thee.

Before things are done, thou knowest that they will come to pass, and hast no need that any should teach thee, or admonish thee of those things which are done on *earth*.

Thou knowest what is expedient for my profiting, and how fit *tribulation* is to scour off the rust of my *sins*.

Do with me according to thy desired good *pleasure*, and disdain me not for my *sinful life*, better and more clearly known to none than to thee alone.

Q 4

7. Grant

7. Grant me, O LORD, to know that which ought to be known, to love that which ought to be loved,

To praise that which pleaseth the most, to esteem that which is precious unto thee, to despise that which is contemptible in thy sight :

Suffer me not to judge according to the sight of the outward eyes, nor to give sentence according to the hearing of the ears of ignorant men ;

But to discern *visible* and *spiritual* things with a true judgment, and above all things, ever to search after thy good will and pleasure,

8. The minds of men are often deceived in their judging; the lovers of the world are also deceived in loving only visible things.

What is man the better for being esteemed great by man ?

The deceitful in exalting the deceitful, the vain man in extolling the vain, the blind in commending the blind, the weak in magnifying the weak deceiveth him, and doth in truth the more shame him, while he vainly praises him.

For how much every one is in thy sight; so much he is, and no more.

CHAP.



CHAP. LI.

That a man ought to employ himself in works of humility, when strength is wanting for higher employments.

Christ. SON, thou art not able always to continue in the more fervent desire of *virtue*, nor to persist in the higher pitch of *contemplation* :

But thou must sometimes of necessity, by reason of *original corruption*, descend to inferior things, and bear the burden of this *corruptible life*, tho' against *thy will*.

As long as thou carriest a mortal *body*, thou shalt feel trouble and heaviness of *heart*.

Thou must therefore in the *flesh* often bewail the burden of the *flesh* : because thou canst not always continue in *spiritual exercises* and *divine contemplation*.

2. It is then expedient for thee to fly to humble and exterior works, and to refresh thy self with good *actions* ;

To expect with a firm confidence my coming and *heavenly visitation*.

To

To bear patiently thy *banishment* and the dryness of thy *mind*, till I visit thee again, and deliver thee from all anxieties.

For I will make thee forget thy former *pains*, and enjoy inward *quietness* :

I will lay open before thee pleasant *fields* of *holy scriptures*, that with an enlarged *heart* thou mayest begin to run the way of my *commandments*.

And thou shalt say, *That the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us.*



C H A P. LII.

That a man ought to esteem himself not worthy of comfort, but rather to deserve stripes.

Christian. **L**ORD, I am not worthy of thy *comfort*, nor of any *spiritual visitation* ;

And therefore thou dealest justly with me, when thou leavest me poor and desolate.

For tho' I could shed a sea of tears, yet I were not worthy of thy comfort.

For (alas) I deserve nothing but to be scourged and punished, in that I have grievously

vouly offended thee, and have sinned greatly in many things.

All things therefore duly considered, I am not worthy even of the least comfort.

But thou, O gracious and merciful God, who wilt not that thy *works* should perish, to shew the *riches* of thy *goodness* upon the *vessels* of *mercy*, even beyond his desert, vouchsafest to comfort thy *servant* above the manner of men :

For thy *comforts* are not like the words of men.

2. What have I done, O LORD, that thou shouldst bestow any *heavenly comforts* upon me ?

I remember not that I have done any good, but have been always prone to *sin*, and slow to *amendment*.

This is true, and I cannot deny it : if I should say otherwise, thou wouldst stand against me, and there would be none to defend me.

What have I deserved for my sins but *hell* and *everlasting fire* !

I confess in very *truth*, that I am worthy of all *scorn* and *contempt*, and it is not fit that I should be numbered amongst thy *servants*.

And altho' I be unwilling to hear this, yet notwithstanding, for the *truth's sake*, I will lay

lay open my *sins* against my self, that so I may the sooner obtain mercy at thy hand.

3. What shall I say guilty as I am, and full of all confusion ?

I have nothing to say but this: I have *sinned*, LORD, I have *sinned*; have mercy on me, pardon me;

Suffer me a little, that I may vent my *grief*, before I go into the land of *darkness*, a land covered with the shadow of *death*:

What dost thou so much require of a guilty and miserable *sinner*, as that he be contrite, and humble himself for his offences ?

Of true *contrition* and *humbling* of the *heart*, ariseth *hope* of *forgiveness*; the *troubled conscience* is reconciled to God; the favour of God which was lost, is recovered; man is preserved from the *wrath* to come, and God and the *penitent soul* meet together with an *holy kiss*.

4. Humble *contrition* for *sins* is an acceptable *sacrifice* unto thee, O LORD, favouring much sweeter in thy presence, than the perfume of *frankincense*.

This is also the pleasant ointment, which thou would shouldst be poured upon thy *sanctified feet*:

For thou never despisest a *contrite* and *humbled heart*.

There

There is the place of refuge, from the angry face of the *enemy*;

There is amended and washed away, whatsoever *defilement* was contracted, and polluted elsewhere.



C H A P. LIII.

That the grace of GOD doth not join it self with those that relish earthly things.

Christ. S O N, my *grace* is precious, it suffereth not it self to be mangled with *external things* nor *earthly comforts*.

Thou oughtest therefore to cast away all hindrances of *grace*, if thou desire to receive the infusion thereof.

Chuse a secret place to thy self; love to live alone with thy self, desire the conversation of none;

But rather pour out devout *prayers* unto God, that thou mayest keep thy *mind* in compunction, and thy *conscience* pure.

Esteem the whole *world* as nothing: prefer attendance upon God before all outward things:

For

For thou canst not attend upon me, and be delighted also in transitory *things*.

Thou oughtest to sequester thy self from thy *acquaintance* and *friends*, and to keep thy *mind* void of all *temporal* comfort.

So the blessed apostle *Peter* beseecheth, that the *faithful* of CHRIST should keep themselves as *strangers* and *pilgrims* in this *world*.

2. O how great a confidence shall he have at the *hour of death*, whom no *affection* to any earthly thing detaineth in the *world*!

But the sickly mind is not yet capable of a *heart* so dead to all things, neither doth the carnal man understand the liberty of him who is spiritual.

Notwithstanding, if he will be truly *spiritual*, he must renounce as well those which are *strangers*, as those which are near unto him; and beware of no man more than of himself.

If thou perfectly overcome thy self, thou shalt with more ease subdue the rest.

It is a perfect victory to triumph over our selves.

For he that keepeth himself subject in such sort, that his sensuality is subdued to *reason*, and *reason* in all things obedient to me; he is truly a *conqueror* of himself, and lord of the *world*.

If

3. If thou desire to mount unto this height, thou must set out courageously, and lay the axe to the root ;

That thou mayest pluck up and destroy that hidden inordinate inclination to thy self, and unto all private and earthly good.

On this sin (that man inordinately loveth himself) almost all dependeth, whatsoever is throughly to be overcome ; which evil being once overcome and subdued, there will presently ensue great *peace* and *tranquillity*.

But because few endeavour perfectly to die unto themselves, and altogether to go out of themselves, therefore they remain entangled in themselves, and cannot be lifted up in *spirit* above themselves.

But he that desireth to walk freely with me, it is necessary that he mortify all his evil and inordinate *affections*, and that he should not earnestly adhere unto any *creature* by *self-love*.



C H A P. LIV.

Of the different motions of Nature and Grace.

Christ. SON, mark diligently the motions of *Nature* and *Grace*; for they move in a very contrary and subtil manner, and can hardly be discerned but by him that is spiritually and inwardly enlightened.

All men indeed desire that which is good, and pretend some good in their words and deeds; and therefore, under the shew of good, many are deceived.

Nature is crafty, and seduceth, entangleth, and deceiveth many, and always proposeth her self for her end;

But *Grace* walketh in simplicity, and avoideth all appearance of evil, useth no deceit, and doth all things purely for God's sake, in whom also she finally resteth.

2. *Nature* will not willingly die, nor be kept down, nor be overcome, nor be subject to any, nor be subdued:

But *Grace* studieth self-mortification, resisteth sensuality, seeketh to be subject, is willing

willing to be kept under, and will not use her own liberty ;

She loveth to be kept under *discipline*, and desireth not to rule any, but always to live and remain wholly subject to GOD, and for GOD is ready humbly to obey all men.

Nature striveth for her own advantage, and considereth what profit she may reap by another ;

But *Grace* considereth not what is profitable and advantageous unto her self, but rather what is profitable to many.

Nature willingly receiveth *honour* and *respect* ;

But *Grace* faithfully attributeth all *honour* and *glory* unto GOD.

3. *Nature* feareth *shame* and *contempt* ;

But *Grace* rejoyceth to suffer reproach for the name of JESUS.

Nature loveth ease and bodily rest ;

But *Grace* cannot be idle, but willingly embraceth labour.

Nature seeketh to have those things that are curious and beautiful, abhorreth that which is mean and coarse ;

But *Grace* delighteth in plain and humble things, despiseth not rough things, nor refuseth to wear that which is old and mean.

Nature respecteth temporal things, rejoyceth at earthly gain, sorroweth for loss, is moved with every little injurious word ;

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But

But *Grace* thinketh on that which is everlasting, and cleaveth not to temporal things; she is not troubled at losses, nor disquieted with hard words; because she hath placed her *treasure* and *joy* in *heaven*, where nothing perisheth.

4. *Nature* is covetous, and doth more willingly receive than give, she loveth her own things;

But *Grace* is bountiful and liberal to all, shunneth private interest, is content with a little, thinketh that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Nature inclines to the creatures, to her own flesh, to vanities, and wanderings;

But *Grace* draweth unto *God* and unto goodness, renounceth creatures, flyeth the world, hateth the desires of the flesh, restraineth wandering abroad, blusheth to be seen in publick.

Nature is willing to have some outward comfort, wherein she may be sensibly delighted;

But *Grace* seeketh comfort in *God* alone, and delighteth above all visible things in the highest good.

5. *Nature* worketh all for her own gain and profit, she can do nothing *gratis*, but for benefits she hopeth to obtain either that which is equal or better, either praise or favour,

vour, and coveteth to have her works and gifts much esteemed :

But *Grace* seeketh no temporal thing, nor requireth any other reward than GOD alone ; nor desireth more of temporal necessaries, than what may serve her for the obtaining of things *eternal*.

6. *Nature* rejoyceth to have many *friends* and *kinsfolks*, glorieth of noble *place* and *birth* ; is obsequious to the *powerful*, fawneth upon the *rich*, applaudeth those that are like her self :

But *Grace* loveth even her *enemies*, and is not puffed up with multitude of *friends* ; nor esteemeth *place* or *birth*, but where it is joined with greater *virtue* ;

She rather favoureth the *poor* than the *rich* ; hath more tenderneſs for the *innocent* than the *powerful* ; rejoyceth in the true, not in the deceitful ;

Always exhorteth good men to labour for more excellent gifts, and by goodneſs to reſemble the SON of GOD.

Nature quickly complaineth of want and trouble : *Grace* with conſtancy endureth need.

7. *Nature* referreth all things to her ſelf, ſtriveth and contendeth for her ſelf ;

But *Grace* reduceth all to GOD, from whence originally they proceed ; ſhe aſcribeth no good to herſelf, neither doth ſhe arrogantly preſume ; ſhe contendeth not, nor preferreth

R 2 her

her *opinion* before others, but in every apprehension and opinion submitteth her self unto the eternal *wisdom*, and to the *divine judgment*.

Nature coveteth to know *secrets*, and to hear *news*; she will appear abroad, and make proof of many things by her own senses; she desireth to be known, and to do those things, for which she may be praised and admired:

But *Grace* careth not for hearing *news*, or curious *matters*; since all this springeth from the old corruption of man, seeing here is nothing new and durable upon earth.

She teacheth therefore to restrain the senses, to avoid vanity and ostentation, humbly to hide those things that are worthy of *praise* and *admiration*; and of every thing and every knowledge to seek profitable fruit, and the *praise* and *honour* of God;

She will not have her self nor hers publickly praised, but desireth that God should be blessed in his *gifts*, who of mere love bestoweth all things.

8. This *Grace* is a supernatural *light*, and a special gift of God, and the proper mark of the elect, and pledge of *everlasting salvation*; which raiseth up a man from earthly things to love the things of *heaven*, and of a carnal maketh a spiritual man.

The

The more therefore *Nature* is depressed and subdued, the greater *Grace* is infused, and the inward man daily by new *visitations* more reformed according to the image of God.



C H A P. LV.

Of the corruption of nature, and efficacy of divine grace.

Christian. O LORD my GOD, who hast created me after thy *image* and *likeness*; grant me this *grace* which thou hast shewed to be so great and so necessary to *salvation*, that I may overcome my wicked nature, which draweth me to *sin* and to *perdition*.

For I feel in my *flesh* the law of *sin* contradicting the law of my mind, and leading me captive to the obeying of sensuality in many things; neither can I resist the passions thereof, unless thy most holy *grace*, fervently infused into my *heart*, do assist me.

2. Thy *grace*, O LORD, and great *grace* is needful, that nature may be overcome, which is ever prone to evil from her youth.

For by *Adam* the first man nature being fallen, and corrupted by *sin*, the penalty of this stain hath descended upon all mankind, in such sort, that nature it self, which by thee was created good and upright, is now used to signify the sin and the infirmity of corrupted nature ; because for the motion thereof left unto it self draweth to evil and to inferior things.

For the little power which remains, is like a spark lying hidden in *ashes*.

This is natural *reason* it self ; incompassed about with great darkness, yet still retaining power to discern *good* and *evil*, and the difference between true and false ; altho' it be unable to fulfil every thing it approveth, and enjoyeth not now the full light of *truth*, nor the soundness of her *affections*.

3. Hence it is, my GOD, that after the inward man I delight in thy law, knowing thy *commandments* to be *good*, *just*, and *holy*, reproving also all *evil* and *sin*, teaching that it is to be avoided.

But with the *flesh* I serve the law of *sin*, whilst I rather obey sensuality than reason. Hence it is, that to will to do good is present with me, but how to perform it I find not.

For this cause I often purpose many good things ; but, because I want *grace* to help my weakness, upon a light resistance I go back and faint.

Hence

Hence it is, that I know the way of *perfection*, and see clearly enough what I ought to do ;

But, pressed down with the weight of my corruption, I rise not unto what is more perfect.

4. O LORD, how exceeding needful is thy *grace*, for me to begin any good work, to go forward, and to accomplish it ;

For without it I can do nothing ; but in thee I can do all things, when thy *grace* doth strengthen me.

O heavenly *grace* indeed, without which our most worthy actions are nothing, and no gifts of nature are to be esteemed !

Arts, riches, beauty or strength, wit or eloquence, are of no value with thee, O LORD, without thy *grace*.

For gifts of nature are common to good and bad ; but the peculiar gift of the elect is *grace* or *charity* ; and they that bear this mark, are esteemed worthy of *everlasting life*.

Such is the excellence of *grace*, that neither the gift of *prophecy*, nor the working of *miracles*, nor any speculation (how high soever) is of any esteem without it.

Neither *faith*, nor *hope*, nor other *virtues* are acceptable unto thee without *love* and *grace*.

5. O most blessed *grace*, that makest the poor in *spirit* rich in *virtues*, and makest

the rich in many blessings to be humble in heart ;

Come, come down unto me, replenish me early with thy *comfort*, lest my *soul* should faint for weariness and dryness of mind.

I beseech thee, O LORD, that I may find *grace* in thy sight ; for thy *grace* is sufficient for me, tho' other things that nature desireth be wanting.

If I be tempted and vexed with many *tribulations*, I will not fear any evils whilst thy *grace* is with me :

That is my strength ; that giveth advice and help ;

That is stronger than all *enemies*, and wiser than all the *wise*.

6. Thy *grace* is the mistress of *truth*, the teacher of *discipline*, the light of the *heart*, the solace in *affliction*, the driver away of *sorrow*, the expeller of *fear*, the nurse of *devotion*, the mother of *tears*.

What am I without it, but a withered piece of wood, and an unprofitable stock, only meet to be cast away ?

Let thy *grace* therefore, O LORD, always prevent me and follow me, and make me ever diligent in good *works*, through JESUS CHRIST thy SON. *Amen*.

C H A P.



C H A P. LVI.

*That we ought to deny our selves, and imitate
CHRIST by the Cross.*

Christ. SON, behold how much thou goest out of thy self, so much mayest thou enter into me.

As to desire nothing without, maketh inward *peace*; so the forsaking of our selves inwardly, joyneth unto God.

I will have thee learn the perfect renouncing of thy self and acquiescence in my will, without contradiction or complaint.

Follow me, I am the *Way*, the *Truth*, and the *Life*.

Without the *way* there is no going aright, without the *truth* there is no *knowledge*, without *life* here is no *living*.

I am the *Way*, which thou oughtest to follow; the *Truth*, which thou oughtest to trust; the *Life*, which thou oughtest to hope.

I am the *Way* inviolable, the *Truth* infallible, the *Life* which cannot end.

I am the most strait *Way*, the supreme *Truth*, the true *Life*, yea the blessed *Life*, the uncreated *Life*.

If

If thou remain in my *way*, thou shalt know the *truth*, and the *truth* shall make thee free, and thou shalt lay hold on *everlasting life*.

2. If thou wilt enter into *life*, keep the *commandments*.

If thou wilt know the *truth*, believe me.

If thou wilt be my *disciple*, renounce thy self.

If thou wilt possess a blessed *life*, despise this present *life*.

If thou wilt be exalted in *heaven*, humble thy self upon *earth*.

If thou wilt reign with me, bear the *Cross* with we.

For only the servants of the *Cross* find the way of *bliss* and *true light*.

3. *Christian*. LORD JESUS, forasmuch as thy life was poor and contemptible unto the *world*, grant me *grace* to imitate thee in suffering worldly contempt.

For the *servant* is not greater than his *Lord*, nor the *disciple* above his *Master*.

Let thy *servant* be exercised in thy *life*, for therein my *salvation* and true *holiness* consists:

Whatsoever I read or hear besides it, doth not refresh or delight me fully.

4. *Christ*. Son, now that thou knowest and hast read these things, happy shalt thou be, if thou do them.

He

He that hath my *commandments* and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me ;

And I will love him, and will manifest my self unto him, and make him sit with me in the kingdom of my Father.

Christian. LORD JESUS, as thou hast said and promised, so let it come to pass, and grant that I may not wholly undeserve this favour.

I have received the *Cross*, I have received it from thy hand ; I will bear it, and bear it till *death*, as thou hast laid it upon me.

Truly the *life* of a *Christian* is the *Cross*, but yet it is a guide to *paradise*.

I have begun, I may not go back, neither is it fit to leave that which I have undertaken.

5. Let us then take courage, my brethren, and go forwards together, JESUS will be with us.

For JESUS's sake we have undertaken this *Cross*, for JESUS's sake let us persevere in the *Cross*.

He will be our helper, who is our guide and fore-runner.

Behold, our king goeth before us, who also will fight for us :

Let us follow him manfully, let none be dismayed, but be we ready to die valiantly in the battle, and let us not blemish our *glory* by flying from the *Cross*.

C H A P.



C H A P. LVII.

That a man be not too much dejected, when he feeleth some defects.

Christ. SON, *patience* and *humility* in *adversity* are more pleasing to me, than much *comfort* and *devotion* in *prosperity*.

Why art thou grieved for every little trifle spoken and done against thee?

Altho' it had been much more, thou oughtest not to have been moved.

But now let it pass; it is not the first that hath happened, nor is it any new thing, neither shall it be the last, if thou live long.

Thou art valiant enough, as long as no *adversity* happeneth.

Thou canst give good counsel also, and canst strengthen others with thy words; but when any *tribulation* suddenly comes to thy door, thou art destitute of counsel and strength.

See therefore thy great frailty, which thou often hast experienced upon slight occasions.

It

It is notwithstanding intended for thy good, when these and such like things befall thee.

2. Put it out of thy *heart* the best thou canst, and if it touch thee, let it not deject thee nor trouble thee long :

Bear it at least patiently, if thou canst not joyfully.

Altho' thou be unwilling to bear it, and conceivest indignation thereat ; yet restrain thy self, and suffer no inordinate word to pass out of thy mouth, whereby the little ones may be offended.

The storm which now is raised shall quickly be appeased, and thy grief sweetened by the return of *grace*.

I yet live, saith the LORD, ready to help thee, and to give thee greater *comfort* than before, if thou puttest thy *trust* in me and callest devoutly upon me.

3. Be more patient, and prepare thy self to greater suffering.

All is not lost, if thou feel thy self often afflicted or grievously tempted.

Thou art a man, and not God : thou art *flesh*, not an *angel*.

How shouldst thou continue ever in the same state of *virtue*, when an *angel* in *heaven* hath fallen, and the first man in *paradise* ?

I am

I am He, who will strengthen with health them that mourn, and raise up unto *divine glory* those that know their own infirmity.

4. *Christian.* LORD, blessed be thy word, more sweet unto my mouth than the honey and the honey-comb,

What should I do in so great *tribulations* and straits, unless thou didst *comfort* me with thy holy words?

What matter is it, how much, and what I suffer, so I may at length attain to the port of *salvation*?

Grant me a good end, grant me a happy passage out of this world.

Be mindful of me, O my God, and direct me in the right way to thy kingdom.
Amen.



C H A P. LVIII.

Of searching into high matters, and into the secret judgments of G O D.

Christ. SON, beware thou dispute not of high matters, nor of the secret judgments of God.

Why

Why this man is left, and that man taken into so great favour ; why also this man is so much afflicted, and that man so greatly advanced :

These things are beyond the reach of man, neither can any reason or disputation search out the judgment of GOD.

When the *enemy* therefore suggesteth these things unto thee, or some curious people enquire of thee, answer that of the prophet ; *Thou art just, O LORD, and thy judgments are right.*

And again, *The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.*

My *judgments* are to be feared, not to be discussed ; for they are such as cannot be comprehended by the understanding of man.

2. Neither enquire, or dispute of the merits of saints, which of them is holier than the other, and which is greater in the kingdom of *heaven*.

These things often breed strife and unprofitable contentions, they *nourish* also *pride* and *vain-glory*, from whence spring *envy* and *dissensions*, whilst one will proudly prefer this, and the other, another.

To desire to know and search out such things, is to no purpose ; nor would it please the *saints* ; for I am not the GOD of *dissension*, but of *peace* : which *peace* consisteth in true *humility*, not in *self-exaltation*.

3. Some

3. Some are carried with zeal of *affection*, to love these or those most : but this *love* is rather *human* than *divine*.

I am He, who made all the *saints* ; I gave them *grace* : I will give them *glory*.

I know what every one hath deserved ; I have prevented them with the blessing of my goodness.

I foreknew my *beloved* before the beginning of the *world*, I chose them out of the *world*, they chose not me first.

I called them by *grace*, I drew them by *mercy*, I led them through fundry *temptations*.

I poured into them *glorious comforts*, I gave them *perseverance*, I will crown their *patience*.

4. I know both the first and the last : I embrace all with inestimable *love*.

I am to be praised in all my *saints* : I am to be blessed above all things, and to be honoured in every one, whom I have thus gloriously exalted and predestinated without any precedent *merits* of their own.

He therefore, that contemneth one of the least of my *saints*, honoureth not the greatest ; for that I made both the less and the greater.

And he, that dispraiseth any of the *saints*, dispraiseth also me.

They

They are all one through the bond of *love*, they think the same, they will the same, and they all love one another.

5. But yet (which is much more high) they love me more than themselves.

For being ravished above themselves and self-love, they are wholly carried out to love me, in whom also they fruitively rest.

Nothing can turn them back, nothing can press them down ; for being full of the eternal *Truth*, they burn with the fire of unquenchable *love*.

Let therefore carnal and natural men, who can affect no other but their own private *joys*, forbear to dispute of the state of *saints*. They add and take away according to their own fancies, not as it pleaseth the eternal *Truth*.

6. Many are ignorant, but especially those that being little enlightened, seldom love any with a perfect spiritual *love*.

They are as yet much drawn by natural affection and human friendship to this man or to that; and according to the experience they have of earthly *affections*, they frame an imagination of heavenly things.

But there is an incomparable distance between the things which the imperfect imagine, and those which the illuminated see by *revelation* from above.

7. Beware therefore, my son, that thou treat not curiously of these things, which exceed thy knowledge ;

S

But

But rather diligently endeavour, that thou mayest have the meanest place in the kingdom of *heaven*.

And if any one did know which of the *saints* exceeds others in sanctity, or were greater in the kingdom of *heaven*; what would this knowledge avail him, unless he thereby humbled himself in my sight, and praised my name the more?

He pleaseth God much better, that thinketh of the greatness of his sins, and the smallness of his virtues, and how far off he is from the perfection of the *saints*; than he that disputeth of their greatness or littleness.

8. They are perfectly contented, if men could content themselves, and refrain from these vain discourses.

They glory not of their own merits, for they ascribe no good unto themselves, but attribute all to me, who of my infinite love have given them all things.

They are filled with so great love of the *Divinity*, and with such an overflowing joy, that there is no *glory* nor *happiness*, that is or can be wanting unto them.

All the *saints*, the higher they are in *glory*, the more humble they are in themselves, and the nearer and dearer unto me:

And therefore it is written, that they cast their *crowns* before God, and fell down upon their faces before the *Lamb*, and adored him that liveth for ever and ever.

9. Many

9. Many enquire who is greatest in the kingdom of GOD, that know not whether they shall be numbered among the least there.

It is a great thing to be even the least in heaven, where all are great : for that all there shall be called, and shall be the sons of GOD.

When the *disciples* asked, who should be greatest in the kingdom of *heaven*, they received this answer ; unless you be converted, and become as *little children*, you shall not enter into the kingdom of *heaven* :

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this *little child*, the same is greatest in the kingdom of *heaven*.

10. Wo be unto them that disdain to humble themselves with *little children* ; for the low gate of the kingdom of *heaven* will not give them entrance.

And wo be to the *rich*, that have their *comforts* here ; for whilst the *poor* enter into the kingdom of GOD, they shall stand lamenting without.

Rejoyce ye humble, and ye *poor* be glad, for yours is the kingdom of GOD, if you walk according to the *truth*.



C H A P. LIX.

*That all our hope and trust is to be fixed in
G O D alone.*

Christian. **L** O R D, what is my trust in this life? Or what is my greatest *comfort* of all things under *heaven*?

Is it not thou, my LORD GOD, whose *mercies* are without number?

Where hath it been well with me without thee? Or when could it be ill with me, when thou wert present?

I had rather be poor for thee, than *rich* without thee.

I rather chuse to be a *pilgrim* on earth with thee, than to possess *heaven* without thee.

Where thou art, there is *heaven*: and there is *death* and *hell*, where thou art not.

Thou art my desire; and therefore I cannot but sigh, and cry, and pray unto thee.

For I have none fully to trust in, none that can seasonably help me in my *necessities*, but thee alone, my GOD.

Thou art my *hope*, thou art my *trust*, thou art my *comforter*, and most faithful unto me in all things.

2. All

2. All men seek their own ; thou only seekest my *salvation* and *profit*, and turnest all things to my *good*.

Altho' thou exposest me to divers *temptations* and *adversities*, yet thou orderest all this to my advantage, who art wont to try thy beloved a thousand ways.

In which trial thou oughtest no less to be loved and praised, than if thou didst fill me with *heavenly comforts*.

3. In thee therefore, O LORD GOD, I put my whole *hope* and *refuge* :

On thee I rest in all *tribulation* and *anguish* ;

For I find all to be weak and unconstant, whatsoever I behold out of thee.

For neither can many *friends* avail, nor strong *helpers* aid, nor wise *counsellors* give any profitable answer, nor the books of the *learned* comfort, nor any *wealth* deliver, nor any *secret* or *pleasant place* defend; if thou thy self dost not assist, help, strengthen, comfort, instruct, and keep us.

4. For all things, that seem to make for *peace* and *felicity*, without thee are nothing, and do bring indeed no *felicity* at all.

Thou therefore art the end of all that is good, the height of *life*, the depth of *wisdom* :

And the strongest *comfort* of thy *servants* is to trust in thee above all things.

To thee therefore do I lift up mine eyes; in thee, O my God, the Father of *mercies*, I put my *trust*.

Bless and sanctify my soul with thy heavenly blessing, that it may be made thy holy habitation, and the seat of thy *eternal glory*.

And that nothing may be found in the temple of thy *glory*, that may offend the eyes of thy *Majesty*.

According to the greatness of thy *goodness*, and the multitude of thy *mercies* look upon me, and hear the *prayer* of thy *poor servant*, who is far exiled from thee in the *land* of the shadow of death.

Protect and keep the *soul* of thy *servant* amidst so many dangers of this *corruptible life*, and by thy *grace* accompanying me, direct it by the way of *peace* to the country of *everlasting light*. *Amen*.

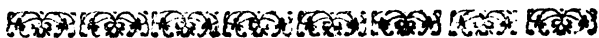




This do in Remembrance of Me Luke 22 V. 19.



B O O K I V.



An EXHORTATION unto the Holy COMMUNION.

The Voice of CHRIST.



C O M E unto me, all ye that
travel and are heavy laden, and
I will refresh you.

*The bread, which I will give,
is my flesh for the life of the
world.*

*Take, eat, This is my body that is given
for you : do this in remembrance of Me.*

*He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my
blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him.*

*The words which I speak unto you are spi-
rit and life.*



C H A P. I.

*With how great reverence CHRIST
ought to be received.*

The voice of the disciple.

TH E S E are thy words, O CHRIST, the *everlasting Truth*, tho' not spoken all at one time, nor written in one place.

Because therefore they are thine and true, they are all thankfully and faithfully to be received by me.

They are thine, and thou hast spoken them; and they are mine also, because thou hast spoken them for my *salvation*.

I willingly receive them from thy mouth, that they may be the deeper imprinted in my *heart*.

These so gracious *words*, so full of *sweetness* and *love*, encourage me; but mine own *offences* terrify me, and my impure *conscience* driveth me back from receiving so great *mysteries*.

The *sweetness* of thy *words* encourages me, but the multitude of my *sins* oppresses me.

2. Thou

2. Thou commandest me to come confidently unto thee, if I will have part with thee; and to receive the *food of immortality*, if I desire to obtain *everlasting life and glory*.

Come, sayst thou, unto me, all ye that travel and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

O sweet and friendly *word* in the ear of *sinners*, that thou, my LORD GOD, shouldst invite the *poor and needy* to the *participation* of thy most *holy body*?

But who am I, LORD, that I should presume to approach unto thee?

Behold the *heaven of heavens* cannot contain thee, and thou sayst, *Come ye all unto me.*

3. What meaneth this so gracious *condescension*, this so friendly *invitation*?

How shall I dare to come, that know no good in my self, whereupon I may presume?

How shall I bring thee into my *house*, that have so often offended thy most gracious *countenance*?

The *angels and archangels* revere thee, the *saints* and just men fear thee, and thou sayst, *Come ye all unto me.*

Unless thou, O LORD, didst say it, who would believe it to be true?

And unless thou didst command it, who would dare to come unto thee?

Behold

Behold *Noah* a just man laboured a hundred years in the making of the *ark*, that he might be saved with a few; and how can I in one hour prepare my self to receive with reverence the *Maker* of the world?

4. *Moses*, thy great *servant*, and thy special *friend*, made an *ark* of incorruptible *wood*, which also he covered with most *pure gold*, to put the *tables of the law* therein; and I a *corruptible creature*, how shall I dare so lightly to receive the *Maker of the law*, and the *Giver of life*?

Solomon, the wisest of the kings of *Israel*, bestowed seven years in building a *magnificent temple* to the *praise* of thy name.

He celebrated the *feast* of the *dedication* thereof eight days together: he offered a thousand *peace-offerings*, and he solemnly set the *ark* in the place prepared for it, with the sound of *trumpets*, and *joy*.

And I the most miserable and poorest of men, how shall I bring thee into my *house*, that can scarce spend one half hour devoutly? Yea, would I could once spend near half an hour in a due manner!

5. O my God, how much did they do out of an endeavour to please thee;

And alas, how little is that which I do! How little time do I spend to prepare my self to receive!

I am

I am seldom wholly recollected, very seldom free from all distraction ;

And yet surely no unbecoming thought ought to appear in the *presence* of thy *Deity*, nor any *creature* find any place in me, for I am not to harbour an *angel*, but the Lord of *angels*.

6. And yet there is great difference between the *ark* of the *covenant* with its *relicks*, and thy most pure *body* with its unspeakable *virtues* : between those legal *sacrifices*, *figures* of future things, and the true *sacrifice* of thy *body*, the completion of all ancient *sacrifices*.

Why therefore am I not more inflamed at thy venerable *presence* ?

Wherefore do I not prepare my self with greater care to receive thy *holy things* ; when those holy ancient *patriarchs*, and *prophets*, yea, *kings* also and *princes*, with the whole people, shewed such an affectionateness of *devotion* to thy *service* ?

7. The most devout king *David* danced before the *ark* of *God* with all his *might*, calling to mind the *benefits* bestowed in times past upon his *forefathers*.

He made *instruments* of sundry kinds, he composed *psalms*, and appointed them to be sung with *joy* :

He also often *sung* himself to the *harp*, being inspired with the *grace* of the HOLY GHOST. He

He taught the people of *Israel* to *praise* God with their whole *heart*, and with joint *voices* every day to *bles*s and *praise* him.

If so great *devotion* was then shewn, and there was such celebrating of the *divine praise* before the *ark* of the *testament*; what *reverence* and *devotion* is now to be performed by me and all *Christian* people at the *sacrament*, in receiving the *most precious body and blood* of CHRIST?

8. O GOD, the *invisible* Creator of the *world*, how wonderfully dost thou deal with us!

How sweetly and graciously dost thou dispose of all things with thine *elect*, to whom thou offerest thy self to be received in the *sacrament*!

This exceedeth all understanding! This strongly draweth the hearts of the devout, and inflameth their *affections*.

For thy true faithful *servants* that dispose their whole *life* to amendment, by this most precious *sacrament*, gain much of the *grace* of *devotion*, and love of *holiness*.

9. O the admirable and hidden *grace* of this *sacrament*, which only the faithful ones of CHRIST know: but the unbelieving, and such as are *slaves* unto *sin*, cannot experience!

In

In this *sacrament* spiritual *grace* is given, and strength which was lost is restored in the *soul*, and the beauty disfigured by *sin* returneth again.

This *grace* is sometimes so great, that out of the fulness of *devotion* here given, not only the *mind*, but the weak *body* also, feeleth great increase of strength.

10. Our coldness and negligence is much to be bewailed and pitied, that we are not drawn with greater *affection* to receive CHRIST, in whom all the *hope* and *merit* of those that are to be *saved* consists.

For he is our *sanctification* and *redemption*: He is the *comfort* of us *travellers*, and the everlasting fruition of *saints*.

It is much therefore to be lamented, that so many so little consider this salutary *mystery*, which rejoyceth *heaven*, and preserveth the whole *world*.

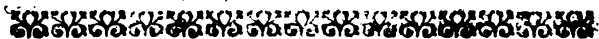
O the blindness and hardness of man's *heart*, that doth not more deeply weigh so unspeakable a *gift*; but rather cometh, by the daily use thereof, to regard it little or nothing!

12. If this most *holy sacrament* were celebrated in one place only, and consecrated by one only *priest* in the *world*; with how great desire would men be affected to that place, and to such a *priest*, that they might enjoy these *divine mysteries*?

But

But now there are many *priests*, and CHRIST is offered in many places; that so the *grace* and *love* of GOD to man may appear greater, the more this sacred communion is spread through the *world*.

Thanks be unto thee, gracious JESUS, the everlasting *Shepherd*, that hast vouchsafed to refresh us *poor exiles* with thy precious *body* and *blood*, and to invite us to the receiving of these *mysteries* with the *words* of thy own *mouth*, saying, *Come unto me, all ye that travel and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.*



C H A P. II.

That the great goodness and love of GOD is exhibited to man in this sacrament.

The voice of the disciple.

IN confidence of thy *goodness* and great *mercy*, I come, O LORD, a sick man unto my SAVIOUR, *hungry* and *thirsty* to the *Fountain* of *life*, *needy* to the *King* of *heaven*, a *servant* unto my *Lord*, a *creature* to my *Creator*; disconsolate to thee, my merciful *Comforter*.

But

But whence is this to me, that thou vouchsafest to come unto me? Who am I, that thou shouldst give thy self unto me?

How dare a *sinner* appear before thee? And how is it that thou dost vouchsafe to come unto a *sinner*?

Thou knowest thy *servant*, and seest that he hath no good thing in him, for which thou shouldst bestow this favour upon him.

I confess therefore my unworthiness; I acknowledge thy *goodness*; I praise thy *mercy*, and give thee thanks for this thy transcendent *love*.

For thou dost this for thine own *sake*, not for any *merits* of *mine*; that thy *goodness* may be better known unto me, thy *love* more abundantly shewed, and thy gracious condescension the more eminently display'd.

Since therefore it is thy *pleasure*, and thou hast commanded that it should be so, this thy *favour* is also pleasing to me, and may my sins be no hinderance.

2. O most sweet and benign JESUS, how great *reverence* and *thanks*, together with perpetual *praise*, is due unto thee for the receiving of thy *sacred body*, whose preciousness no man is able to express!

But what shall I think of at his *communion*, now that I am to approach unto my LORD, whom I am not able duly to honour,

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nour, and yet I desire to receive him with
devotion?

What can I think better, and more profitable, than to humble my self wholly before thee, and to exalt thine infinite *goodness* over me?

I *praise* thee, my GOD, and will exalt thee for ever; I despise and submit my self unto thee, in a deep sense of my own *unworthiness*.

3. Behold thou art the *Holy of Holies*, and I the vilest of *sinners*!

Behold thou inclinest unto me, who am not worthy so much as to look up unto thee!

Behold thou comest unto me, it is thy will to be with me, thou invitest me to thy banquet.

Thou wilt give me the *food of heaven*, and *bread of angels* to eat, which is no other indeed than thy self, the living *Bread*, that descended from *heaven*, and giveth *life* unto the *world*.

4. Behold from whence doth this *love* proceed! what a gracious condescension appeareth herein! How great *thanks* and *praises* are due unto thee for these *benefits*!

O how good and profitable was thy *counsel*, when thou ordainedst it! How sweet and pleasant the *banquet* when thou gavest thy self to be our *food*!

How

How wonderful is thy operation, O LORD, how mighty is thy *power*, how unspeakable is thy *truth*!

For thou saidst the word, and all things were made; and this was done which thou commandedst.

5. A thing of great admiration, that thou, my LORD GOD, true GOD and man, shouldst be exhibited unto us by the *elements* of *bread* and *wine*.

Thou, who art the LORD of all things, and standest in need of none, hast pleased to dwell in us by means of this thy *sacrament*:

Preserve my *heart* and *body* undefiled, that with a chearful and pure *conscience* I may often celebrate thy *mysteries*, and receive them to my everlasting *health*; which thou hast ordained and instituted for thy *honour* and for a perpetual *memorial*.

6. Rejoyce, O my *soul*, and give thanks unto GOD for so excellent a *gift*, so singular a *comfort* left unto me in this vale of *tears*.

For as often as thou celebratest this *mystery*, and receivest the *body* of CHRIST; so often dost thou renew the work of thy *redemption*, and art made partaker of all the *merits* of CHRIST:

For the love of CHRIST is never diminished, and the greatness of his propitiation is never exhausted:

T

There-

Therefore thou oughtest always to prepare thy self hereunto by a fresh renewing of thy *mind*, and to weigh with attentive consideration this great *mystery* of thy *salvation*.

So great, new, and joyful it ought to seem unto thee, when thou comest to these *holy mysteries*; as if the same day CHRIST, first descending into the womb of the *Virgin*, were become man; or, hanging on the *Cross*, did *suffer* and *die* for the *salvation* of *man-kind*.



C H A P. III.

That it is profitable to communicate often.

The voice of the disciple.

BEHOLD, O LORD, I come unto thee, that I may be comforted by thy *gift*, and delighted in thy holy *banquet*, which thou, O GOD, hast prepared in thy goodness for the *poor*.

Behold in thee is all I can or ought to desire: Thou art my *salvation*, and my *redemption*, my *hope* and my *strength*, my *honour* and my *glory*.

Make

Make joyful therefore this day the *soul* of thy *servant*, for I have lifted it up unto thee; O LORD JESUS.

I desire to receive thee now with *devotion* and *reverence*. I long to bring thee into my *house*, that with *Zaccheus* I may be blessed by thee, and numbered amongst the children of *Abraham*.

My *soul* thirsteth to receive thy *body* and *blood*, my *heart* desireth to be united with thee.

2. Give me thy self, and it sufficeth: for, besides thee, no *comfort* is available.

I cannot be without thee, nor live without thy *visitation*:

And therefore I must often come unto thee, and receive thee for the welfare of my *soul*; lest haply I faint in the way, if I be deprived of thy heavenly *food*:

For so, most merciful JESUS, thou once didst say, preaching to the people, and curing sundry *diseases*, *I will not send them home fasting, lest they faint in the way*.

Deal thou therefore in like manner now with me, who hast vouchsafed to leave thy self in the *sacrament* for the comfort of the *faithful*.

For thou art the sweet refection of the *soul*; and he that eateth thee worthily, shall be partaker and heir of everlasting *glory*.

It is necessary for me, that so often fall and sin, and so quickly grow lukewarm and faint, that by frequent *prayer* and *confession*, and receiving of thy *holy body*, I renew, cleanse and enflame my self; lest perhaps by long abstaining I should fall from my holy purpose.

3. For the imaginations of man are prone unto evil from his youth;

And unless some *divine remedy* help him, he quickly slideth into sin.

This holy *communion* therefore draweth back from *evil*, and strengtheneth in *good*.

For if I be now so often slack and cold, when I communicate, or celebrate; what would become of me if I received not this remedy, and sought not after so great an help?

This is one chief *comfort* of a faithful *soul*, whilst, distant from thee, she sojourns in this mortal body, that she may often be mindful of her GOD, and receive her *beloved* with a devout mind.

4. O the wonderful condescension of thy *mercy* towards us, that thou, O LORD GOD, the *Creator* and Giver of *life* to all *spirits*, dost vouchsafe to come unto a poor *soul*, and with thy whole *Deity* to replenish her *hunger*!

O happy *mind* and blessed *soul*, that receives thee, her LORD GOD, with *devout affection*,

affection, and in receiving of thee is filled with *spiritual joy*!

O how great a LORD doth she entertain!
 How beloved a guest doth she harbour!
 How pleasant a *companion* doth she receive!
 How faithful a *friend* doth she take in!
 How lovely and glorious a *spouse* doth she embrace!

She embraceth him, who is to be loved above all that is beloved, and above all things that may be desired.

Let *heaven* and *earth* and all the hosts of them be silent in thy presence: for what *praise* and *beauty* soever they have, it is received from thy bounty, and shall not equal the beauty of thy name, of whose *wisdom* there is no number.



C H A P. IV.

That many benefits are bestowed upon them that communicate devoutly.

The voice of the disciple.

MY LORD GOD, prevent thy *servant* with the blessings of thy sweetness, that I may approach worthily and devoutly to thy glorious *sacrament*:

Stir up my heart unto thee, and deliver me from a heavy numbness of mind.

Visit me with thy *salvation*, that I may taste in *spirit* thy sweetness, which plentifully lieth hid in this *sacrament*, as in a *fountain*.

Enlighten also my eyes to behold so great a *mystery*, and strengthen me to believe it with *steddy faith*.

For it is thy *work*, and not man's *power*; thy sacred institution, not man's *invention*.

For no man is of himself able to comprehend and understand these things, which surpass the understanding even of angels.

What therefore shall I unworthy *sinner*, *dust* and *ashes*, be able to comprehend of so high and sacred a *mystery*.

2. O LORD, in the simplicity of my *heart*, with a good and firm *faith*, and at thy *comandment*, I come unto thee with *hope* and *reverence*, and do truly believe that thou art present in this *sacrament*.

Thy will is, that I receive thee, and that by love I unite my self unto thee.

Wherefore I implore thy *mercy*, and crave thy special *grace*, that I may wholly melt and overflow with love unto thee; and hereafter never seek any *comfort* out of thee.

For this most high and worthy *sacrament* is the health of the *soul* and *body*, the remedy of all spiritual weakness; hereby my
vices

vices are cured, my *passions* bridled, *temptations* overcome or weakned, greater *grace* is infused, *virtue* begun increased, *faith* confirmed, *hope* strengthened, and *love* inflamed and enlarged.

3. For thou hast bestowed, and still often dost bestow many *benefits* in this *sacrament* upon thy beloved ones that communicate devoutly, O my God, the Protector of my *soul*, the Repairer of human frailty, and the Giver of all inward *comfort*.

Thou impartest unto them much *comfort* against sundry *tribulations*;

Thou liftest them up from the depth of their own *dejectedness*, to hope in thy protection;

Thou dost inwardly refresh and enlighten them with new *grace*; so that they, who, before *communicating*, felt themselves heavy and unaffected, afterwards being refreshed with heavenly *meat* and *drink*, find in themselves a great change to the better.

And in such a way of dispensation thou dealest with thy *elect*, that they may truly acknowledge and patiently prove, how great their own infirmity is, and what *goodness* and *grace* they receive from thee.

For they of themselves are cold, dull and undevout; but by thee they are made fervent, chearful, and full of *devotion*.

For who is there, that approaching humbly unto the *fountain* of sweetness, doth not carry away from thence at least some little sweetness?

Or who standing by a great fire, receiveth not some small heat thereby?

Thou art a *Fountain* always full and overflowing, a *Fire* ever burning and never decaying.

4. Wherefore, if I cannot draw out of the full *fountain* it self, nor drink my fill; I will notwithstanding set my lips to the mouth of this *heavenly conduit*, that I may draw from thence at least some small drop to refresh my thirst; and not be wholly dried up.

And tho' I be not altogether heavenly, nor so inflamed as the *cherubins* and *seraphins*; notwithstanding I will endeavour after *devotion*, and prepare my *heart* to obtain some small spark of *divine fire*, by humble receiving of this enlivening *sacrament*.

And whatsoever is wanting in me, O merciful JESUS, most holy SAVIOUR, do thou bountifully and graciously supply, who hast vouchsafed to call all unto thee, *Come unto me, all ye that travel and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.*

5. I indeed labour in the sweat of my *brows*, I am vexed with *grief* of *heart*, I am burthened with *sins*, I am troubled with *temptations*, I am entangled and oppressed with

with many evil *passions* ; and there is none to help me, none to deliver and save me, but thou, O LORD, my SAVIOUR, to whom I commit my self, and all that is mine, that thou mayest keep me and bring me to *life everlasting*.

Receive me to the *honour* and *glory* of thy *name*, who hast prepared thy *body* and *blood* to be my *meat* and *drink*.

Grant, LORD GOD, my SAVIOUR, that by frequenting thy *mysteries*, the fervour of my *devotion* may continually increase.



C H A P. V.

Of the dignity of this sacrament, and of the ministerial function.

The voice of CHRIST.

IF thou hadst the purity of an angel, and the sanctity of St. *John* Baptist, thou wert not worthy to receive or celebrate this *sacrament* :

For no man can deserve to consecrate the *sacrament* of CHRIST, and receive for *food* the *bread* of *angels*.

A great *mystery*, and great is the *dignity* of the *ministers* of GOD, to whom is given that which is not given to the *angels*.

For

For *priests* alone duly ordained in the *Church*, have power to consecrate the *body* of CHRIST.

The *priest* is the *minister* of GOD, using the word of GOD, by GOD'S *commandment* and *appointment* :

But GOD is there the principal *Author*, and invisible *worker* ; to whom is subject all that he pleaseth, and all that he commandeth doth obey.

2. Thou oughtest therefore more to believe GOD *Almighty* in this most excellent *sacrament*, than thine own *sense*, or any visible *sign*, and therefore thou art to come unto this *mystery* with *fear* and *reverence*.

Consider attentively, whose *minister* thou art made by the imposition of the hands of the *bishop*.

Behold thou art made a *priest*, and consecrated to celebrate : see now that thou faithfully and devoutly offer this sacrifice to GOD in due time, and behave thy self unrepovably.

Thou hast not lightened thy burden, but art now bound with a straiter band of *discipline*, and art more highly obliged to excell in *holiness*.

A *minister* ought to be adorned with all *virtues*, and to give an example of good life to others.

His conversation should not be according to the ordinary way of men, but like to the *angels* in *heaven*, or to the *saints* on earth.

2. A

3. A *minister* is the *vicegerent* of CHRIST, to pray humbly with a prostrate mind unto GOD for himself and the whole people;

Neither ought he to cease from *prayer*, till he obtain *grace* and *mercy*.

When a *minister* celebrates, he honoureth GOD, rejoyceth the *angels*, edifieth the *Church*, helpeth the members of it, and maketh himself partaker of all good.



C H A P. VI.

An enquiry concerning the exercise before the holy communion.

The voice of the disciple.

W H E N I weigh thy worthiness, O LORD, and my unworthiness, I tremble, and am confounded.

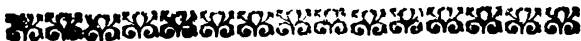
For if I come not unto thee, I fly from *life*; and if I unworthily intrude my self, I incur thy displeasure.

What therefore shall I do, my GOD, my Helper and my Counsellor in necessity?

2. Teach me the right way, appoint me some exercise suitable to this *holy communion*;

For

For it is good for me to know how I should reverently and religiously prepare my *heart* for thee, for the profitable receiving of thy *sacrament*, or for the celebrating of so *great* and *divine* a *sacrifice*.



C H A P. VII.

Of the examining our conscience, and purpose of amendment.

The voice of the beloved.

ABOVE all things, the *minister* of **GOD** ought to come to celebrate, and receive this *sacrament* with great humility of *heart*, and lowly reverence, with a full *faith*, and a pious intending of the *honour*, of **GOD**.

Examine diligently thy *conscience*, and to thy power purge and cleanse it with true *contrition* and humble *confession*; so as there may be nothing burdensome unto thee, or that may breed in thee remorse of *conscience*, and hinder thy free access.

Repent thee of all thy *sins* in general, and in particular bewail and lament thy daily *offences*.

And

And, if thou hast time, confess unto God in the secret of thy *heart* all the miseries of thy *disordered passions*.

2. Lament and grieve, that thou art yet so carnal, so worldly, so unmortified as to thy *passions*, so full of the motions of *concupiscence*.

So unwatchful over thy outward *senses*, so often entangled with many vain *imaginati- ons* ;

So vehemently inclined to outward *things*, so negligent of interior ;

So prone to laughter and levity, so indisposed to tears and compunction ;

So prompt to ease and pleasures of the *flesh*, so dull to necessary rigour and fervency of spirit ;

So curious to hear *news* and see beautiful *things*, so slack to embrace what is low and abject ;

So desirous of abundance, so niggardly in giving, so tenacious in keeping ;

So inconsiderate in *speech*, so incontinent as to *silence* ;

So loose in *manners*, so importune in *action* ;

So engaged in *eating*, so deaf to the *word* of God.

So hasty to *rest*, so slow to *labour* ;

So watchful to *tales*, so drowsy to *watch* in the service of God ;

So

So negligent and cold in *prayer*; so undevout in celebrating, so dry in receiving;

So quickly distracted, so seldom wholly recollected;

So suddenly moved to *anger*, so apt to take displeasure against another;

So prone to judge, so severe to reprehend;

So joyful in *prosperity*, so weak in *adversity*;

So often purposing much good, and yet performing little.

3. These and other thy defects being confessed, and bewailed with *sorrow* and a great dislike of thine own *infirmity*, make a firm purpose continually to amend thy *life*, and to endeavour still after a farther progress in *holiness*.

Then, with full resignation, and with thy whole will, offer up thy self a perpetual sacrifice to the *honour* of my name on the altar of thy *heart*, faithfully committing thy *body* and *soul* unto me;

That so thou mayest come worthily to celebrate this *eucharistical sacrifice*, and to receive profitably the *sacrament* of my *body*.

4. For man hath no oblation more worthy, nor greater, for the destroying of *sin*, than to offer up himself unto God purely and wholly in the *holy communion*.

And when a man shall have done what lyeth in him, and shall be truly *penitent*,
when-

whensoever he shall come to me for *pardon* and *grace*, as I live, saith the LORD, who will not the death of a *sinner*, but rather that he be converted and live, I will not remember his *sins* any more, but they shall be all forgiven him.



C H A P. VIII.

Of the oblation of CHRIST on the Cross, and resignation of our selves.

The voice of the beloved.

AS I willingly offered up my self unto GOD my Father for thy *sins*, my hands being stretched forth on the *Cross*, and my *body* naked, so that nothing remained in me that was not wholly turned into a *sacrifice*, for the appeasing of the *divine Majesty*:

So oughtest thou also to offer up thy self willingly unto me every day, as a *pure* and *holy oblation*, with all thy *might* and *affections*, in as hearty a manner as thou canst.

What do I require of thee more than that thou entirely resign thy self unto me?

Whatsoever

Whatsoever thou givest besides thy self is of no account in my sight ; for I seek not thy gifts, but thy self.

2. As it would not suffice thee to have all things besides me ; so neither can it please me, whatsoever thou givest, if thou offerest not thy self.

Offer up thy self unto me, and give thy self wholly for God, and thy offering shall be accepted.

Behold I offered up my self wholly unto my *Father* for thee, that I might be wholly thine, and thou remain mine.

But, if thou abidest in thy self, and dost not offer thy self up freely unto my will, thy *oblation* is not entire, neither will the union between us be perfect.

Therefore a free offering up of thy self into the hands of God ought to go before all thy *actions*, if thou wilt obtain freedom and grace.

For this cause so few become illuminated and inwardly free, because they cannot wholly deny themselves.

My saying is unalterable, *Unless a man forsake all, he cannot be my disciple.*

Therefore, if thou desirest to be my *disciple*, offer up thy self unto me with thy whole *affections*.

C H A P.



C H A P. IX.

That we ought to offer up our selves, and all that is ours, unto G O D, and to pray for all.

The voice of the disciple.

THINE, O LORD, are all things that are in *heaven*, and in *earth*.

I desire to offer up my self unto thee, as a free *oblation*, and to remain always thine.

O LORD, in the simplicity of my *heart* I offer my self unto thee this day, for a *sacrifice* of perpetual *praise*, to be thy *servant* for ever.

Receive me with this holy *oblation* of thy *precious body*; and may this be for my *salvation* and the *salvation* of all thy *people*.

2. I offer unto thee, O LORD, all my *sins* and *offences*, which I have committed before thee and thy holy *angels*, from the day wherein I first could *sin*, to this hour, upon thy merciful *altar*.

Consume and burn them all with the *fire* of thy *love*, and wash out all the stains of my *sins*.

O cleanse my *conscience* from all *offences*, and restore to me again thy *grace*, which I lost by *sin*, fully forgiving me all my *of-*
U
fences,

fences, and receiving me mercifully to the *kiss of peace*.

3. What can I do for my *sins*, but humbly confess and bewail them, and incessantly intreat thy favour?

I beseech thee, hear me graciously, when I stand before thee, O my God.

All my *sins* are very displeasing unto me. I will never commit them any more; but I bewail, and will bewail them as long as I live, and am purposed to repent, and, according to the utmost of my power, to please thee.

Forgive me, O God, forgive me my *sins* for thy holy name's sake:

Save my *soul*, which thou hast redeemed with thy most *precious blood*.

Behold, I commit my self to thy *mercy*, I resign my self over into thy *hands*.

Do with me according to thy *goodness*; not according to my *wickedness* and *iniquity*.

4. I offer up also unto thee all whatsoever is good in me, altho' it be very little and imperfect, that thou mayest *amend* and *sanctify* it.

That thou mayest make it grateful and acceptable unto thee, and always perfect it more and more;

And bring me also, who am a *slothful* and *unprofitable creature*, to a *good* and *bles-sed end*.

5. I

5. I offer up also unto thee all the pious desires of devout *persons*, the necessities of my *parents, friends, brethren, sisters*, and of all those that are dear unto me, and that have done good either to my self or to others for thy love ;

And that have desired me to *pray* for them and all theirs : that they all may receive the help of thy *grace and comfort, protection from dangers, deliverance from pain* ; and, being freed from all *evils*, may joyfully give worthy thanks unto thee.

6. I offer up also unto thee my *prayers* especially for them who have in any thing *wronged, grieved, or slandered* me, or have done me any *damage or displeasure* ;

And for all those also, whom I have at any time *troubled, grieved, or scandalized* by *words or deeds*, wittingly or at unawares ; that it may please thee to forgive us all our *sins and offences*, one against another.

Take, O LORD, from our *hearts* all *jealousy, indignation, wrath and contention*, and whatsoever may impair *charity* and lessen *brotherly love*.

Have mercy, O LORD, have mercy on those that crave thy mercy : give grace unto them that stand in need thereof, and grant that we may be counted worthy to enjoy thy grace, and to attain to life everlasting.
Amen.



C H A P. X.

That the holy communion is not lightly to be forborn.

The voice of the beloved.

THOU oughtest often to have recourse to the *fountain of grace* and of *divine mercy*, to the *fountain of goodness* and of all purity ; that thou mayest be healed of thy *sins* and *passions*, and be made more strong and vigilant against all the *temptations* and *deceits* of the *devil*.

The enemy, knowing the great good and advantage of the *holy communion*, endeavour-eth by all means and occasions to withdraw and hinder *faithful* and *devout persons* from it.

2. Some, when they purpose to fit themselves for the *holy communion*, suffer worse assaults of the *devil*.

For that wicked *spirit* (as it is written in *Job*) cometh among the sons of God, to trouble them according to his accustomed *malice*, or to make them over-fearful and perplexed, that so he may diminish their *affection*, or by *subtil assaults* take away their *faith* ;

If

If haply they may either altogether forbear the *communion*, or at least come unto it coldly.

But there is no heed to be taken of his *frauds* and *suggestions*, be they never so *filthy* and *hideous*; but all is to be turned back upon his own head:

Thou oughtest to contemn and scorn him, a miserable *wretch*, and not to omit the *holy communion* for his *assaults*, and the *troubles* which he raiseth.

3. Often also an excessive care to obtain *devotion*, and anxiety about confessing thy *sins* hindereth thee.

Follow herein the counsel of the *wise*, and put away all doubt and scruple; for it is an hindrance to the *grace* of GOD, and destroyeth devotion.

For every small vexation and trouble omit not the *holy communion*;

But the sooner confess thy *sins*, and willingly forgive others their *offences* against thee;

And, if thou hast offended any, humbly crave pardon, and GOD will readily forgive thee.

4. What availeth it to delay long the *confession* of thy *sins*, or to defer the *holy communion*?

Purge thy self with speed, spit out the venom presently, make haste to apply this *soveraign remedy*, and thou shalt find it to

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be better with thee, than if thou hadst deferred it.

If thou omittedst it to day for this cause, perhaps to morrow some greater will fall out; and so thou mayest be hindered a long time, and become more unfit.

With all possible speed shake off this *beaviness* and *sloth*, for it will not avail thee to continue long in disquiet, and for daily impediments to withdraw thy self from the *divine mysteries*.

Yea, it is very prejudicial to defer the *communion* long, for this usually causeth a great lukewarmness and numbness.

Alas! some cold and careless *people* willingly defer it, lest they should be engaged to keep a stricter watch over themselves.

5. O how little is their *love*, and how weak is their *devotion*, that so easily postpone the *holy communion*!

How happy is he and acceptable to God, who so lives, and keepeth his *conscience* in such purity, that he is ready and desirous to communicate every day, if it might be done.

If one doth sometimes abstain out of *humility*, or by reason of some lawful impediment, he is to be commended for the reverence which therein he sheweth.

But if numbness steal upon him, he must stir up himself, and do what lieth in him, and God will assist his *desire* and good will, which God doth chiefly respect. 6. And

6. And when he is unavoidably hindered, he must yet always have a desire, and a pious intention to *communicate*, and so he shall not lose the fruit of the *sacrament*. For every good man may every day and hour profitably, and without let, receive CHRIST spiritually; and yet on certain days, and at times appointed, he ought to receive *sacramentally*, with an *affectionate reverence*, the *body* of his Redeemer, and rather seek the *honour and glory* of GOD, than his own *comfort*. For he communicateth *mystically* and is invisibly fed, as often as he devoutly calleth to mind the *mystery of the incarnation*, and the *passion* of CHRIST, and is inflamed with his *love*.

7. He that prepareth not himself, but, when a *festival* draweth near, or when custom compelleth him thereunto, shall usually be unprepared for it.

Blessed is he, that offereth himself up as a *sacrifice* to the LORD, as often as he *celebrates* or *communicates*.

Be not too slow nor too hasty in celebrating, but keep the accustomed manner of those with whom thou livest.

Thou oughtest not to be tedious and troublesome to others, but observe the received custom, according to the appointment of thy *superiors*: and rather suit thy self to the profit of others, than to thine own *devotion* or *desire*.



C H A P. XI.

That the body of CHRIST, and the holy scripture, are most necessary unto a faithful soul.

The voice of the disciple.

O Sweetest LORD JESUS, how great sweetness hath an *holy soul* that feasteth with thee in thy *banquet*, where there is set no other *food* to be eaten but thy self, her only *beloved*, and most to be desired above all the desires of her *heart*!

And verily it would be a sweet thing unto me to pour out *tears* from the very bottom of my *heart* in thy presence: and with holy *Magdalene* to wash thy *feet* with my *tears*.

But where is this *devotion*? Where is this so plentiful shedding of *holy tears*?

Surely in the sight of thee and thy *holy angels* my whole *heart* should be inflamed and even weep for *joy*.

For I enjoy thee in the *sacrament* truly present, tho' hidden under another *representation*.

2. For to behold thee even in thine own *divine brightness*, mine eyes would not be able to endure it. Neither

Neither could the whole *world* stand in the *brightness* of the *glory* of thy *Majesty*.

I really enjoy and adore him, whom the *angels* adore in *heaven* ;

But I, as yet, by *faith*, they by *fight*, and without a veil.

I ought to be content with the light of true *faith*, and to walk therein, until the day of *everlasting brightness* break forth, and the shadows of *figures* pass away.

But when that which is perfect shall come, the use of *sacraments* shall cease.

For the blessed in *heavenly glory* need not any *sacramental* remedy, but joyce without end in the *presence* of *God*,

Beholding his *glory* face to face, and being transformed from *glory* to *glory* into the image of the incomprehensible *Deity*, they taste the Word of *God* made *flesh*, as he was from the beginning, and as he remaineth for ever.

3. Thou art my *witness*, O *God*, th t nothing can *comfort* me, no *creature* can give me rest, but thou, my *God*, whom I desire to behold everlastingly.

But this is not possible, whilst I remain in this mortal life.

Therefore I must frame my self to much *patience*, and submit my self to thee in all my *desires*.

For

For thy *saints* also, O LORD, who now rejoyce with thee, whilst they lived, expected in *faith* and great *patience* the coming of thy *glory*. What they believed, I believe: what they hoped for, I also hope for: whither they are come, I trust I shall come by thy *grace*.

In the mean time I will go forward in *faith*, strengthened by their examples:

I have also thy *holy book* for my *comfort* and guide, and, above all these, thy most *holy body* for a remedy and refuge.

4. For I perceive two things to be especially necessary for me in this *life*, without which it would be insupportable.

Whilst I am kept in the *prison* of this *body*, I acknowledge my self to need two things, to wit, *food* and *light*.

Thou hast therefore given unto me, a weak *creature*, thy sacred *body* and *blood* for the nourishment of my *soul* and *body*; and thou hast set thy word as a *light* unto my *feet*:

Without these two I could not well live.

For the word of GOD is the light of the *soul*, and thy *sacrament* the *bread* of *life*.

These also may be called the two *tables*, set on the one side and on the other, in the storehouse of the *holy Church*.

One is the *holy altar*, having the *holy bread*, that is the precious *body* of CHRIST:

The

The other is that of the *divine law*, containing *holy doctrine*, teaching the true *faith*, and certainly leading to that within the veil, where is the *Holy of Holies*.

Thanks be unto thee, O LORD JESUS, the light of *everlasting light*, for the *table* of *holy doctrine*, which thou hast afforded us by thy *servants*, the *prophets* and *apostles* and other *teachers*.

5. Thanks be unto thee, O thou *Creator* and *Redeemer* of man, who, to manifest thy *love* to the whole *world*, hast prepared a great *supper*, wherein thou hast set before us to be eaten (not the typical *lamb*, but) thy most sacred *body* and *blood*.

Rejoicing all the *faithful* with thy holy *banquet*, and replenishing them to the full with thy *cup* of *salvation*, in which are all the delights of *paradise*; and the holy *angels* do feast with us, but yet with a more happy sweetness.

6. O how great and honourable is the office of GOD'S *ministers*, to whom it is given with sacred words to consecrate (the *sacrament* of) the LORD of *glory*, with their *lips* to bless, with their *hands* to hold, with their *mouth* to receive, and also to administer it to others!

O how clean ought to be those *hands*, how pure that *mouth*, how holy that *body*,
how

how unspotted ~~that~~ *heart*, where the *Author* of *purity* so often entereth!

Nothing but what is *holy*, no word but *good* and *profitable*, ought to proceed from his *mouth*, who so often receiveth the *sacrament* of *CHRIST*.

7. Simple and chaste ought to be the *eyes* that use to behold the *body* of *CHRIST*;

Pure and lifted up to *heaven* should be the *hands* that use to receive the *Creator* of *heaven* and *earth*.

Unto the *priests* especially it is said in the *law*, Be ye *holy*, for I the *LORD* your *GOD* am *holy*.

8. *Assist* us, *Almighty* *GOD*, with thy *grace*, that we, who have undertaken the *office* of *priesthood*, may serve thee *worthily* and *devoutly* in all *purity*, and good *conscience*.

And; if we cannot live in so great *innocency* as we ought, grant us at least *duly* to *bewail* the *sins* which we have committed; and in the *spirit* of *humility*, and with the *full* purpose of our *hearts*, to serve thee hereafter *more* *fervently*.

C H A P.



C H A P. XII.

That he, who is to communicate, ought to prepare himself with great diligence.

The voice of the beloved.

I AM the lover of *purity*, and the giver of all *holiness*.

I seek a pure *heart*, and there is the place of my *rest*.

Make ready and adorn for me the great *chamber*, and I will keep with thee the *passover* amongst my *disciples*.

If thou wilt have me come unto thee, and remain with thee, purge out the old *leaven*, and make clean the *habitation* of thy *heart* :

Shut out the whole *world*, and all the throng of *sins* : sit like a *sparrow* alone upon the house-top, and think of thy *offences* in the bitterness of thy *soul*.

For every lover prepareth the best and fairest room for his *beloved* : and herein is known the *affection* of him that entertaineth his *beloved*.

2. Know

2. Know thou notwithstanding, that the merit of no action of thine is able to make this preparation sufficient, altho' thou shouldst prepare thy self a whole year together, and think of nothing else.

Thou art, of my mere *grace* and *favour*, suffered to come to my *table*.

Like a *beggar* invited to *dinner* to a rich man, who hath nothing else to return him for his *benefits*, but to humble himself and give him thanks.

Do what lyeth in thee, and do it diligently; not for custom, nor for necessity, but with fear and reverence, and *affection*, receive thy beloved LORD GOD, who vouchsafest to come unto thee.

I am He, that have called thee, I have commanded it to be done, I will supply what is wanting in thee: come and receive me.

3. When I bestow the *grace* of *devotion*, give thanks to thy GOD; for it is given thee, not for that thou art worthy, but because I have *mercy* on thee.

If thou have it not, but dost feel thy self dry; continue in *prayer*, sigh and knock, and give not over until thou art meet to receive some crum or drop of saving *grace*.

Thou hast need of me, not I of thee.

Neither comest thou to sanctify me, but I come to sanctify and improve thee in virtue.

Thou

Thou comest that thou mayest be sanctified by me, and united unto me, that thou mayest receive new *grace*, and be inflamed anew to amendment.

Neglect not this *grace*, but prepare thy heart with all diligence, and receive thy beloved into thy *soul*.

4. But thou oughtest not only to prepare thy self to *devotion* before *communion*, but carefully also to conserve thy self therein, after thou hast received.

Neither is the careful guard of thy self afterwards less required, than devout preparation before.

For a good guard afterwards, is the best preparation again for the obtaining of greater *grace*.

A man becometh therefore very indisposed for this, if he presently pour himself out to outward *comforts*.

Beware of much talk, remain in secret, and enjoy thy God.

For thou hast him, whom all the *world* cannot take from thee.

I am He, to whom thou oughtest wholly to give thy self, that so thou mayest live hereafter, not in thy self, but in me, without all solicitude.



C H A P. XIII.

That a devout soul ought to desire with her whole heart, to be united unto CHRIST in the sacrament.

The Voice of the disciple.

WHO will give me this, O LORD, to find thee alone, and open my whole heart unto thee, and enjoy thee as my soul desireth?

And that no man may look towards me, nor any creature move or regard me, but thou alone mayest speak unto me, and I to thee, as the beloved is wont to speak to his beloved, and a friend to banquet with his friend?

This I pray for, this I desire, that I may be wholly united unto thee, and may withdraw my heart from all created things.

That I may, by often communicating, learn more and more to relish heavenly and eternal things.

Ah LORD GOD, when shall I be wholly united to thee, and swallowed in thee, and altogether forgetful of my self?

Thou

Thou in me, and I in thee, and so grant us both to continue in one.

2. Verily, thou art my *beloved*; the choicest amongst thousands, in whom my *soul* is well pleased to dwell all the days of her *life*.

Verily, thou art my *peace-maker*, in whom is great *peace* and true *rest*, without whom is *labour* and *sorrow* and infinite *misery*.

Verily, thou art a GOD that hidest thy self, and thy counsel is not with the *wicked*, but thy speech is with the humble and simple of *heart*.

O LORD, how sweet is thy *Spirit*, who, to shew thy sweetness towards thy *children*, vouchsafest to feed them with the bread which descendeth from *heaven*, and is full of all sweetness!

Verily, there is no other nation so great, that hath GOD so nigh unto them, as thou our GOD art present to all thy faithful ones.

Unto whom, for their daily *comfort*, and for the raising up their *hearts* to *heaven*, thou givest thy self to be eaten and enjoyed.

3. For what other nation is there so honoured, as the Christian people?

Or what creature under *heaven* so beloved, as a devout *soul*, to whom GOD himself cometh to feed her with his glorious *flesh*?

X

O un-

O unspeakable *grace* ! O admirable *con-*
descension ! O infinite *love* singularly bestow-
ed upon man !

But what shall I give unto the LORD in
return of his *grace*, for so eminent an ex-
pression of love ?

There is nothing more acceptable that I
am able to give, than to give my *heart*
wholly to my GOD, and to unite it closely
unto him.

Then shall my inward parts rejoyce,
when my *soul* shall be perfectly united un-
to GOD.

Then he will say unto me : if thou wilt
be with me, I will be with thee.

And I will answer him : Vouchsafe, O
LORD, to remain with me, and I will glad-
ly be with thee.

This is my whole desire, that my *heart*
be united unto thee.

CHAP.



C H A P. XIV.

*Of the fervent desire of some devout persons;
to receive the body of CHRIST.*

The voice of the disciple.

O How great is thy *goodness*, O LORD, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee ?

When I remember some devout persons who come unto thy *sacrament*, O LORD, with the greatest *devotion* and *affection*, I am confounded, and blush within my self, that I come so heavily and coldly to thy *table*.

That I remain so dry and without hearty affection, that I am not wholly inflamed in thy presence, my GOD, nor so earnestly drawn and affected, as many devout persons have been, who, out of a vehement desire of the *communion*, and a feeling affection of *heart*, could not contain themselves from weeping ;

But with desire both of *soul* and *body*, they earnestly longed after thee, O GOD, the living *Fountain*.

Being no wise able to bear or satisfy their hunger, but by receiving thy *body* with all joy and spiritual greediness.

2. O the most ardent *faith* of those persons! a clear argument of thy sacred *presence*.

For they truly know their LORD, in the breaking of *bread*, whose *heart* burneth so mightily within them, whilst thou, O blessed JESUS, convertest with them.

Such *desire* and *devotion*, so vehement *love* and *fervency*, is often far from me.

Be merciful unto me, good JESUS, sweet and gracious LORD, and grant me, thy poor needy creature, to feel sometimes at least, in this *holy communion*, somewhat of thy tender, cordial affection.

That my *faith* may be more strengthened, my *hope* in thy goodness increased, and that my *love* once perfectly inflamed, after the tasting of heavenly *Manna*, may never decay.

3. Thy *mercy*, O LORD, is able to give me the *grace* I desire, and to visit me most mercifully with the *spirit* of fervour when it shall please thee.

For tho' I burn not with so great desire as those that are so singularly devoted to thee: yet notwithstanding by thy *grace* I desire to have this great inflamed desire;

Praying

Praying and craving that I may partake with all such thy fervent *lovers*, and be numbered among them.



C H A P. XV.

That the grace of devotion is obtained by humility and renouncing our selves.

The voice of the beloved.

THOU oughtest to seek the *grace* of *devotion* fervently, to ask it earnestly, to expect it patiently and with confidence, to receive it gratefully, to keep it humbly, to work with it diligently, and to commit the time and manner of this *heavenly visitation* to God, until it shall please him to come unto thee.

Thou oughtest chiefly to humble thy self, when thou feelest inwardly little or no *devotion*; and yet not to be too much dejected, nor to grieve inordinately.

God often giveth in a moment, that which he hath a long time denied:

He giveth sometimes in the end, that which in the beginning of *prayer* he deferred to grant,

2. If *grace* were always presently given, and ever at hand with a wish, weak man could not well bear it.

Therefore the *grace* of *devotion* is to be expected with *steddy hope* and *humble patience* ;

Yet impute it to thy self and thy *sins*, when it is not given thee, or when it is secretly taken away.

It is sometimes a little thing that hindereth and hideth *grace* from us.

If it may be called little, and not rather great, that hindereth so great good.

But if thou remove this, be it great or small, and perfectly overcome it, thou shalt have thy desire.

3. For, as soon as ever thou hast delivered thy self to GOD with thy whole heart, and seekest not this or that, for thine own pleasure or will, but fixest thy self wholly upon him, thou shalt find thy self united and at peace :

For nothing will relish so well, and please thee so much, as what pleases the *divine will*.

Whosoever therefore, with a single heart, lifteth up his intention to GOD, and purgeth himself from all inordinate *love* or dislike of any created thing, he shall be fit to receive *grace*, and meet for the gift of *devotion*.

For

For the LORD bestows his blessings there, where he findeth the vessels empty.

And the more perfectly one forsaketh these low things, and the more he dieth to himself by contempt of himself; the more speedily *grace* shall come, and enter in the more plentifully, and the higher it raiseth the free *heart*.

4. Then shall he see, and be filled, and wonder, and his heart shall be enlarged within him, because the hand of the LORD is with him, and he hath put himself wholly into his hands for ever.

Behold, so shall the man be blessed, that seeketh God with his whole *heart*, and busieth not his *soul* in vain.

This *man* obtaineth a high degree of *divine union*, in receiving the holy *eucharist*.

Because he respecteth not his own *devotion* and *comfort*; but, above all *devotion* and *comfort*, the *honour* and *glory* of God.



C H A P. XVI.

*That we ought to lay open our necessities to
CHRIST, and crave his grace.*

The voice of the disciple.

O Most sweet and loving LORD, whom I now desire to receive with all *devotion*, thou knowest my *infirmity*, and the *necessity* which I endure, with how many *sins* and *evils* I am oppressed, how often I am grieved, tempted, troubled and defiled.

I come unto thee for remedy, I crave of thee *comfort* and *succour*.

I speak to him that knoweth all things, to whom all my inward parts are open, and who alone can perfectly *comfort* and help me.

Thou knowest what good things I stand most in need of, and how poor I am in virtues.

2. Behold, I stand before thee poor and naked, calling for *grace*, and craving *mercy*.

Refresh thy hungry beggar, inflame my coldness with the fire of thy *love*: enlighten my blindness with the brightness of thy *presence*.

Turn

Turn all earthly things to me into bitterness, all things grievous and cross into *patience*, all created things into *contempt* and *oblivion*.

Lift up my *heart* to thee in *heaven*, and suffer me not to wander upon *earth*.

Be thou only sweet unto me from henceforth for evermore :

For thou only art my *meat* and my *drink*, my *love* and my *joy*, my *sweetness* and all my *good*.

3. O that with thy *presence* thou wouldst wholly inflame, burn, and transform me into thy self;

That I might be made one *spirit* with thee by the *grace* of inward *union*, and by the meltings of ardent *love* !

Suffer me not to go from thee hungry and thirsty ; but deal mercifully with me, as thou hast often dealt wonderfully with thy *saints*.

What marvel is it, if I should be wholly inflamed by thee, and die to my self.

Since thou art a *fire* always burning and never decaying, *love* purifying the *heart*, and enlightening the *understanding*.



C H A P. XVII.

Of fervent love and vehement desire to receive CHRIST.

The voice of the disciple.

WITH great *devotion* and ardent *love*, with the *affection* and *fervour* of my whole heart I desire to receive thee, O LORD, as many *saints* and devout *persons* have desired thee, when they received thy *sacrament*, who were most pleasing unto thee in *holiness* of *life*, and most fervent in *devotion*.

O my God, my everlasting *love*; my whole *good*, my never-ending *happiness*, I would gladly receive thee with the most vehement desire, and most worthy reverence that any of the *saints* ever had, or could feel.

2. And altho' I be unworthy to have all those feelings of *devotion*, yet I offer unto thee the whole *affection* of my *heart*, as if I alone had all those highly-pleasing inflamed *desires*:

Yea, and whatsoever an holy mind can conceive and desire; all this, with the greatest reverence, and most inward affection, I offer and present unto thee,

I desire

I desire to reserve nothing to my self, but freely and most willingly to sacrifice my self and all mine unto thee,

My LORD GOD, my *Creator*, and my *Redeemer*. I desire to receive thee this day with such *affection, reverence, praise and honour, with such gratitude, worthiness and love, with such faith, hope and purity*, as thy most *holy mother*, the glorious virgin *Mary* received, and desired thee, when she humbly and devoutly answered the angel, who declared unto her the *mystery of the incarnation, Behold the handmaid of the LORD, let it be done unto me according to thy word.*

3. And as thy blessed *fore-runner*, the most excellent amongst the *saints, John Baptist*, leaped for joy, by reason of the HOLY GHOST, whilst he was yet shut up in his *mother's womb* ;

And afterwards seeing JESUS walking amongst men, humbling himself deeply, said without devout affection, *The friend of the Bridegroom that standeth and beareth him, rejoiceth with joy for the voice of the Bridegroom* : so I also wish to be enflamed with great and holy *desires*, and to offer my self up to thee with my whole *heart*.

Wherefore I offer also and present unto thee the *joys, fervent affections, extasies, and supernal illuminations and heavenly visions* of all

all devout *hearts*, with all the *virtues* and *praises* celebrated by all *creatures* in *heaven* and *earth*, for my self, and all such as are commended to me in *prayer*, that by all thou mayest be worthily praised and glorified for ever.

4. Receive, my LORD GOD, my *wishes* and *desires* of giving thee infinite *praise* and immense *bleſſing*, which, according to the multitude of thy unspeakable greatness, are most justly due unto thee.

These I yield thee, and desire to yield thee every day and moment; I do intreat and invite all heavenly *minds*, and all thy devout *servants*, to give *thanks* and *praises* together with me.

5. Let all *people*, *tribes*, and *tongues* praise thee, and *magnify* thy *holy* and *sweet* name, with the highest joy and most fervent *devotion*;

And let all, that reverently and devoutly celebrate thy most *high sacrament*, and receive it with full *faith*, find *grace* and *mercy* at thy *hands*, and pray humbly for me a sinful *creature*.

And when they shall have obtained their desired *devotion* and joyful *union*, and depart from thy sacred *heavenly table*, well comforted and marvelously refreshed, let them vouchsafe to remember my poor *soul*.

C H A P.



C H A P. XVIII.

That a man be not a curious enquirer concerning the sacrament, but an humble follower of CHRIST, submitting his sense to faith.

The voice of the beloved.

THOU oughtest to beware of curious and unprofitable searching into this most profound *sacrament*, if thou wilt not be plunged in the depth of doubts.

He that is a searcher into my *Majesty*, shall be oppressed by my *Glory*.

GOD is able to work more than man can understand.

A pious and humble enquiry after *truth* is tolerable, so it be always ready to be taught, and to endeavour to walk in the sound *doctrine* of the *fathers*.

2. Blessed is that simplicity, that forsaketh the difficult ways of *controversy*, and goeth on in the plain and sure path of GOD's *commandments*.

Many have lost *devotion*, whilst they would search after high things.

Faith

Faith and a good *life* are required at thy hands, not height of *understanding*, nor a diving deep into the *mysteries* of **GOD**.

If thou dost not *understand*, nor *comprehend* those things that are under thee, how shouldst thou comprehend those that are above thee?

Submit thy self to **GOD**, and let thy sense be subject to *faith*; and the light of knowledge shall be given thee in that degree, as shall be profitable and necessary for thee.

3. Some are grievously tempted about *faith* and the *sacrament*; but this is not to be imputed to them, but to the *enemy*.

Be not thou anxious, nor dispute with thy thoughts, neither do thou give answer to the doubts cast in by the *devil*;

But believe the words of **GOD**, believe his *apostles* and *prophets*, and the wicked *enemy* will fly from thee.

It is often very profitable to the servant of **GOD** to suffer such things.

For the *devil* tempteth not *unbelievers* and *sinners*, whom he already securely possesseth; but he tempteth and vexeth the faithful and devout many ways.

4. Go forward therefore with a sincere and undoubting *faith*, and come to the *sacrament* with unfeigned reverence.

And whatsoever thou art not able to understand, commit securely to *Almighty GOD*.

GOD

GOD deceiveth thee not; he is deceived that trusteth too much to himself.

GOD walketh with the simple, and revealeth himself to the humble.

He giveth understanding to the little ones, openeth perception to pure minds, and hideth grace from the curious and proud.

Human reason is weak, and may be deceived; but true *faith* cannot be deceived.

5. All reason and natural search ought to follow *faith*, and not to go before it, nor infringe it.

For *faith* and *love* are here predominant, and work in a hidden manner in this most *boly* and excellent *sacrament*.

GOD, who is everlasting, immense, and of infinite power, doth great and inscrutable things in *heaven* and in *earth*, and there is no searching out his wonderful *works*.

If the *works* of GOD were such, as might be easily comprehended by human reason; they could not be called wonderful and unspeakable.

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