Knowledge and Love of Jesus Christ

March 10, 1878
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of Jesus Christ

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Perfect Love of JC: Humility

Perfect Love of JC: Conformity to the Will of God

Perfect Love of JC: Charity & Spirit of Sacrifice

(April 7 – 21, 1878)
We are not only created to know, love and serve God in this world

We are here
to know, love and serve Jesus Christ
and to
make him known, loved and served

(Half of these Chapters are about this perfect knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.)
Knowing and loving are intimately united.

the more we know, the more we want to love

the more we love, the more we want to know
How can we know Jesus intimately?

There are 2 ways:

- doctrine
- attention

“We must penetrate ourselves with these thoughts, because the more we understand Jesus as God, the more conscious we are of what he is as man; the more his birth, childhood, hidden life, teachings and suffering will touch us deeply.” mme
Then she gives 3 stages of knowledge through attention:

\[ \text{attentiveness} \rightarrow \text{recollection} \rightarrow \text{union} \]

“After studying all about Jesus Christ, be attentive to him…
We cannot know JC if we simply have intellectual knowledge or theological concepts, without loving attention to the person we love.”

“After knowing… empty yourselves of all that is not in conformity with him.”

Hand in hand with attentiveness & recollection, there is the work of emptying ourselves. We arrive at a certain emptiness or an interior silence by calming ourselves – like letting dust and dirt in the water settle down.
“No interior life is possible if we do not begin by loving attention to Jesus Christ.”

An example of being attentive …

“In the end, I knew him by heart.”

“If you were to paint a portrait and looked into the air instead of your model, or stand so far away that your vision is vague, your painting will bear no resemblance of your model.”

So it is with the knowledge of Jesus and his resemblance in us. We must draw near and study him… Then we come to know him and identify ourselves with him.
From attention, we move to interior recollection …

“Jesus draws us through grace… If we are recollected…we will obtain a still deeper knowledge of O.L. Jesus Christ. There is in the depths of the recollected person, a knowledge that nothing else can give…that rapidly goes far beyond anything you have ever learned.”
Lastly: union with Jesus Christ

the final goal of attention and recollection

“This is the fruit of long & persevering effort. No one easily arrives at this union.”
The very last paragraph –

“It is a great joy after working so hard, to be established in this state...

where Jesus is the Master, when all that he asks is done...

One readily blossoms in the hands of God, and with burning love, rests at his feet in that interior sanctuary where God dwells.”
These attitudes really refer to PRAYER... they also refer to LIFE: being attentive to reality, attentive to Jesus in daily life.

The same for recollection – that kind of calm & interiority as we go from one activity to another, doing what we are doing...

It is there that we will find Jesus.
This is our contemplative life, our loving search for JC.

We look for him in everything

We find him in everything.