

THE PRACTICE
OF THE
PRESENCE OF GOD

by

Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection

*Newly translated with an Introduction
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IMAGE

BOOKS

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melancholy thought had been with him for four years and had caused him intense suffering.

That since then he had not concerned himself about either heaven or hell and his life was free of worry and full of love. That he had put his sins between God and himself, as if to tell Him he did not deserve His favors, but that God continued to shower him with His blessings. That He sometimes took him by the hand and led him before the entire court of heaven to reveal to all the wretch on whom He so graciously bestowed His graces.

That in the beginning a persistent effort is needed to form the habit of continually talking with God and to refer all we do to Him but that after a little care His love brings us to it without any difficulty.

That he expected, after the happiness God had given him, that he would experience pain and suffering, but that he had not worried about it knowing well that since he could do nothing by himself, God would not fail to give him the strength to bear the pain and the suffering.

That when the occasion arose to practice some virtue he always said to God: "My God, I cannot do this unless You enable me to do so" and he was immediately given the strength needed, and even more.

That when he had stumbled, he simply acknowledged his fault and said to God: "I shall never do otherwise if You leave me to myself; it is up to you to keep me from falling and to correct what is wrong." With this he put the pain of this fault from his mind.

That we must act very simply with God, and

speak to Him frankly, while asking His help in things as they occur; that God never failed to give it, as he often found out.

That he had recently been sent to Burgundy to buy wine, that this was difficult for him since he had no head for business matters, he was lame in one leg and could not get about on the boat except by hobbling from one cask to another but that he had, let none of this bother him, least of all the purchase of the wine. That he said to God that it was His business he was on, and that afterwards he found out everything had gone smoothly and he had done well. That the previous year he had been sent to Auvergne for the same purpose; that he did not know how the business was accomplished, but accomplished it was and very well indeed.

The same thing was true of his work in the kitchen, for which he had a naturally strong, aversion; having accustomed himself to doing everything there for the love of God, and asking His grace to do his work, he' found he had become quite" proficient in his culinary chores during the -fifteen Years he had worked in the kitchen.

That he was-now **in** the shoe repair shop and was very happy there but that he was ready to leave this position as he had previous ones, glad to do task, however small, for the love of God.

That for him the time of prayer was no different from any other time, that he retired' to pray when Father Prior told him to do so, but that he neither desired nor asked for this since his most absorbing work did not divert him from God.

That as he knew he must love God in all things