

The Love of Christ

Once, many years ago, there were severe floods in France. In a place called Castlezarazin, rivers had over-flowed their banks and house after house was fearfully swept away. One house was near to falling victim to the strong and swiftly flowing waters. A woman, who lived there, desperate to save her two children, put them in a wooden oblong chest and floated the chest upon waves; but, sadly, it had gone only a short distance when it struck a tree and capsized. The mother desperately started out for where the children were. She reached them. She grasped the two children and somehow managed to make it to a large tree. Amazingly she clambered up into that tree with them. She reached a branch, and with one arm held on to it, while with the other she clung to her terrified children. Hanging there, she saw the branch had begun to crack and she knew it could not hold the three of them.

Constrained by her love, she wrapped up the little ones as well as she could and then tied them fast to the branch. She then hugged them and kissed them for the last time, and released her hold of the

branch, falling back into the raging torrent below. She died, but they lived and were eventually revered. What so we say to that? Surely, we say, "Amazing! And just like a mother to do that and to sacrifice herself for the lives of her children!"

But what shall we say when the Gospel records how, the tides of sin and death rising, multitudes of sinners were being borne away into a lost eternity, and then the Lord Jesus Christ, in his great love for such sinners, was determined to save them even through means of a tree, or cross? So it was. After giving his people at Calvary the kiss of his dying love, he let go of life, and fell back into the dark waters of death, dying that we might live happily and eternally in heaven. What a sacrifice! And we live, by clinging through faith to his cross and trusting with all our hearts in his redeeming work. "Jesus... having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end" (John 13:1). "His own self bare our sins in his body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24). "Jesus Christ...died for us" (1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10). "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36).