

presence on Him, before Whom 'the Angels themselves veil their faces with their wings,' our impious presumption will be arrested at the very threshold, for the Font will remind us, as if in the language of the Apocalypse,* that we have no right to enter 'in by the gates' to the City of God.

In any case, when we approach the Temple, and behold the sacred Font, we must admire the heavenly wisdom and providential care, and affectionate anxiety of Our Holy Mother the Church, for the spiritual welfare of her beloved children, and her earnest desire that, with purified minds, they may be worthily prepared to enter the hallowed precincts of the sanctuary, there to offer the homage of their 'reasonable service' to the Lord of Hosts. Impressed with such convictions, then, we will always pause at the Holy Water Font, to collect our wandering thoughts, to bid adieu for a time to the world of sin, which we have left without; to acknowledge, with unfeigned humility, how unworthy we are to enter into the presence of Our God, and, with contrite hearts, to beseech Him, through His infinite mercy, to wash away from our souls, every stain of sin. In these dispositions, notwithstanding 'the sneers of the ignorant and the ungodly,' we will always take the Holy Water, and, sprinkling ourselves with humility and confidence in the Divine Goodness, cry out with the Church, in the beautiful and instructive language of the Royal Prophet:—

"THOU shalt sprinkle me, O Lord, with Hyssop, and I shall be cleansed!

THOU shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy GREAT MERCY.

And according to the MULTITUDE of THY TENDER MERCIES, blot out mine iniquities."

* "Blessed are they that wash their robes in the Blood of the Lamb: that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city. WITHOUT (that is OUTSIDE the gates) are dogs and sorcerers, and unchaste, and murderers, and servers of idols, and every one that loveth and maketh a lie." Apoc. xxii. 14, 15.

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