

those works of righteousness which are performed by the righteous man, thus doing through him what is righteous; and he who supports the true minister of the Gospel, the missionary priest, preaches and prophesies through him, hears confession through him, converts sinners through him, consoles the sick through him, encourages the desperate through him, confirms the just in their good resolutions through him; in a word he sanctifies the world through him, and is, through him, the cause that the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ is not shed in vain; and he gladdens, through him, the angels and saints in heaven, and especially the Sacred Hearts of Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On this account, St. Ignatius, in his epistle to the Smyrnians, rightly concludes from the above-mentioned sentence of Christ on the last day, that he who honors a prisoner of Christ will receive the reward of the martyrs, because by honoring such a prisoner he encourages him to suffer martyrdom. For this reason, many Christians formerly merited the grace of martyrdom, because they encouraged, fed, served, and buried the martyrs. In like manner we lawfully infer from the aforesaid sentence of Christ, that those who receive and aid doctors, apostles of the Church, pastors of souls, missionary priests and religious persons, will receive the reward of doctors, of apostles, of the pastors of souls, of missionaries and religious persons.

Finally, McMaster knew also quite well that there are degrees in this well-doing. The more just a man is both for himself and others, the more souls he leads to justice, to holiness of life, the greater will be his reward, and consequently the greater also will be the reward of him who assists such a just man. "They that instruct many to justice, shall shine as stars from all eternity." (Dan., xii., 3.) To whom can these words of Holy Scripture be applied more truly than to fervent pastors of souls and missionary priests? They devote their whole life to the salvation of souls, in much labor and penance. There is nothing more pleasing in the sight of God than laboring for the salvation of souls. "We cannot offer any sacrifice to God," says St. Gregory, "which is equal to that of the zeal for the salvation of souls." "This

zeal and labor for the salvation of men," says St. John Chrysostom, "is of so great a merit before God, that to give up all our goods to the poor, or to spend our whole life in the exercise of all sorts of austerities, cannot equal the merit of this labor. This merit of laboring in the vineyard of the Lord is something far greater than the gift of working miracles. To be employed in this blessed labor is even more pleasing to the Divine Majesty than to suffer martyrdom." Hence McMaster felt extremely happy when he could assist such saintly and zealous souls. He complied in an eminent degree with the command which our Lord gave us when He said: "So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matt. v., 16.)

But our journalist complied not less faithfully with what our Lord told us when He said: "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth; that thy alms be in secret, and thy Father who seeth in secret will repay thee," Matt. vi., 3-4.

"His charity bestowed in secret upon the poor," says Mr. M. F. Egan, "always kept him poor." When he went to the market to buy certain articles, he used to buy them from the poor. On the day of his last Christmas on earth, he expressed the wish that whatever money he had remaining in the bank should be given away in charity, and given where it was most needed. On hearing that the amount was about \$500, he replied that he had not always had that amount to dispose of, but that when he had, he considered it his duty to give it in alms. And, indeed, how much money has he not spent as honorary for Masses for the souls in purgatory, and other charitable purposes! We are a witness of this charity to his neighbor.

"If it is not in your power to give even a little," says St. Alphonsus, "then recommend your neighbor to God, by saying at least a Hail Mary for him." I remember a charitable woman, who, when she had nothing to give to the poor, made, in winter, a large fire for them, that they might be able to warm themselves. There are many charitable persons, who, not having any means of their own to assist the poor, or the priest, in building churches, hospitals, asylums, and school-houses, beg