

PURGATORY AND THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT.

November brings two pathetic remembrances—the pitiable state of the holy souls in Purgatory and the abandoned state of Our Divine Lord on the altars ; and these two are most closely intertwined. It is at His Sacrifice we assist for them ; it is He whom we receive when we want to be heard for the sake of those who groan amidst the expiatory flames of that sacred prison, and who await in bondage there the hour of their deliverance. It is this Adorable Lord that takes to the suffering souls our prayers, good works, and indulgences ; it is this sacramental Mediator who receives our aspirations and makes them fruitful for the poor captives. Let us, then, when we look to Purgatory, view it through the medium of the Blessed Sacrament ; that we may thereby obtain a fuller abundance of light, consolation, and graces for these holy souls. Oh, it can do a great deal a visit well made, or a Mass well heard, or a Holy Communion devoutly received.

When the holy souls were called to judgment, and at the close of that judgment, and because it was favourable, it is our belief that the Sovereign Judge turned upon them a look of such wondrous sweetness and beauty that one of their greatest longings is to behold and adore that countenance forever, and one of their greatest pains is to be kept such a length of time from enjoying it. We may, then, imagine them from the gloom of their prison crying to us :

“ Oh, friends ! that Adorable Lord whom we saw at the moment of judgment, and whose beauty ravished our souls, you have the unspeakable happiness of possessing near you and on your altars. Speak to Him ; you can appease Him and render Him propitious. Offer up His Precious Blood ; there is nothing that brings such resignation and peace as His Precious Blood when it falls on us like dew from heaven. If you dipped your finger in cold water and laid it on our burning tongue, we should be comforted by it ; but oh, how much more so by the