BY A PROTESTANT MINISTER. XLVII.

We have remarked that a scientific aind, even if it knew nothing of the Jesuit Constitutions but the section which to scandalizes Doctor Littlewhich so scandalizes Doctor Little-dale, would easily see the absolute im-possibility of giving to the phrase "obligare ad peccatum" the outrage-ous meaning which Littledale imputes to it. It would be confirmed in this apprehension by the consideration that, of ar as appears, no one, Protestant or Catholic, from 1546 to 1792, had ever dreamed of so interpreting the phrase. The Catholics, of course, could not, un less theology had almost died out among them, since they knew perfect-ly well the meaning of the formula, which had been established in theological use, in one settled sense, from an unknown antiquity, going far back of Aquinas and Bonaventura. The early Protestants could not, since, having been themselves brought up in the communion of Rome, they also were in no danger of misunderstanding her terminology. Indeed, I have noted in Anglican divines as late as the latter part of the seventeenth century a tone of speech showing them to have still re mained familiar with the technical uses of the elder theology. Soon, however, the wide prevalence, both in England and Germany, of a Deism slightly var nished over with Christianity and deeply affecting even the Catholic world, made the elder religious language, even of Protestantism, and still more of Catholicism, barbarous and hardly intelligible in the ears of thos extolled Frederick the Great as the champion of Protestantism, and were hardly willing to own that Voltaire himself was not a sufficiently good Catholic. Protestantism before long revived under the breath of Methodism and Pietism, but can hardly be said to have recov ered the continuity of use with its own elder theology, while the lingering oneness of religious tradition with Catholicism was completely and irrep arably shattered. By 1792, therefore, everything was ready for the astonish ing misinterpretation of 'obligare ad peccatum." This misinterpretaad peccatum. tion originated in Portugal, under Pombal, at a time when I judge the ology was at a low ebb there, and soon spread abroad. Of course it could not maintain itself in the Catholic world, but it was welcome to us. Since its birth there seems no killing it. Confutation after confutation leaves in still alive. Even the crushing demonstration of its falsity given by Doctor Edward Steitz, some forty or forty-five years ago, and emphasized by his un-relenting hatred of Jesuitism, has not prevented the grand ducal govern-ment of Hesse—illustrious for its mem ories of sanctified polygamy-from re viving it, and confirming its virulen blunder by the authority of a Latin professor of its own university of Gies-This gentleman, as Bishop von Ketteler remarks, does not appear to understand the classical use of "obligare," which in the grand-ducal opinion seems to be conclusive for his com petence to settle the Catholic use Being a Protestant, a layman, and knowing at least so much of the Catho lic Church and the Jesuit Order as that he hates them both cordially, and wishes them all possible ill luck, he was evidently the man for the occasion. Oxford and Cambridge required some hard banging before Bluff Harry could punch out of them such a judgment as he desired, touching his marriage Not so with orthodox and obedien Glessen. This stands on the conse crated ground where, at the very time when the Jesuit Rule came into being, the original Reformers, not altogether willingly, but loyally and obediently, gave up their very reputation for common decency in order to please and keep with them a most reli gious and libidinous prince. These sacred traditions have not yet perished from off Hessian soil. To please the prince is still understood to be the crowning duty of good Christian and a good Pro-testant. To sacrifice the Latin testant. To sacrifice the Latin language is a small matter, when a d disciple of the Reformation ough always to stand ready to sacrifice his soul, if the sovereign requires it, as Bucer, that illustrious evangelical light both of England and Germany, has lu minously demonstrated. "The conscience of my subjects is mine," said that zealous Reformer, the first Calvinistic Elector Palatine. This Latin professor of Giessen knew what inter-

> nished it to hand accordingly.
> Since a man of scientific mind would find it logically and theologically and historically impossible to interpret obligare ad peccatum "as meaning to bind to the commission of sin," he would next scan the rest of the section to see what light he could find. He ould notice that the Rule savs : Except the four fundamental vows of chastity, poverty, obedience and obedience to the Pope circa missiones, these precepts shall not have the power of binding up unto sin, mortal or venial, unless furnished with it by the super-This declaration bewilders poor Littledale beyond expression. Here we find the four fundamental vows, the central column of the whole Institute, placed in unique eminence, as having always the power obligandi ad peccatum, while the inferior precepts never have this power, except as occasionally invested with it by the superiors. Now certainly the observance of the Four Vows is not regarded, by Jesuits or other Catholics, as involving a perpetual liability to the com-

on of sin. Even Littledale has not yet reached the point of con-founding Loyola with Luther. He does not know what to do or say when it comes to the Four Vows. However, being firmly fixed in his resolution of sent to tell her of the approach of her rejoicing in iniquity, and never re-joicing in the truth when the truth the Apostles and Christians of Jerusa would require him to believe that the lem gathered to be present at that Jesuit Rule was drawn up by sincere glorious scene. St. Jerome says that Christians, he mumbled something, I at the last moment of her life the a way of putting the Four Vows aside, as too sacred to be discussed. It is as too sacred to be discussed. It is natural light, of surpassing bright-nothing of the kind. Every monastic ness, shone around her. Many mirrule discusses freely everything con-cerning the order. The whole thing is as plain as day. The precepts are divided into two classes. The Four Vows, being fundamental and indispensable, giving solidity and coher ence to the whole structure, are declared to have always the power "ob-ligandi ad peccatum." To neglect ligandi ad peccatum." To neglect it in a mortal sin. They do not wait for a superior to give them this power. They have it of themselves, and have it always. The other precepts, however, although imposing a general obligation of observance, not impose a particular obligation, in any particular juncture, of observing any particular one. A Jesuit, there fore, who neglects any particular pre cept-not being one of the Four Vows -at any particular time, from a sober judgment that it is inexpedient then and there, does not find himself invo ved in sin, even venial. He is not

An inexperienced examiner might and it hard to understand how the phrase "obligare ad peccatum" has come to mean "to blind up to anything so strictly that the neglect to obey involves a sin." Ad, however, expresses the measure of obligation. Like a thousand other idioms, and not least of a inridical complexion, the history of the development is obscure, although the result is plain. The sense of this formula, for seven or eight hundred years, has been well established, and once ascertained gives luminousness and coherency to the previous confusion.

obligatus ad peccatum.

This clear and self-consistent explanation would be confirmed to an unprejuticed examiner when he observed the motives assigned for this peculiar provision, which, however, as we shall see by and by, is itself a development of similar provisons of elder rules. The Founders declare, that while they wish every brother to hold himsel ound to observe the whole Institute faithfully—so far, of course, as it is applicable to him—they wish this ob-servance to rest "on the love of perfection rather than on the fear of o fence." They therefore commit him to his general purpose and prom ise, but leave him free to diverge from the letter of any precept of the second class, if he at any time judges this divergence to serve the general purpose of the Institute better than literal compliance. Even ordinary commands of superiors come under his liberty. An approved Jesuit saying is: "I have not done what you commanded, but what you would have commanded had you been here." Doctor Little-dale's dismal picture of the Jesuit Rule as a universal strait jacket is just as near the reverse of the truth as can be, allowing for a certain important reservation, which we will next consider.

Charles C. Starbuck. Andover, Mass.

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY.

Rev. James McKernan in Ave Maria. After the Ascension of her Divine Son, this world no longer possessed any attraction for Mary. From that attraction for Mary. From that moment she was an exile on earth. Her heart was above; for was not Jesus, her treasure, there?
And did not His own sacred lips once say, "Where thy ilps once say, "Where thy treasure is, there is thy heart also?" Her life on earth had been pre emin-ently one of sorrow; still in the midst of all her sufferings Jesus was with her. With Him clasped to her bosom, even Egypt was no exile to her. In Bethlehem, in Egypt, in Nazareth, and even on Calvary, her Son was with her ; and, although she suffered, she was exactly where her heart would have her to be. Terrible, then, must have been the change she experienced when first she felt that she was in the world alone.

To the merely human mind, it would seem that, like St. Joseph, she should have quitted this world before her Son, or at least have gone with Him; but the ways and the thoughts of God are pretation was expected of him in order to show himself a good subject of the not like ours. By the will of God she was destined to remain long upon earth, and to witness the early struggles of the infant Church. He whose "wisdom reacheth from end to the district of the winds of the struggles of the infant Church. He whose "wisdom reacheth from end to the winds of th evangelical grand duchy, and he furand "had His own motives in leaving Mary so long after Him. Perhaps it was that she might witness to the first converts the mystery of the Incarnation; or that she might assist the Apostles by her wise counsels ; or that the bonds of affection and confidence between herself and her adopted children might, by actual contact, be more closely drawn; and that they, having closely drawn; and that they, having acquired the habit of seeking her as-sistance—feeling the power of her in-tercession whilst with them here— might be encouraged still to have recourse to her after her departure. Be it as it may, Mary must have been many years on earth after Our Lord's Ascension before death was sent to loose her captive soul. The general seventy two years of ago at the time of her death; so that, accordingly, she must have remained nearly twenty-three years on earth after Christian.

The Holy Virgin died at Jerusalem in the house of Mary the mother of St. Mark. It is said that the Archange great mystery of the Incarnation, was sent to tell her of the approach of her dissolution. As her death drew nigh, know not what, to the effect that this is chamber in which she lay was filled with heaveny music, and that acles were wrought in the city. All the sick brought to her sacred body after death were cured; and S:. John Damascene says he learned from the mos ancient traditions that those miracles were extended even to the unconverted

They buried her in Gethsemane. out side of Jerusalem. Juvenal, the Patriarch of that city, who lived in the fifth century, relates, in a letter to the Emperor Marcian and the pious Empress Palcheria, that the Apostles and faithful kept watch, day and night, for three days at her tomb; and that the same sweet music was unceasingly heard which had begun at the moment of her death.

But that sacred body, which had been created for so great a purpose—to be the living tabernacle of the Most High-was not allowed to remain in the tomb ; for the Lord would not permit "His holy One to see corrup-tion." It is the belief of the Church that God permitted Mary to remain in the tomb but three days, like her Divine Son ; and that on the third day her pure soul was reunited to her body, and she was assumed gloriously into heaven.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is not an article of defined faith hence it is in the same position as the Immaculate Conception was before definition. It is universally believed in the Church, and has been so from the first ages. It has never been denied, and consequently there has never been any necessity to define it. It is reserved for all God's saints to

be assumed, body and soul, into heaven on the day of general judgment. Mary's assumption, before the time, is a privilege which reason at one agrees to and approves. For it is not reasonable to suppose that the body of the Mother of Christ was left by God in the grave; and that her sacred body is today a handful of dust blown about by the winds or trodden under the feet of men, just the same as is the body of Judas who betrayed Him. The honor of her Divine Son seems to require her assumption. Moreover, Jesus being perfectly human as well as divine, His Sacred Heart, full of tender love for His Mother, would naturally desire that assumption. With the desire, and the power to ac-complish it, it is in the highest degree easonable to conclude that the Sacred Heart of Mary, which gave Him His umanity, and upon which he pillowed His infant head, is to-day, not scattered dust, but a heart living, loving, and throbbing with heavenly joy in the kingdom of her Son.

But we may venture even to say that Mary had a right to the glory of her assumption. Death and the humiliation of the grave are the penalties of sin : but Mary had never been touched by sin : why, then, should she suffer the penalties of sin? The Church admits, in the Mass of the Assumption, that she died; but death was not infor her was not necessary. But she endured many things besides death which were not of necessity. Her purification, after the birth of her Divine Son, was surely unnecessary. Sufferings of every kind are penalties of sin; hence no suffering could be necessary for her, who was sinless. Yet, at the presentation of her Divine Babe, the prophet foretold that "a sword of grief should pierce her soul also." The fulfilment of that prophecy earned for her the title of Queen of Martyrs. Her Son came to suffer, because He took upon Him the sins of the world, and by His sufferings saved us. The sufferings of Our Lady could not save the world, and were therefore unnecessary for the world's redemp-tion. Mary's close connection with her Son caused all her sufferings. As the first and most perfect of all Christians, she should be most like to her Son; for this is Christian perfection, to become like Christ. "Take up to become like Christ. 'Take up your cross and follow Me," is His com mand to all His followers. Mar would not be an exception to that con-dition. Herein we find the reason of her death as well as of all her sufferings: she should be like Him in all hings,-like Him in innocence, like Him in humiliation, poverty, suffer-ings, and death. But should her likeness to her Son cease at death? Rather should we not expect it to continue and be completed by her assumption on "the third day?" And this is the tradition in the Church, believed and

handed on from age to age. St. John Damascene and most of the Greek and Latin Fathers say that St. Thomas was the only one of the Apos tles who was absent from the funeral of the Blessed Virgin; and that when he arrived and found she was dead and buried, he begged them to open the tomb, that he might look once more upon the holy face of her who
had given birth to his Lord
and Master. The Apostles concluded
to grant his request. The tomb was opened; solemnly and reverently they entered, but lo! the body of the Vir-

faith in what was so evident to their senses; and blessed God who made Mary like to His Son, not only in her sufferings and death, but also in her resurrection and assumption. Thus the same Apoetie, who, although by his incredulity, was made so valuable a witness to the resurrection of our Saviour, was also, by God's providence, the means of proving the assumption of the Blessed Virgin. The fact that the Church, since the

fourth century, has solemnly commem orated every year the Assumption of Our Lady stamps this tradition with her authority, and is a proof of its truth. Another proof is that no relic of the body of the Mother of God has ever been found in any part of the Church. The great St. Augustin, fifteen hundred years ago, in a dis-course on the Assumption of Mary, thus refers to this fact: "The Divine Saviour causes the bones and ashes of His servants to be everywhere honored He authorizes the worship paid to them by all manner of prodigies. Would He leave the relics of His Holy Mother in darkness and oblivion, without honor, if that holy body had remained on earth, if He had not speedily re moved it to heaven? Was it becoming," he asks in the same discourse, "that the Saviour should leave in the tomb so pure a body, from which His own was formed, a flesh which was in some sort His own? No, could not believe," he answers, that the body in which the Divine Word had been made man, should b given as a prey to worms and corrup The very thought strikes me with borror.

The Assumption of Oar Lady is full of hope and joy for all Christians. Her entrance into heaven was a triumph for the whole human race Our Blessed Lord entered heaven on the day of His Ascension, the first con queror that ever entered there. But. as God, He had been always there and although He entered as man being God also, His entrance does no present itself to our minds as distinctively that of a human being. Not so Assumption of Mary. Great as are her perfections and privileges, she is, nevertheless, wholly and only human. She entered heaven the first human being, not divine, that had ever passed the holy gates. It is this fact that makes her assumption so joy ful and hopeful for us : it is this that makes it a triumph for the human race. In her assumption into paradise the great promise of Christianity, the dearest hope of Christians, was confirmed and fulfilled. We all hope to enter heaven, body and soul re united ; this hope is confirmed forever

by the Assumption of Mary.
What a change for her was that enrapturing vision of light and joy which suddenly burst upon her bodily eves after a life so dark and sorrowful Think of the tumultuous joy of the angels as they welcomed their Queen. Think of her meeting with St. Joseph, the faithful guardian of her life. And think of that meeting between the Mother and the Son. Heaven never witnessed a scene like that The angels and saints made way to let those two hearts meet-Jesus and Mary, never again to sep arate.

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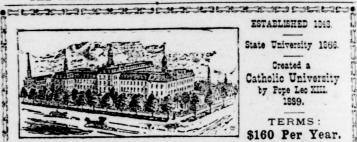


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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentece

ON THE VALUE OF THE SOUL.

" Seek ye therefore first the kingdom of and His justice, and all these things shaded unto you." (Matt. 6, 33.)

What a grand, and sublime work is not the salvation of souls! nearly every page of the gospe find our Lord speaking of it either plain words or in figures and para In the gospel of this Sunday He a

mentions this, our most important v saying: "Seek ye therefore firs kingdom of God and His justice an Aings of the state like the saints, value it above all things, and would never permit perish by a life of carelessness an difference. What is the value of a in the sight of Heaven? Is it as able as a kingdom or an em More. As all the gold, silver precious stones? More. One so more precious than the whole unit

To convince you of this, I need remind you that the soul is an it and a likeness of God; a being came from Heaven and was creat Heaven. I could remind you God, moreover, has given His be angels, who stand before His t adoring His Infinite Majesty, c over the souls to guard them fro and to protect them against the of Satan. I could direct your the Church weeps when a soul is se from the path of virtue, and the torious cry of hell when a soul g

perdition.
These things, however, we sh
to-day contemplate. I shall lead
Mt. Calvary to the cross of our dy deemer. There you will see the so highly prized your soul that it, He shed His own Precious In order to create a soul, G breathed into his face the br life and man became a living (Gen. 2, 7), but to save that so Saviour had to give His own life my dear Christians, ascend M vary, and behold your God a deemer hanging on the cross theaven and earth. Do you nails in His hands and feet ? see the crown of thorns on Hi Do you see how cruelly His a stretched? Do you see the wounds, the torn body, the blood? Do you see the pallid the agony of death? Then a Lord and Master: What, O Jesus, has caused this bitter what caused these cruel torme agony of death? And the saviour will bow His head and This, O soul, I have suffered To save you I descended from into this valley of tears, labore three years, and then carreross, was nailed to it and the the last drop of My blood. the last drop of My blood. tanti vales, So precious thou soul."—S'. Angustine.

My dear Christians, can you

your Saviour speaking thus

cross and still remain callou voice of grace? "Have pity own soul." (Eccli. 30, 24) preacher. Yes, have pity on soul which is created to live "For what doth it profit a n loss of his soul ?" (Matt. 16, quickly time flies, how soon life be finished! How soon will come, the dreadful hour ment. Then you will not tioned : How rich were yo many acres of land did you What honorable position did asked : How have you lived, you done to save your soul? answer to these questions v whether Heaven or hell, eter tude or eternal damnation wi portion. If you die as a chi you may indeed be compel main for a time in purgato plete your penance, but yesaved, and you have secure as your eternal inheritance ever, you appear without th garment of sanctifying grenemy of God, in the state sin, your soul is lost forever tined to burn in the fearft hell for all eternity. Then wring your hands in angui pair; it will avail you nothiyou may weep floods of tear never quench the flames, have kindled by your it Your soul is lost—lost the fault—through your own through your own grievous

without hope, without mer He who loses his soul During life, he could profinite merits of the Precio our Lord. He had the sachad so many graces. In thing. All is lost.

It is true, he wished to spoke repeatedly of Heavy resolved to be converted.

avail? He neglected t grace, and now all is lost. He often recommended h prayers of pious persons even in the last sickness die a Christian, a Catholic lected the time of repen

what avail are now all thoughts? He lost his so it, all. Oh, terrible, eteri able loss !

able loss!

Dearly beloved Christi
still time to escape so to
Let us consider well thruth which our Lord tead
gospel of this day. "S
fore first the kingdom o us attend to the salvatio while there is yet time.