

great aim of life here below, if they would live with Christ and rejoice with Christ in that glorious eternity where even childish sorrows are unknown. Hence that touching custom in Catholic countries of leading the little ones to the crib to make an offering to the Child Jesus for His suffering poor of some of the good things they have received or of their little savings. They begin thus, while tender in years and sympathetic of heart, to practise christian charity, and to realize the truth, that to give to the needy for Christ's sake is to lend to Heaven.

Surely the Christian of maturer years, as he kneels before the Child-God in His manger, or listens in fancy to the piteous wail in Rama, while resolving to be generous to the orphan and the waif for the sake of his Little Lord, will not be inclined to deny that this month of December, and the festive season which closes one year and ushers in the next, belongs more particularly to the young. He will understand, from the reflections uppermost in his mind, why the Holy Father chose this month so appropriately for the present Intention, and sent up that cry, which from the centre of Catholicity will re-echo through every Christian land under the sun: "Save the Child!" Like Rachel, the Church weeps over the little ones which are lost to her. Other little ones she has, it is true, which have never been torn from her maternal embrace, but she is not the less comfortless at the sight of those lost to her forever, and she appeals to us as no earthly mother could to save those who yet remain from the ravening, heartless Herods of our day.

Mindful of the words of the Master: "He that shall receive one such little child in My name, receiveth Me," the Church has dotted every land with asylums, and *crèches*, and hospitals for the little neglected sufferers. She has, through her numberless confraternities and her religious communities, left nothing undone that she could do, with the means at her disposal, to minister to their temporal wants; but there is something that moves her to compassion more