

At the hour of our death they bear our soul to heaven. Again, the word of the Master is our warrant for this: "And it came to pass that the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom."* Such, denuded of all detail, is the bare enumeration of some of the personal services rendered us by our heavenly guardians.

And now, when we think how lowly our nature is when compared with theirs, that we are a fallen race, contaminated by sin, imprisoned in a loathsome body fashioned of the slime of the earth, that we are wayward children, ungrateful and forgetful of kindness rendered; that they, on the other hand, are pure spirits, free from all moral blemish, enjoying the sight of God, supremely blessed, courtiers of the household of the Eternal King, that they are kind, condescending and ever watchful, that in spite of our repeated failings, our faults, oftentimes our crimes, they still love us with a disinterested love, weep when we have strayed, and rejoice at our return; † surely, our love should be enkindled, our devotion quickened, our gratitude boundless, not only towards God who has deputed them to guide us to our journey's end, but towards them also, who with such alacrity acquit themselves of so thankless a task.

The second great claim of the Holy Angels to our devotion is that they are, as it were, our companions in arms.

The duties which devolve upon us as Members of the Holy League and Associates of the Apostleship of Prayer are not less imperative than those of any other individual Christian, who is bound to save his soul at all cost. We have seen at least faintly what help the Holy Angels bear us in the work of our personal sanctification. Since then we are called upon as Christians to defend God's church and as Members of the League to extend Christ's

* Luke xvi. 22.

† Luke xv. 7.