

eyes, and to reject every thing without examination which is beyond the narrow limits of their comprehension, and to ridicule what is most venerable in religion.

We should despise the support of such men as well as their criticism: being men without religion, their opinions should have little weight. The mysteries of religion, according to the flesh, he kindly reveals to the humble and lowly.

I shall conclude these observations by quoting two other passages from the life of Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque.

"I know of no exercise of piety in the spiritual life, be it calculated to raise, in a short time, a soul to the highest state of sanctity, or to make it relish the true delight which is found in the service of God, than the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Yes, I assert with confidence, were it known how agreeable it is to Jesus Christ, that there is no christian how little soever he might be influenced by love for this amiable Saviour, who would not eagerly reduce it to practice.

"Endeavour," she says, "that persons professing the religious state embrace it; for they will derive so many helps from it, that no other means would be necessary to re-establish the primitive fervour in the most lax communities, and to lead the most fervent to the summit of perfection."

"Our divine Saviour revealed to me that those who are engaged in the ministry will be enabled to soften the most obdurate hearts, and will labour with wonderful success, if they themselves are penetrated with a tender devotion to this adorable Heart.

"The laity will find in this devotion all the helps necessary for their state; namely, peace in their families, comfort in their troubles, and the blessings of heaven in all their undertakings. It is in this adorable Heart that they will effectually find refuge during their lives, and especially at the hour of their death. Ah! how sweet it is to die after having had a constant devotion to the sacred Heart of Him, who is to be one day our judge! in fine, it is evident that there is no person in the world who would not experience every assistance from Heaven, had he for Jesus a grateful love, such as is evinced in the devotion to his Sacred Heart."

In another place she says, "our Lord discovered to me the treasures of love, and abundance of graces, which should be imparted to those persons who would consecrate themselves, and sacrifice all to procure for this adorable Heart all the honour, love and glory, in their power; but treasures so great, that it is impossible for me to express them. This amiable Heart, as being the source of all good, ardently desires to be known to men, over

whom it wishes to establish its empire, in order to supply their wants; for which reason, he wishes that they should address him with confidence, and I think that there is no method more efficacious for obtaining what we ask, than by offering it through the mediation of the adorable sacrifice of the Mass.

"He revealed to me, that the desire he had of being perfectly beloved by men, had induced him to manifest to them his Sacred Heart; and to give them in these latter times, this last effort of his love, thereby proposing an object so proper to engage them to love him, and to love him sincerely; that in this Heart he opened all the treasures of his love, grace, mercy, sanctification, and salvation, which His heart contains; that all those who would wish to render to it, and to obtain for it, all the love and honour they could possibly procure, should be enriched with a profusion of those treasures, of which this divine Heart is the fruitful and inexhaustible source."

"He assured me also that he took a particular pleasure in seeing the interior sentiments of his Heart and of his love honoured under the figure of a sensible heart, such as he shewed me, and of which he wished to have a picture exposed in public, in order to touch the insensible hearts of men: he promised at the same time that he would fill with abundance of the treasures of his graces, the hearts of those who would honour it, and that all sorts of blessings and favours would abound wherever this picture would be exposed for particular veneration."

"But what caused me at the same time a degree of anguish, the most acute ever experienced, was, that when his Heart was presented to me, I heard these words: "I have an ardent thirst to be honoured and loved by men in the sacrament of my love, and notwithstanding, I rarely find one, who endeavours, according to my desire, to allay my thirst by any return of love."

Notwithstanding all the opposition this devotion had to encounter, it spread with such wonderful rapidity all over the world, embracing among its members persons of all ranks,) that from the year 1803 to 1822 there were 1962 aggregated sodalities: but how many must have been associated since that time, and what a prodigious number of fervent souls compose this great family! and though separated from one another, they are united by the ties of common love in the adorable Heart of Jesus.

To be continued.

From the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy.

"I WAS SICK, AND YE VISITED ME."

It is common enough to hear that England is the finest country in the world. We have all of us