

words: *The gates of hell shall not prevail against her.* (S. Matt., XVI. 18). *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away.* (S. Luke, XXI. 33.)

"We are certain, says Pius IX, that God will not be wanting to his word, "and that a day will come, when God, whose works are wonderful, will show "that this storm has not been excited to bury the vessel of the church, but "rather to raise it up." (*Allocution of 30th September 1861.*)

But whilst confiding in those promises of the Eternal Word to await the final triumph of Holy Church, let us not forget, Dearly Beloved Brethren, that God wishes to associate us with the glory of this triumph, by making us share in the events which must bring about this result. *No one is crowned*, says St. Paul, *except he strive lawfully* (II Tim., II., 5). God only calls a small number of choice souls to pour out their blood for this noble cause, but all can and ought to keep their hands raised towards heaven to implore the divine assistance. It is to the prayers of the primitive Church that Saint Peter owed his delivery from prison. Let us pray then with fervor for the sovereign Pontiff; let us pray with perseverance as the early Christians. And that our prayers may be judged worthy of being heard, let us keep our hearts free from sin,—let us also add *almsgiving which makes us find mercy before the Lord.* (Tobias, XII. 9).

Oh! would to God that the occasions of practising this holy charity *which is the greatest of virtues* (I. Cor., XIII. 13), were not too frequent for our feeble resources! At least, let us do what we can, in order *that the measure of our merit may be good, and pressed down, and shaken together and running over.* For, adds Jesus-Christ, *with the same measure that you shall mete withal, it shall be measured to you again.* (S. Luke, VI. 38). This rule is short but comprehensive: observe it ever, and in an especial manner when you are called upon to contribute towards the Peter's pence fund. Bear in mind that the blessings of heaven are promised to the child who honours, consoles and succors his father.

II.

THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH AND THE HOLY CHILDHOOD.

To the Peter's pence we ought to join two other eminently catholic works, the Propagation of the Faith, and the Holy Childhood.

Charity, according to the word of our Lord, *is a fire that only wants to be enkindled.* (S. Luke, XII. 49.) It is from the heart of the adorable Saviour that came the spark destined to inflame the entire world; therefore, if the faith, which is in you, Dearly Beloved Brethren, is truly living and *animated by charity*, (Gal. V. 6) you will not want for zeal to communicate this inestimable