

bewails its slowness and longs for death to free him from its leaden weight.

Centuries ago, David voiced the same complaint when he lamented the length of his exile among the inhabitants of Cedar. The Blessed Virgin after the death of her Divine Son, languished in the hope of heaven where she would meet Him again.

Bossuet tells us : " Time is a clever rogue who plies his trade so subtly that we scarcely notice it : he takes away a day but replaces it by another, and since he cannot hold the month that is passing he makes another ascend the horizon of life, thus being always before new days and new hours we do not realise the flight of time and in this illusion is his strength." " I considered my life," says the Psalmist, and it was no longer."

Let this be our first reflection. Even if it is sad its lesson will be productive of much good.

But as a whole time passes quickly : this closing year has passed quickly, the next will do the same, all our life, even should it last for a long time, will yet pass quickly like a dream. Do not then defer serious thought till another year. If you still hesitate between God and the world, do not do so any longer. Make up your mind to spend this new Year for God, to do your duty nobly and faithfully no matter what obstacles you may have to surmount to work for His interests. Learn from St Paul how to redeem time " by a greater fidelity and more practical virtue. Our Blessed Lord looks less upon the time passed than upon the ground covered and the perfection of the work accomplished.

Let us then leave the past to God's tender mercy and begin anew to serve Him without discouragement, without cowardice, without fainting ; and whether the new Year brings life or death, trial or consolation, success or disappointment, happy or unfortunate events—all will be as God wills, and since this God is our Father and loves us, why not trust Him and say ever and always with every beating of our pulse, every palpitation of our heart : Sacred Heart of Jesus I place my trust in Thee.

