

practical conviction that we are always in the presence of God; we should consecrate to God whatever we say, do, or think, and the more we do that, the riper we become for Heaven.

It is reasonable that such a course should lead us to sanctity. It is the course prescribed by the natural law as well as revelation. The natural law bids us worship God. What does the worship of God imply? It implies that, by certain acts of our intellect and will, we acknowledge God's supreme dominion over us and our dependence on Him, acknowledge Him as our supreme Lord and sovereign benefactor. What is all this but prayer? The voice of God in revelation is equally clear. In Luke we read: "Pray lest ye enter into temptation." Mathew is still more pronounced: "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened."

That language is clear, and can only mean that prayer has an infallible virtue. But, in order that prayer may have that efficacy, certain conditions must be verified. These conditions will appear in the sequel; at present, let us see how the promises of Christ were fulfilled in the case of St. Francis Xavier.

St. Francis, needless to say, prayed well, and his reward was great. In fact, the union of his soul with God, by holy prayer, raised him above the world. In deep meditation, he was often found, as ocular witnesses deposed, suspended in the air, with beams of glory round his countenance. Furthermore, miracles even, and many of them, attested his sanctity after death. You know that to show the sanctity of saints is one end of miracles. Well then, some time after St. Francis had died, his body, which remained incorrupt (and I believe remains so to the present day) was translated to Goa, and placed in the church of St. Paul there. On that occasion many blind persons recovered their sight, and others, who were sick with palsy and other disease, recovered their health and the use of their limbs. Moreover, many miracles, con-