

driven out by the power of the Holy Ghost, and the saints of God honored in their place.

Another reason which induced the Popes to establish the devotion was the consideration of the careless manner in which the saints' days are kept by worldly people, who spend them more in pleasure than in prayer : and so this day is intended to be a day of *reparation* for all the misspent festivals !

On this glorious day the Church calls on all the saints of Heaven to aid their fellow members on earth against the hidden snares and open assaults of the powers of Hell !

The Feast was established in France by Pope Gregory the Fourth, in the 9th century, and to this day it is kept there as a feast of the highest order. All the stores are closed, (except those kept by Jews) and the churches are crowded with the faithful.

What a splendid thing it is to have all the saints praying for you, asking God, as they stand before His throne, to grant your petitions. One of the wonderful visions of St. John, describes the offering up of one petition :

" And when he had opened the book, the four living creatures and the four and twenty ancients fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them lamps and golden vials full of odors, *which are the prayers of the saints*" (Apocalypse V. 8 )

There is a very old church in Florence called the church of All Saints; or as they say in Italian : *Ogni Santi*. For a long time I went to a daily mass in that church, and very often I noticed a lady whom I knew to be a protestant, wealthy and fashionable, praying earnestly, after the crowd had gone away, as though she was asking all the saints to obtain her request. On finishing her prayer she always went to the poor beggars grouped around the door, and to each one gave an alms, asking their prayers, thinking no doubt that the prayers of those poor sufferers must have weight with God, and that they were worthy of being joined with the prayers of the saints in Heaven.

The gay worldly crowd who looked with admiration on her beauty and grace, as she drove in the afternoons on the fashionable thoroughfare in an elegant carriage with two servants in gorgeous liveries, little knew how she