

ic actions of his life by these excessive torments which caused his death.

30.

We should not judge of things by their exterior or their appearance, but according to what they are in the eyes of God, and in as much as they are conformable to his good will.

31.

Conformity to the Divine will is the treasure of a good Christian, and it eminently comprises mortification, perfect submission, renunciation of self, imitation of Jesus Christ, union with God, and in general all the virtues, which are virtues, only because they are conformable to the will of God, which is the origin and rule of all perfection.

The Mysterious Penitent.

DURING the time the Venerable Pope Pius VII. was in Paris in 1804, there was an individual whose face he met everywhere he went—whether he was going out, or coming in—looking from the window of his carriage or his palace—proceeding from the Tuilleries or Notre Dame. The man who was thus continually before the Holy Father, appeared to be about thirty years of age; but his figure was wasted, and his

hairs had already become grey. His exterior, though it bespoke no poverty, was much neglected; and the only trace of youth that you could perceive in him, was in his piercing but gloomy eyes, which assumed an indescribable expression, whenever they were fixed on the Sovereign Pontiff. Pius VII. at this memorable period was grateful to Providence, whose inscrutable designs had brought him into France: He was prepared to meet there if not insult, at least indifference, and yet he received nothing but attention and respect at all sides. Men who were steeped in crimes of the blackest die, during the stormy days of the Revolution, were at the sight of him filled with respect, with terror and repentance, and cast themselves at his feet, acknowledging their crimes, and imploring forgiveness. Philosophers who denied the immortality of the Soul, and gloried in the profession of Atheism, suddenly subdued by one of his words or looks, prostrated themselves before him, and received his Apostolic Benediction with tears in their eyes. Pius VII. enjoyed beyond measure this sweet triumph of majesty and meekness. He conjectured too that the man who was following him with so much perseverance, had some strange disclosure to reveal. Accordingly as he was one day on his way to St. Cloud, he ordered his carriage to stop at the entrance of the Champs-Elysees, and having satisfied himself by a single glance that the unknown was still pursuing him, he sent one of his officers to