

do you think it is wise or safe to do this? I do not ask, Is it loving or obedient? because plainly it is not.

Many years ago there was a man who had caught the dreadful disease of leprosy. He went to a Prophet of God, who told him to wash himself seven times in the River Jordan and he would be cured. But Naaman (that was his name) made a difficulty. He said, Why must it be this River Jordan? Won't any other river do as well? Can't I wash in one of the Rivers in my own country? No, only the River Jordan would do. Why was this? Did the water of Jordan taste any different, or look any different, or smell any different from the others? Perhaps not. But GOD said distinctly, The River Jordan. And when God says a thing He means it. And He doesn't think that anything else will do as well, or will do at all.

I said at the beginning of this tract that the saying "I don't want any man to come between my soul and God" is a piece of bad religious money. So it is. And yet is often passed from one to another by those who would have nothing to do with it if they only knew its real character. It is a saying which belongs really to those who reject the LORD That brought them. There are some who say that they do not want any Mediator to come between their soul and God,—no LORD JESUS CHRIST to bring back to the FATHER. They deny what the LORD said, "No man cometh unto the FATHER but by Me." All this sounds very dreadful to you. You say that all your trust is in the merits of the SAVIOUR. This is well. But are you quite sure that you do yourself really believe in the LORD JESUS CHRIST? If

you believed in Him surely you would obey Him. Surely, you would "hear the Church" (St. Matthew xviii. 17). Surely, you would receive the Holy Sacrament of His Body and Blood which he left for you with His last words. Imagine the case of a sick man. As he lies on his bed you hear him express the greatest possible faith in his doctor. "I am sure he can cure me," he says. But you notice a row of unopened medicine bottles at the bedside. You say "why don't you take your medicine?" The sick man says, "Oh! the medicine is only a form; the great thing is to believe in the doctor, and I do believe in him thoroughly. It isn't medicine that will cure me, it's the doctor." "Ah!" you reply, "but why should a skilful doctor give you medicine if it was of little consequence whether you took it or no! How can you say that you believe in the doctor when you neglect his orders?" And how can Christians declare that they believe in the LORD JESUS CHRIST when they despise His Church and His Sacrament? They say that they believe; but in their acts they deny it. They want to come to the FATHER, not through CHRIST—not in the way that CHRIST has appointed,—but in their own way. They turn away from the One Mediator. Because to despise the things which the Lord instituted is to despise the LORD Himself. "Why call ye Me LORD, LORD, and do not the things which I say?" (St. Luke vi. 46) Why, indeed?

Dear Reader, see how all this applies to you. God has set up a certain religion. It is called the Holy Catholic Church. In it He gives gifts to men,—such gifts as He knows that we need. He gives