

other of *service*. The former comprises a twofold duty, the one to avert corporal and the other spiritual harm. The story of Raphael and Tobias is but one lengthy illustration of all that our good angel is ready to perform for us when we stand in need of his help, while the words contained in the blessing called down by Jacob on Joseph's sons show how far-reaching is his watchfulness: "The angel that delivereth me from *all evils*, bless these boys."*

But our good angels do more, they shield us from the onslaughts of the devil, and prevent his tempting us as often and as persistently as he otherwise would, while they pluck away from our path many occasions of sin, where, unaided, we would fall.

Their *service* lies in the suggesting of good thoughts, the providing of occasions for good deeds and meritorious acts, the leading us back when we have strayed into the ways of sin, and the teaching of heavenly truths which are naturally beyond our ken. They moreover become our messengers between earth and Heaven, and lay before the throne of God our petitions and our prayers. This was one of the services rendered by Raphael to Tobias: "When thou didst pray with tears and didst bury the dead.... I offered thy prayer to the Lord."† They serve us in childhood, manhood and death. In childhood, we have it from the lips of our Lord: "See that you despise not one of these little ones, for I say to you that *their angels* in heaven always see the face of My Father"‡

In manhood that angel is still ours. After St. Peter's deliverance the faithful could not believe their eyes, and exclaimed: "It is his angel!"§

* Gen. xlviii. 16.

† Tob. xii. 27.

‡ Matth. xviii. 10

§ Acts xii. 15.