

wear the habit, excused himself; upon which the abbot began to give him this advice; "My brother if you wish to become perfect, remain working in your cell and do not discourse much, because going round to see different people is not so profitable for you." At these words the monk was not a little disturbed; which the abbot perceiving said, "What is this, my brother, you have but just said that you are so great a sinner as to be unworthy to live; and yet now that I admonish you with charity to do that which is really needful for you, you are disturbed at me! if this be the case, it would appear that your humility is not true. If, indeed, you seriously wish to become humble, learn to receive admonitions with humility." At these words the monk entered into himself, and acknowledged his fault, and went away greatly edified.

The empress Eleanor used to ask her confessor and her most intimate maids of honour, as a great favour, to tell her with perfect freedom whenever they observed in her any thing which might be corrected or improved: and whenever they did so, she used to thank them for it with great cordiality. The same too may be said of the venerable Anthony Mary Zacharia, founder of the regular clerks of S. Paul, who was no sooner admonished of a defect, however trifling, but he immediately corrected it, and never more fell into it again.

We read of S. Ambrose, that when any one reminded him of any defect, he thanked them, as having conferred upon him a singular kindness. And it is said of a Cistercian monk, that on such occasions he was overjoyed, and used to say a Pater Noster for the person who had admonished him.

Venerable Berchmans had always a great desire to be told of his faults publicly, and to be reproved for them: and whenever this happened it was a great consolation to him. To this end he wrote them down on paper, which he gave to his superiors, in order that they might read them, and admonish him for them. And not content with this, he obtained from his superior four of his companions, who were constantly to watch him, and to reprove him. And one of these attested, that, having one day reminded him of a slight omission which he had incurred, in order to perform on that occasion an act of charity, he thanked him, with joy in his countenance, and said the rosary for him three times; promising to do the same every time he pointed out to him any defect.

DIGNITY OF LABOUR.—In early life David kept his father's sheep; his was a life of industry; and although foolish men think it degrading to perform any useful labour, yet in the eyes of wise men industry is truly honourable, and the most useful

man is the happiest. A life of labour is man's natural condition, and most favourable to bodily health and mental vigour. Bishop Hall says, "Sweet the destiny of all trades, whether of the brow or of the mind. God never allowed any man to do nothing." From the ranks of industry have the world's greatest men been taken. Rome was more than once saved by a man that was sent from the plough. Moses had been keeping sheep for forty years before he came forth as the deliverer of Israel. Jesus Christ himself, during the early part of his life, worked as a carpenter. His apostles were chosen from amongst the hardy and laborious fishermen. From whence I infer, that when God has any great work to perform, he selects as instruments those, who, by their previous occupation, had acquired habits of industry, skill, and perseverance; and that, in every department of society, they are the most honourable who earn their own living by their own labour.

The most important principle, perhaps, in life, is to have a pursuit—a useful one if possible, and, at all events, an innocent one.

A GOOD HOUSEWIFE.—The thrifty disposition, the regularity and neatness, the ideas of order and management, inspired by the conscious ability and successful exertion in good housewifery, cannot be too highly prized, or diligently cultivated; for the result is moral. The orderly house but reflects the orderly mind; the humble wife and mother, whose active, indefatigable hand, silently executing her careful ingenious thoughts, improves the comforts, the visible respectability, and real condition of her husband and children, is mistress of a secret for blending her best and tenderest affections with the employment of every day; she contrives judiciously what she constantly and earnestly meditates, and finds no weariness in the labour to which strength continually flows from a deep fountain in her heart.

General Intelligence.

SYMPATHY OF THE CATHOLIC POPULATIONS FOR THE CHURCH OF POLAND.

It may still be held, in the remembrance of our readers that we, a few weeks ago, laid before them, with such comments as we then deemed suitable for the subject, a most frightful detail of the harrowing sufferings inflicted on the religious ladies of a Polish convent, with the connivance, if not by the direct orders of that moral monster, the Emperor Nicholas of Russia. The nuns were of the order of St Basil. Their steady adherence to their own national faith,