

with fill our hearts with love and respect for all our brethren.

26.

We should be on our guard of pride, ambition and vanity, as they are the most formidable enemies which we have to encounter.

27.

As the ill success of war is usually attributed to the general of an army, so the disorders of a community, ordinarily spring from the defects of the superior.

28.

A man of prayer is capable of every thing; he may confidently say with the apostle, I can do every thing in him who strengthens me.

29.

Conformity to the will of God, is the surest and also the most easy means of obtaining a great treasure of graces in this life.

30.

It is not sufficient to do good works, we must do them well, after the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom it is written, that He did all things well. We should therefore endeavour to perform all our actions in the spirit of Jesus Christ, that is in the manner in which the Redeemer acted, with perfection, and for the ends that he proposed to himself, in every thing he did; if we do not, our very good works will draw down more chastisements than rewards.

31.

One of the most efficacious means of pleasing God in every thing we do, is to perform every action as if it were to be the last of our life. Every step we take let us say to ourselves, wouldst thou perform this action if thou wert to die immediately after it? Wouldst thou do it in the manner thou dost intend?

“Meditate upon these things: be wholly in these things; that thy profiting may be manifest to all.” 1 Timothy iv. 15.

### THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST.

*From the seventh Sermon of St. Leo, on the solemnity of the Birth of Christ, commonly called Christmas, in which the holy doctor explains the mystery of the two natures in Christ.*

He truly worships and piously celebrates the solemnity of this day, dearly beloved, who neither conceives of the incarnation of the Lord any thing that is erroneous, nor of the Deity any thing that is unworthy of it. For it is an evil of equal danger, either to deny him the truth of our nature, or his equality with the glory of the Father. When, therefore, we set about to understand the mystery of the birth of Christ, by which he was born of a virgin mother, let the darkness of human reasoning be driven far away, and let the smoke of earthly wisdom depart from the eye of enlightened faith. The authority on which we believe is divine, divine is the doctrine which we follow. For whether we give ear to the attestations of the old law, to the oracles of the