

what is observed in the physical or intellectual. We demand of child noting above his years. Let us, then exact of him for Communion, though with less perfection, only such dispositions as are necessary and proper, only such as we look for in grown persons. A tree naturally produces less beautiful fruits when young than at a later day.

Thus understood, the devotion required of children for Communion is easily attainable. There are, without doubt, many children in our boarding schools for girls, in our Christian colleges, in our Sunday-schools and asylums who possess it, and who, consequently, may be admitted to the Holy Table frequently and even daily.

We say more: Every child judged capable of absolution is capable of Communion, also. And why not? If we have judged him worthy of pardon, it is because he repented of his faults and is firmly resolved not to fall into them again. He has been sincere and humble in his accusation, has listened to our remarks with docility, and has promised to follow our advice. He believes in the great mystery of divine justice which demands the expiation of sin, of Mercy which pardons them, of the Blood of Jesus shed on the Cross to wash them away, and its incomprehensible, though most real, spiritual effusion into the sullied soul, which becomes again pure and living. In his heart he has, at least, the beginning of love, which the Sacrament of Penance has rendered perfect in its essence if not in its expression. What is wanting, then, to this child for his lawful admittance to the Sacred Banquet? Nothing, excepting that we open to him the door and excite in his soul the desire to enter, by fixing his attention on the great Gift of God there awaiting him.

There is another reason which ought to make us admit more readily the aptitude of children for Holy Communion, and that is, their Baptism, which makes them true children of the Heavenly Father and members of the Spiritual Body of Jesus. I know not whether we give sufficient attention to the supernatural grandeur of the Christian state which, by rendering us participants of the Divine nature, rouses in us the sacred needs of Divine life, creates for us the duty, and gives us the right, to