

ness of the world, as it was prophetically written of him in Isaiah lii. 14, 15. 'His visage shall be inglorious among men, and his form among the sons of men,' (alluding to the cruel manner in which our Redeemer's sacred person was disfigured in His Passion.) 'HE SHALL SPRINKLE MANY NATIONS.'

But, we must conclude; for, to pursue the subject in all its bearings, to enter into a particular explanation of all the mysteries and allegories—all the hidden meaning, and obvious import, and beautiful instruction which are interwoven with the whole of this sacred rite of blessing and sprinkling Holy Water, would lead us far beyond our limits. Enough, and more than enough, has been said to vindicate Holy Water against the sneers of the ignorant and the ungodly. The profane scoffer, notwithstanding all that has been said, may unhappily still indulge in his irreligious jeers; but the candid and unprejudiced Protestant will surely admit that the practice of using Holy Water is not so absurd, so superstitious, so unscriptural, so utterly devoid of all meaning, so entirely incapable of exciting religious emotions in the soul, as he has been taught to believe. Nay, he will admit that it is most suggestive of the malice and defiling properties of sin—the atonement of sin, and the purification of sin, by the waters of true compunction, and the tears of sincere penance. The people are called water in the xvii. chap. of the Apocalypse, and as water in its natural state before it is hallowed by the prayers and exorcisms of the church, may represent the sinfulness of the people, so when blessed and healed by the infusion of hallowed salt, it will mystically denote the same people sanctified and purified, and preserved by the grace of the Holy Ghost, the fountain of wisdom, the true salt of the earth, from the corruption of sin.

When, therefore, in the Holy Catholic Church, we are tempted to offend God, we will, by prayer, and by sprinkling the Holy Water, chase away the infernal seducer against whose wiles that water has been hallowed by sacred exorcisms. The water will bring to our minds many of those instructive topics to which allusion has been made, in the foregoing treatise. It will remind us that the world was once destroyed by water; but that Christ the Redeemer of the

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