

**Third Commandment (second precept of the Jesuits).—“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.”—Ex., xx., 7.**

An oath is an invocation of the Divine Name to attest the truth.

“One is not bound by an oath given in a promise of marriage to a young lady, rich, healthy, a virgin, and of good reputation, if she falls into poverty, sickness, infamy, or fornication. Surely these misfortunes must release a man, because a simple promise does not oblige in this case.” (Gury.) “The promissory oath does not oblige: 1st, when it cannot be kept without incurring grave damages, &c.” (Marotte.) Such doctrines find no sanction from the Scriptures or the conscience of an honourable man.

“What are the signs of a true possession by the devil?”

Answer—“The principal are: 1st, speaking a language not known before; 2nd, divulging secret and strange things; 3rd, obeying the purely internal orders of the priest; 4th, experiencing greater suffering or greater tranquillity by the devil when ignorantly touching sacred things.”

“Is one held by a vow if he doubts that he has pronounced a vow or only a simple proposition; or that there has been sufficient deliberation?”

Answer—“No; but if, when pronouncing, he