

One thought can alone console us, and remove our fears, at this moment ; it is that God is pleased to manifest his power by the weakest instruments, and to confound strength by what is most weak, that all glory may redound to His infinite Majesty, " and that no flesh, as the great apostle expresses it, may glory in his sight." (I. Cor. I. 29). On the other hand, this God " who is rich in mercy " ( Eph. II. 4.) has promised to grant the petitions of those who would pray to him. We expect, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren, that you shall obtain for us, by fervent supplications, the assistance which we feel we need so much. Your dearest and most sacred interests are at stake, because the blessings granted to the pastor redound upon the flock, and because the greatest misfortune, that can fall upon a diocese, is the drying up of the spring, from which flow thereon the wholesome waters of the evangelical word and of divine grace.

We shall not here repeat the praises of our illustrious predecessor, Monseigneur Charles-François Baillargeon, of saintly memory. Time, which destroys all, cannot efface from your memory the remembrance of his inexhaustible charity, of his ardent zeal, of his charming meekness. He receives to-day the reward of his fervent prayers, of his continual mortifications, of his self immolation, during his whole life as a priest and a bishop, to procure the glory of God by saving souls. We shall not speak of his death, edifying and precious in the sight of the Lord, which it was our lot to witness ; we shall not recall those funeral rites rendered still more magnificent by your regrets and by your tears than by the imposing ceremonies which accompanied them. All these things are engraven, in indelible characters, on your hearts, and " the just shall be in everlasting remembrance, *in memoria eterna erit justus.* (Ps. CXI. 17). God grant that we may walk in the footsteps of so beautiful a model, and that, inheritors of his zeal, we may sustain with care, and render more and more flourishing, the various diocesan works in which he took so lively an interest.

And you, Our Dear Cooperators in the government of souls, you whom the Lord has appointed together with us " the dispensers of his mysteries," we conjure you by God and Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead, *testificor coram Deo et Jesu Christo qui judicaturus est vivos et mortuos* (II Tim. IV. 1.), persevere, during our episcopacy, in those traditions of faith and of zeal which have been