

of Mary, and says to her : « O my Mother ! » The soldier expiring in a foreign land thinks of his distant country and his desolate mother seated by her solitary hearth, and weeps ; but suddenly his tears are checked, his brow becomes calm and pure, he sinks to the tomb in peace, he has felt on his burning breast the scapular, and pressing it to his lips, his trembling voice ejaculates : « O my Mother ! »

What do we behold in this perverse world whose infectious breath withers what it does not corrupt ? Shining lilies of purity, planted in hearts which they embalm with their perfume. Christians of every age, still clothed in the white robe of innocence, and walking with unfaltering steps amidst a thousand pitfalls, passing through corruption without tarnishing the white of their garments — these are the children of Mary.

Thus the love of Mary circulates in the veins of humanity — this most beautiful of all devotions — this sweet devotion which Protestantism, by the brutal and licentious hand of Luther, tried in vain to cut off from human worship. Fervent invocations, beloved pilgrimages sublime devotedness resounded in an immense concert echoing from North to South, from East to West to accomplish the strange prophecy which came from the lips of a simple maiden ages ago — « All generations shall call me blessed. »

T. A. DWYER.



Many of us who call ourselves Christians are unworthy of the name. Against our own brothers and sisters of the faith, we treasure up deadly hatreds of petty spites for the slightest offenses. We glibly rattle off in our morning prayers, « Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us, » utterly unmindful of the sublime meaning of the words which Christ Himself has taught us. These words have a meaning and a purpose. There are not a mere formula. They are instinct with the very essence of Christianity. They express the condition on which we hope for pardon from the Father who is in heaven, for our own innumerable offenses. If we could only see what lies beneath these words, would we be so unforgiving of our neighbors and friends for their trivial offenses against us ?