

dishonor that she should enter his house. And, because Jesus suffered her at His feet, he even doubted His prophetic light.

But this poor sinner is going to rise in His pardon, even to the rank of the highest saints. Let us see how this will be.

What chiefly holds great sinners and hinders their conversion, is human respect. I shall not be able to persevere in good, they say ; I dare not undertake what I cannot continue. And they pause discouraged.

But Magdalen hears that Jesus is in the house of Simon. She hesitates not. She goes straight to Jesus, and makes a public confession. She even dares to enter a house from which, had she been recognized at the entrance, she would have been expelled in shame. She utters no word at the feet of Jesus, but her love speaks in a loud voice. Painters represent her with disheveled hair, her dress disordered, that is pure imagination. Such an appearance would have been worthy neither of Jesus nor of her repentance.

She makes no mistake as to His identity, but goes straight to Jesus. How does she know him ? Ah ! the sick heart knows very well how to find Him who will console and cure.

Mary dares not look at Jesus. She sees nothing. That is the characteristic of true repentance. Behold the Prodigal Son and the Publican. The sinner that looks into the face of God whom he has offended, insults Him. But Mary weeps and dries with her hair the feet of Jesus, which she has watered with her tears. Behold her place, at the feet of Jesus. The feet tread the earth, and she knows that she is only the dust of a dead body. Of her hair, that vanity which the world adores, she makes a cloth, and there she remains prostrate awaiting her sentence. She hears the remarks of the envious, the Apostles as well as the Jews, who honor only virtue crowned and triumphant. They do not care for Magdalen, who gives to them and to all this lesson. They have all sinned, but no one has the courage publicly to ask pardon. Simon even, full of hypocrisy and pride, — Simon is indignant ! But Jesus avenges Magdalen. What a word of reinstatement : " Much has been forgiven her, because she has loved much ! " " Go in peace," says the Saviour to her, " thy

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