



GOD'S SERVICE AND GOOD WILL.



COULD words portray a father's grief in seeing himself the parent not of ordinary children, but of little unaffectionate monsters naturally inclined to revile the author of their days. But should these unfortunate beings, understanding their own perversity, try to become like other children, and begin to love as much as possible their unhappy father, would he not weep with joy in beholding the happy change? Certainly.

Well, I know one who is the afflicted father of many heartless children; and God is that Father, and we are His children, unfortunately, children of sin. Nevertheless, He pities us, knowing that *« we were conceived in iniquities: and in sin did our mothers conceive us. (Ps. l.)* He does not forget *« that we are compared to dirt and are likened to embers and ashes, « (Job. xxx.) and that He brought us out of the pit of misery and of the mire of dregs. (Ps. xxxix.)* Therefore, He is patient and merciful with us, and a little good will on our part, provided that it is sincere and efficacious, suffices to console Him and cause Him to forget our past iniquities and disobediences.

This good will does not mean undeviating fidelity that must never falter; it simply denotes the determination of constantly renewing a twofold resolution: *to save oneself and to love God.* A person says: *« My God, it is still my misfortune to stray frequently from salvation's path and from Thy love; but after every downfall I always strive to rise and will constantly try to return to my two great obligations: to save my soul and love Thee more and more. »* Such a determination rejoices God beyond measure, and He blesses the daily efforts of His weak but repentant child. His bounty is so great that He rewards a simple beginning of good desire, even a mere desire to desire to do good. Thus, He is even pleased when He beholds a great sinner who, void of any wish of salvation, grieves over his own callousness, his own perverseness.