

effects astonishing. It is strong and weak, gentle and violent, impetuous and yielding, swelling into waves, lubbing into foam, melting into spray, and (as when it leaps through mid air from the fearful height of Alpine summits) crumbling into dust! With touching beauty and magic power are its properties described by the Holy Catholic Church, when, on the occasion of dedicating a Temple of Sacrifice and Prayer to the Lord, she directs her Pontiffs to hallow the water of lustration used in the ceremony, apostrophizing the liquid element in this wise:—

“Be thou hallowed by the word of God, O heavenly Water; be thou hallowed O Water trodden by the footsteps of Christ! Pressed by mountains thou art not shut up, cashed against rocks thou art not broken; poured out through the earth, thou dost not fail. Thou bearest the dry land, thou sustainest the weight of mountains, yet sinkest not. On the summit of the heavens art thou contained; thoroughly diffused through all, thou wastest all, nor art thou washed thyself. Hardeared into a mass wert thou bound up to secure the flight of the Hebrew people. Thou, unbound again in briny whirlpools, destroyest the sojourners of the Nile, and with raging billows dost pursue their hostile band, being at the same time salvation to the faithful, and punishment to the wicked. Thou didst rush forth from the rock when it was stricken by Moses, nor couldst thou remain concealed within its crags, when, bidden by the power of Majesty, thou camest forth. Thou being borne in the clouds dost fertilize the fields with joyful showers. By thee into bodies parched by heat, is poured drink, to taste grateful, and for health salubrious. Through inmost channels streaming thou dost, enclosed, yield vital air or fertilising juice, lest the earth exhausted from its arid womb, should refuse to bring forth its wanted supply. By thee, the beginning, by thee the end rejoiceth, or rather it is from God that we know not thy bounds—neither those of Thy operations, O God Almighty, of whose powers being mindful, we proclaim thy glorious works while we announce the benefits of water.”

And having given this extract from the Roman Pontifical, we cannot refrain (although in some measure it anticipates our design) from giving another passage in which the Holy Catholic Church at