

Pen Picture of a Priest.

THERE is in every parish a man who has no family, but who belongs to every family, a man who is called upon to act in the capacity of witness, counsel or agent in all the most important acts of civil life ; a man without whom no one can enter the world or go out of it ; who takes the child from the bosom of its mother and leaves it only at the tomb ; who blesses or consecrates the crib, the bed of death and the bier ; a man whom little children love and venerate, whom even unknown persons address as " Father," at the feet of whom and in whose keeping all classes of people come to deposit their secret thoughts, their most hidden sins ; a man who is the consoler and healer of all the miseries of soul and body, through whom the rich and poor are united ; at whose door they knock by turns, the one to deposit his secret alms, the other to receive it without being made to blush because of his need ; the man who, being himself of no social rank, belongs to all indiscriminately—to the inferior ranks of society by the unostentatious life he leads, and often by humble birth and parentage ; to the upper class by education, often by superior talents, and by the sublime sentiments his religion inspires and commands ; a man, in fine, who knows everything, who has a right to everything, from whose hallowed lips words of divine wisdom are received by all with the authority of an oracle and with entire submission of faith and judgment—this man is the priest.

Selected.



The reign of the Holy Eucharist is the reign of the Church : wherever the Eucharist is forgotten, the Church has but unfaithful children, and is about to lament over new ruins.

Père Eymard.

If I met an angel and a priest, I would salute the priest first because the angel is only God's friend whereas the priest holds God's place. St. Teresa in her great faith kissed the ground over which a priest had passed.

Vén. Curé of Ars.