

than death. We invoke the prayers and influence of the Saints; they intercede for us with God, and we bring relief to the souls in Purgatory by our prayers and other good works. In this view of the case, the office of the Blessed Virgin as our advocate and our Mother, does not cease now that she is exalted over principalities and powers in heaven. On the contrary, her interest in us is but intensified there, and as she will ever be the Mother of Jesus, and as Jesus, even in the eternal heavens, will be forever her Son, so her prayers and her intercessions for her poor wayfaring children on earth will have the power and efficaciousness which the prayers of such a Mother must always have with such a Son, and they will never cease to be offered up for us in mighty advocacy before the throne of grace and mercy, for Mary, like her divine Son, will always live in heaven to make intercession for us.

"I consider it impossible," says Cardinal Newman, "for those who believe the Church to be one vast body in heaven and on earth, in which every creature of God has his place, and of which prayer is the life, when once they recognize the sanctity and dignity of the Blessed Virgin, not to perceive immediately that her office above is one of perpetual intercession for the faithful militant, and that our very relation to her must be that of clients to a patron, and that in the eternal enmity which exists between the woman and the serpent, while the serpent's strength lies in being the tempter, the weapon of the second Eve and Mother of God is prayer."

This is the faith of Catholics; and hence the children of the Church have in every age turned in confidence and with loving hearts to seek her protection and ask the benefit of her prayers; and they have not been mistaken, nor have their prayers been left unheard. Hence churches have sprung up all over Christendom raised in honor of Mary, and shrines have been established, the offerings of grateful hearts for benefits received. Let us therefore, dearest brethren, turn to Mary in our temptations, in our trials, and our afflictions; let us humbly, but with confidence, beseech her to intercede for us before the throne of grace, and we may be convinced that she will not fail to interest her-