

threatened us with death.

Q. Who are those who wish to hinder us from following and practising the maxims of the gospel?

A. Libertines, worldlings, and heretics, who deride, despise, and persecute those who profess to square their lives by the law of Jesus Christ.

Q. What assistance does Confirmation give us against these persons?

A. It emboldens us not to fear their railleries, their insults, and their persecutions; and it inspires us with courage to resist them under the direction of prudence.

Q. Does the strength which we receive in Confirmation serve no other purpose.

A. It also enables us to oppose a manly resistance to the temptation of the devil, to the allurements of the world, and of its pleasures, to the cravings of our vicious inclinations; it also helps us to suffer with constancy, whatever pain we may experience in mortifying our senses and our passions.

Q. When are we peculiarly obliged to receive this sacrament?

A. When we suffer violent temptations, or are exposed to persecutions for our faith; and this is always the case, at least in some degree, in all those countries in which there are a variety of religions.

Q. Who are the ministers of this sacrament?

A. Only Bishops, as successors of the Apostles, are the ordinary ministers. But in those countries in which there is no Bishop, a simple Priest may be commissioned by the Pope to administer this sa-