THE SENTINEL

Holy Table with the proper dispositions, he forgets entirely the cares of the world; he converses confidentially with his God, he enjoys peace of mind during which he recovers new strength to battle against his spiritual enemies and to carry even heavier crosses and like a new man he tries to climb the high mount of perfection.

Those who refused are figures of the Catholics of our day, who too deeply immersed in the cares, pleasures and vanities of the world do not care to receive the Sacrament. The preparation would require an effort on their part, the sacrifice of some doubtful pleasure—an afternoon at a questionable theatre—an evening with a fascinating, sensual novel. The inward invitation is heard; the still, small voice keeps whispering, "Come to Me"! but the answer goes back ; "Another time, good Lord, I have an appointment for this evening and I cannot break my word with friends ; it will be impossible to rise for an early Mass when one is up so late at night, so pray hold me excused".

And we wonder after language such as that, that there are beautiful souls wilting under our very gaze, souls that had the germ of all that was great and pure and noble soon going the downward slope to all that is vulgar and sensual when they might have reached the sunny heights where God's love was awaiting to clasp them and to hold them safely to His Heart forever! God help those poor souls in the struggle, if they even have the heart to struggle, when great temptations come!

The poor received an invitation to the supper. Do we realize what "poor" means here? It is certainly not "poverty", but the poor in merit, those who would not for the world refuse the invitation, whose place is never vacant at the Holy Table, but what do they bring hither?

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A poor preparation and a poor effort to keep themselves in touch with God by raising their thoughts to Him during the day's toil and excitement. Their piety is poor their spirit of endurance is poor, their power to forgive is poor.

The feeble come in turn with their half-willed, shaky resolutions, their feeble "no" in the face of a temptation and their weaker decisions when there is question of God's interests.

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