

all our ills ;" it was the same reason that made our present Pontiff, Leo XIII., say in his recent encyclical on the consecration of mankind : " In the Sacred Heart we should put all our hopes ; from It alone should we ask and receive our salvation."

Solemn words of sanction like these, coming from the lips of the Vicars of Christ, should modify the opinion of men who would fain see in the worship of the Sacred Heart only a new-fangled devotion ; they should also challenge the indifference and want of zeal of those who have it in their power to spread this blessed influence around them and who remain inactive.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart, far from being new, is as old as Christianity itself. During the Last Supper, when the Beloved Disciple leaned over to listen to the throbbings of the Sacred Heart, he knew where to look for consolation and strength in that solemn hour of trial ; while he was resting on the bosom of Jesus, he was practising the devotion. Saint John was the forerunner of the multitude of holy men and women who have, in all ages of the Church, turned to the Sacred Heart, as to an inexhaustible source of strength, and who linger there to drink in the sweetness and consolation that the Heart of Jesus alone can give.

Private revelations made by God, two hundred years ago, to a humble religious, were the occasion of the extraordinary spread of the devotion in these later days. Christ appeared upwards of seventy times to Margaret Mary, at Paray-le-Monial, and revealed quite fully to her what had already been known to saints like Gertrude, Bernard and Bernardine of Siena. And what cheerful messages He had to communicate ! He was never tired of repeating to her that it was His desire to be loved by