

putant, in the consideration of the whole mechanism of the world.

Let us learn, then, to imitate the life and passion of Christ; for to speculate on the machine of this world, without God's praise and glory, is vanity and folly; and it is better to pray humbly to God, than search subtilly into heaven.

2. For it is the part of God, who created all, to govern all; but it is the part of man to keep his commandments, and to beware of sin. We should all be saints if we did these things: but because there are many who do them not, and live not well, therefore do many evils happen to them by the just judgment of God.

Fly, then, from the world, my brother; enter with gladness into thy cloister, and in soundness follow Christ by the strait and narrow way.

It is good for thee to enter heaven with one eye, rather than with two to be cast into hell, where, for all thy wicked deeds, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth for ever. Alas for them!

## CHAPTER XI.

### ON SINCERITY IN MANY VIRTUES.

1. "Estote rationabiles sine dolo."

"Desire the rational milk without guile." O sweet and holy word, that cometh from the mouth of St. Peter the Apostle; for these following are most pleasing unto God and his angels; chastity with humility; knowledge without being puffed up; prudence without presumption; eloquence without vain glory; gladness without extravagance; sorrow without bitterness; patience without murmuring; speaking without

falsehood; replying without deceit; promises fulfilled without procrastination; praise without vituperation; love without vice; prayer without weariness; gratitude to God for all good, without end; meditation without wandering; contemplation without obscurity; work without defilement; repose without sloth; the union of the soul with God, without intermission.

"Behold a true Israelite, in whom there is no guile." "O how good is God unto Israel, unto such as are right of heart!" Say, then, with David in the Psalm; cast aside all earthly good, and with all thy heart pray with him, saying: It is good for me to adhere unto God; it is good for me to put my hope in the Lord." (Ps. xli. 7.) "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." I wish, I desire nothing but Thee, O Lord, alone, for all my labour, and my reward in heaven. Amen.

## CHAPTER XII.

### ON THE PRAISE OF GOD, OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE JUST.

"Rectos decet laudatio." (Ps. xxxiv. 1.)

"Praise becometh the upright."

Blessed is he who doeth all things with a pure intention, simply for the praise of God.

Blessed is he who at all times directeth his heart to the good pleasure of God, and seeketh after no private convenience in the end.

Blessed is he who casteth far from him all the impure idols of the enemy, but in his straits flies humbly to the arms of Christ crucified, and prays.

Well shall he go on, and Jesus shall be with him, whithersoever he goeth,