

ployed in such official phrases as "the most worshipful the lord mayor of London."

So, again, the Catholic doctrine and practice of the Invocation of Saints, based, as it is, on intercessory prayer, and on the reverence due to spiritual "worshipfulness", has possibly on account of this very ambiguity, come to be hopelessly misunderstood and misinterpreted. Protestants, in common with all Christians, believe in the efficacy of intercessory prayer. But they have come to believe, or to act as if they believed that both the prayer and its efficacy stops short at the veil, just when, according to all the laws of spiritual life, it should become most efficacious because freed from all taint of selfishness, or possibility of variance with the Will of God. Plainly speaking, they are afraid to believe that those divided from us by "the narrow stream of death", to quote one of their own hymns, even though, "One family we dwell in Him", still plead in the Father's House for those who have not yet made the passage of the Jordan. To what cause are we to attribute a timidity fraught with so untold a spiritual loss, so contrary to all the instincts and longings of the human heart, to all that, naturally,—if one may say so,—a Christian would most lovingly and gladly hold to? There can be but one answer; the doctrine savours of "Popery". They are convinced that Catholics not only ask the intercession of the Saints, but, literally, pay them divine honours, have set them up "in the place of Christ", and have thereby derogated from His glory.

The misunderstanding, arising, as has been said, out of the one word, "worship", as signifying "adoration", was doubtless deliberately fostered by the more violent "reformers" of the sixteenth century, as the records of the period plainly shew. But in those whom they misled, as in the inheritors of their separation from the One Fold, a pure zeal for God's honour has been perverted into abhorrence of a practice which, as they understand it, has absolutely no existence. Let them be once convinced that the invocation of Our Blessed Lady and of those chosen friends