

what unction in these two truths! Everything that I am, whether as a rational being or as a Christian, depends upon them.

O Holy Spirit! source of all fruitfulness, of all action, of all sanctity, I prostrate myself in thy presence, and avow, with shame, my ignorance and ingratitude. I have known that you are one of the three Divine Persons; that you proceed from all eternity from the two first; that you are the substantial and infinite love of the Father and the Son; that as the Father sees himself in his Word, and has in him the knowledge of all existing and possible beings, so he loves himself in you, O Divine Spirit! and he loves in you everything that is good, and amiable. But I have not considered that everything which exists in the universe has received from you activity, strength, motion and beauty. O God! inanimate creatures and those who are deprived of understanding, proclaim the different functions which they perform in this world; and endowed with reason incessantly publish, by the exercise of their faculties, the excellence of your gifts. But what is more; our souls, when adorned with grace, are your temple. You dwell in them with complacency, you unite them to the Father and the Son, you are the principle and bond of the divine adoption, you are the pledge of their right to the inheritance of heaven.

O ineffable mystery! God has twice communicated himself to our nature, all weak and limited as it is. First, in giving it his only Son and secondly in pouring his Holy Spirit upon it. Jesus Christ has received us by his blood, and the Holy Ghost has sanctified us by his gifts. Jesus Christ has purchased the church by delivering

himself for it, and the Holy Ghost has formed it by instructing it, by strengthening it, and by extending it even to the extremities of the earth. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR ADVOCATE WITH HIS FATHER,* and the HOLY GHOST PRAYETH IN US, and FOR US, WITH UNSPEAKABLE GROANINGS.† Jesus Christ feeds us with his adorable flesh, and the Holy Ghost makes us experience the life of love in this heavenly nourishment.

O love! O precious gift of the Divine Spirit! What would we be without love. What would we be without you, O Holy Spirit? Dreadful truth! Love is in heaven, and forms the happiness of the saints; love is on earth, and consoles the friends of God; but love is not in hell, and hence the devils and the reprobate who dwell there, are filled with despair. Spirit of my God! you are in this place of darkness and horror by your power and your justice, but you are not there by your love. One spark of your divine charity would extinguish all the fires of the abyss, and change this darksome prison into a place of delights. Ah! when I had the misfortune to lose you, O holy Spirit, I could still, by the tears of penance, animated by your grace, recal you to my heart; and you did not disdain to bestow me your favours, and to forget my wanderings. But in hell there are no more visits of the Holy Ghost, no other return of charity, no more love for ever, and consequently there are eternal regrets, eternal gnashing of teeth, eternal bitterness of heart.

At this reflection, O divine Spirit! I am seized with a mortal fear; to lose with you the hope of loving you! But what shall I do, O consoling Spirit! in order to deliver myself from so great a

* 1 John ii. 1.

† Rom. viii. 26.