

drop, making them all partakers of his grace and merits. "My house, (says he,) shall be called the house of prayer, to all people." *Isa.* 56, 7. *Mat.* 21, 13. We must then take heed of turning it into a "den of thieves." Nothing is here done unworthily, but God will punish. We, in like manner, are the Temples of the Holy Ghost, and our souls his holy of holies. "You are God's building." *1 Cor.* 3, 9. "Know you not that you are the Temple of God; and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? But if any man violate the Temple of God, him shall God destroy." *Id.* 3, 16, 17.

#### HOLY WATER,

Taken at the church-door, puts us in mind, that purity of heart and "holiness becomes thy house, O Lord." *Psa.* 92, 5. But "who shall make him clean, that is conceived of unclean seed?"—*Job* 14, 4. "Thou, Lord, shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, [the bitter, but wholesome herb of contrition,] and I shall be cleansed: Thou shalt wash me" with the living water of thy grace, "and I shall be made whiter than snow." *Psa.* 50, 9.

#### THE ALTAR,

On which is offered the body of our Lord, is the seat of mercy and the throne of grace, to which we ought to go with an humble confidence, that we may obtain mercy, and "find grace in seasonable aid." *Heb.* 4, 16. Mystically our hearts are the altars of God, when our prayer ascends from thence, as incense in his sight. *Psa.* 140, 2.

#### THE CRUCIFIX,

Upon the altar, puts us in mind, how Christ, "the high priest and mediator of the New Testament, not by the blood of goats, or calves, but by his own blood, entered into the holies, (i. e. into heaven,) eternal redemption being found:" by means of whose death, "they, that are called, may receive the promise of eternal inheritance." *Heb.* 9, 11, &c. So that, as often as we look upon the crucifix with devotion, the passion of our Saviour is renewed in our hearts, to the producing of such

like affections, as the apostle breathed out, when he said, "God forbid, that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world." *Gal.* 6, 14.

#### CHURCH ORNAMENTS AND MUSIC

Serve to raise our minds above the earth to the New Jerusalem, and make us long to assist before the throne of the Highest, where a new canticle is sung in honour of the Lamb, and eternal Allelujah's are resounded to our God.

#### IMAGES AND PICTURES

Are books, in which we read the lives and martyrdoms of the saints; and they seem to cry out to us, with the apostle, "Remember your prelates, who have spoken the word of God to you; beholding the end of whose conversation, imitate their faith." *Heb.* 13, 7.

#### WAX-CANDLES AND LAMPS

Are lighted in the church, to admonish us that Christ, the light of the world, whose humanity the candle, whose divinity the flame\* represents, has expelled all darkness by the splendour of his gospel; and that we ought to "walk as children of light." *Eph.* 5, 6.

"O blessed Lord, what excellent arts has thy wisdom invented, to bring us to thyself! Thou takest our eyes by the beauty of thy house, and the decent splendours of thy solemn offices. Thou quickenest our affections by the liveliness of pictures, and meltest our hearts by the sweetness of thy music; thou strengthenest our faith by thy public assemblies, and improvest our charity both to thee and one another; while we all meet together for the same blessed end, and by mutual reflections increase our fervours," &c.†

#### THE HOLY MASS.

Is the sacrifice of the evangelical law, instituted by Christ in his last supper: an oblation of Christ's body and blood, under the forms of bread and wine, for a perpetual memory of our

\**Heb.* 12, 29.

†Austin's Devotions: