

But it is as Catholics especially that we are to desire, for the combined armies, victory over a monarch, who, in his state, has oppressed Catholicism, has exiled and persecuted the ministers of the Lord, has scourged and starved humble Nuns, for no other alledged erime than their unswerving fidelity to the See of the Princee of the Apostles. If the Emperor of Russia succeed in his plans and projects of conquest, if he could but impose on the Ottoman Empire the same iron despotism under which his subjects groan, then would the Catholic religion in the East, and particularly in the Holy Land, be subjected to the same indignities and vexations, by which she has been assailed during the last twenty-five years, throughout the whole Muscovite Empire. It is then the cause of the Church which has been confided to the armies of France and England, and their success, while defending Turkey against an unjust aggression on the part of her enemy, will at the same time secure to the Church the two-fold advantage of diminishing schismatical influence in the East, and of establishing Catholicism on a more favourable and independent footing.

But our desires and sympathies would be of no avail, did they not engage us to raise up our eyes towards the Lord of Hosts, for the purpose of obtaining his protecting influence over our brethren exposed to the hazards of war, and of drawing down his merey on the Christian world.

When now the clangor of arms resounds on every side, in spite of all human efforts, directed towards the preservation of a peace which has lasted nigh forty years: when an invisible power urges the nations of the earth to the fields of war convulsed and shaken to its centre by the workings of revolution and infidelity, it is impossible to shut our eyes on the light, and not to desery the dispensations of Providence, who silently orders the causes of great events, and who, from pole to pole, lays on mankind the impress of his omnipotence, and so shapes their actions as to compel them to work out the hidden designs of his wisdom. *She reacheth therefore from end to end mightily, and ordereth all things sweetly (Wisd. VIII. 1).*

However while humbly adoring the admirable wisdom of the Most High, who disposes the course of human events for his greater glory, while affectionately kissing the hand of a mereiful Father who threatens to chastise the world by the terrible scourge of war, we are not forbidden to move him to clemeny by humble and fervent prayers, nor to implore of him that the perfidious designs of an ambitious despot may be overthrown.

Penetrated with sentiments of the liveliest confidence in His mercy, D. B. B., we shall suppliantly beg of Him, that He will disperse the lowering clouds of calamity