

to them from the dead they will do penance; and he said to him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets neither will they believe If one rise from the dead." (Luke 16, 19-21, D.V.) This is the only instance of prayer to a saint that can be found in the whole scriptures. And now I ask you as reasonable men is it one that you think deserves imitation? It was offered up in hell. The wretched being who gave utterance to it was a lost soul, and the return he received was a complete rejection of his prayer. Think of this before you again offer up a prayer to those who are unable to afford you any help.

I know that the generality of Protestants are not acquainted with the character of those prayers which are recommended to Roman Catholics in the authorized publications and private books of devotion. Here is a book compiled by a Roman Catholic priest and sanctioned by a Roman Catholic Archbishop—"What every Christian must know and do" by the Rev. J. Furniss, printed by Duffy the Roman Catholic bookseller of Dublin, and bearing upon its last page the following sanction, Imprimatur, Paulus Cullen, Archiepiscopus Dublinensis. Here is a sample from it of the nature of prayers to saints:

Heart of Jesus I adore Thee, Heart of Mary I implore thee;
Heart of Joseph, pure and just. In those three hearts I put my trust.*

But this prayer is orthodox compared with the following fearful specimen of blasphemy which is extracted from the Glories of St. Joseph, published by Grace, another Roman Catholic bookseller in Dublin.

"Most adorable Jesus, most admirable Mary, most amiable Joseph, wonderful Trinity of three persons, the most holy that ever have been or ever shall be in this world, prostrate at your feet in union of all the humility and devotion of heaven and earth, I hail, honour and love you in every way in my power. O, most desirable Jesus, O, most amiable Mary, O, most dear Joseph, I give myself up entirely to you—take possession of me for ever. O holy Trinity, I offer and consecrate to you the three faculties of my soul, O, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, most blessed Trinity, bless me with the triple benediction of the thrice holy Lord."† No language is sufficiently strong to express the feeling of intense abhorrence with which a true catholic views such a blasphemous address. The Trinity to whom he offers and consecrates the faculties of his soul is the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, but the Trinity to whom the Roman Catholic is directed by the Glories of St. Joseph to give himself up entirely is the adorable Jesus, the admirable Mary, the amiable Joseph. I shall now give you another extract from the same work which in its present form is extreme blasphemy, but which, if altered by the substitution of Jesus for Joseph would be pure and orthodox Christianity.

"Pius VII. by a rescript of the 6th of September, 1804, granted an indulgence of one year, applicable to the souls in purgatory, to all the faithful every time they would devoutly repeat the following

* What every Christian, &c. Title page.

† Glories of St. Joseph. (Richard Grace, Dublin, 1853.) From the Christian's Pious Address to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.