

DECEMBER 29.

ON IMPERFECT OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW OF GOD.

I. *The principle of our imperfect obedience is, a desire to satisfy our passions without prejudice to our salvation.*

We have just reason to fear the judgments of God if we violate his law in essential points, and we obey it in certain things to save ourselves from eternal damnation: yet we will not submit our passions without reserve to that limited and unrestrained obedience it requires, but allow ourselves free liberty in every thing that does not amount to crime. We say, it is only a too lively attachment, and we avoid every thing that would render it criminal—it is only a slight mark of aversion; but we never carry it to the extent of revenge.

II. *The danger of this imperfect obedience to the law of God.*

We do not sufficiently know our passions if we flatter ourselves that in yield-