

since the most skilful physicians have been hitherto unable to subdue it, and for this reason it is justly regarded as one of those plagues which God occasionally draws forth from the treasure of his vengeance, in order to punish his guilty people, and compel them to walk in the ways of righteousness. Now, one of the means which we ought to employ in order to render heaven favourable to us in the danger to which we are about to be exposed, is to have recourse to Mary. '*In periculis—Mariam invoca*,' St. Bernard says.—[In dangers, invoke Mary.] It was by this means that many cities, and among them Lyons, so celebrated for its pilgrimage of Our Lady of Fourvières, were preserved from the cholera a few years ago, when it was making dreadful ravages in the surrounding districts. May we not hope that Our Lady of Bonsecours will remove from us this fatal contagion, if we repair to her with the same confidence, and honour her with the same piety? For this purpose, dearly beloved brethren, we have now the entire winter season, during which we may render homage to her in the sanctuary which she has chosen for the manifestation of her great mercies.

But let us bear in mind, that in order to appease heaven, incensed at the many scandals which prevail among us, it is not sufficient to honour Mary with our lips; we must also perform works of righteousness. Let us therefore all unite, dearly beloved brethren, in endeavours to suppress those scandalous taverns and houses of ill-fame, which are much more likely to introduce the plague and death among us than even the pestilential air that exhales from marshy places. Let us banish from among us those parties of pleasure, those games, those balls, those wakes, which are always connected with licentious conversation and immodest attire. Let us regard with horror

those execrable blasphemies which call for vengeance from heaven, and bring down on earth the maledictions of the Lord, who has assured us that he who takes his name in vain shall not go unpunished. Let us attend the sacraments, with faith; let us assist at holy services, with piety; let us relieve the poor, with love; let us patronise those excellent Societies which religion has formed, in order that we may be furnished with the means of redeeming our sins by abundant alms. How much good may you do, dearly beloved brethren, by joining the Association for the Propagation of the Faith, or the Temperance Society of St. Vincent of Paul, destined in the order of Providence to secure the prevalence of righteousness and prosperity in our land!

And now, pious and worthy sailors, remember that it is principally for your benefit that we have erected this monument on Bonsecours Chapel. Do not forget that the image of Mary stands there, inviting you to think of her, and devoutly to invoke her in all your necessities. Fail not to pay homage to her in person, in her own sanctuary. There you will find zealous priests, who will make known to you the will of the Lord, hear your confessions, and admit you to his holy table. Beware of spending your Sundays and other holy days in sloth and drunkenness, in the sight of Mary your Mother. Oh! how guilty you will be if you allow yourselves to fall into such neglect! What terrible chastisements may you expect, as punishments for such indifference! On the other hand, regard it as your duty to be frequent in attendance at mass, and other religious exercises, which are daily celebrated.

Now, O holy Mother of God, pastors and flocks fly to thee, to place ourselves under thy protection. O do not despise our prayers; but deliver us from all the dangers to which we may be exposed on the stormy