

"and in the shadow of death." LUKE I. 79. It likewise assists the "infant churches lately established, where persecution, oppression, or want of means, rendered numbers of Catholics unable to provide for the maintenance of religion, and the education of youth." He was too well aware of the great good effected by this society, not to pass it unnoticed; for besides the reward which each member would merit for his charitable donation, he would also be entitled to reap a benefit from the Indulgences which the Sovereign Pontiffs granted in favor of the Association. The Bishop's address, on this occasion, is so replete with fine sentiments, and of a nature to move the hearts of the people to take interest in this noble work, that I cannot refrain from making a few extracts, by which we at this day might profit, as they furnish matter for useful reflection: "It would," says the prelate, "ill become us, as children of the same Father, and members of the Church of which Jesus Christ is the head, to remain any longer inactive, without uniting our efforts also with them for the advancement of an Institution so worthy of the zeal and charity of every Catholic heart. For how can so many infidel nations believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a Preacher? and how shall they preach unless they be sent.—ROM. X. 14.

"What would have become of us in former times if Preachers had not been sent to impart to our forefathers the light of the Gospel? "Would we enjoy all the benefits of religion which we now possess? "My Dear Brethren, if we remain insensible to the spiritual wants of so many nations and kingdoms, who are destitute of the advantages of Faith, we deserve not the name of Christians, and should they perish eternally, through our avarice and indifference, God may require at our hands an account of the blood of His Divine Son. "Secure then for yourselves the advantages of this Society and endeavor to merit for yourselves and this Province the choicest blessings of Heaven, by your small but united contributions, and fervent prayers. 'Give,' says Jesus Christ, 'and it will be given to you again: good measure, and pressed down and shaken together, for with the same measure that you shall mete withal, it shall be measured to you again.' LUKE VI. 39. Thus, Brethren, as our Blessed Redeemer assures, that a cup of cold water given in the name of Jesus, will not pass without its reward. You shall likewise be crowned with blessings proportionable to your zeal and charity towards this truly pious Institution.

"When we reflect upon the commendations given by our Blessed Saviour to the poor widow's offering, we would fail in our duty to the poor, if we did not invite them also to a participation of the benefits of this society; for, although it may not be in their power to give the small mite prescribed, it is in their power always to pray for its success. Therefore, dearly beloved Brethren, the knowledge which we have of your charity and of your inviolable attachment to the faith once delivered to the Saints, fills us with confidence that you will not fail to concur with us in a cause so important to religion and beneficial to yourselves."

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