

me to do Thy will.» (Ps. 142.) One act of perfect conformity to the will of God is sufficient to make a saint. Witness a St Paul : while yet a persecutor of the Church, enlightened and converted by Jesus Christ, what did he say ? « Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do ? » (Acts. 9-6.) He offered himself to His will, and God declared him a vessel of election and Apostle of the Gentiles : « This man is to me a vessel of election, to carry my name before the nations. » (Acts. 9-15.) Yes, for he who gives his will to God, gives Him everything. He who gives his property in alms, his food in fasts, gives to God a part of what he owns ; but he who gives Him his will, gives Him the whole. He can say : I am poor, O Lord, but I give Thee all I have. And this, indeed, is all that God expects from us : « Son, give me thy heart. » (Prov. 23-26.)

We should also measure, if possible, *the extent of our conformity to the will of God.* It consists in embracing the will of God in all things which happen, whether they be pleasant or displeasing to self-love. In this is proved the perfection of our love for God. Blessed John of Avila said : one « Blessed be God » when things go wrong with us, is worth a thousand acts of thanksgiving when things are agreeable to our inclinations. — Moreover, we should not only unite ourselves to the will of God in adverse things, which come directly from God, as infirmity, desolation of spirit, poverty, the death of relatives, and the like ; but in those also which come from creatures, such as contempt, loss of character, injustice, and all kinds of persecutions. When injured in reputation, honor or goods, we should consider that God does not will the sin of those who injure us, but nevertheless He wills our humiliations, our poverty or mortification. It is certain and of faith, that nothing happens in the world but by the will of God. « Good things and evil, life and death, poverty and sickness, are from God. » (Eccclus. 11-14.) It is true, as I have said, that when a man unjustly offends you, God does not will his sin, nor concur in the malice of his will ; but He does indeed concur, by a general concurrence, to the material actions with which any one afflicts you, shames or injures you, so that the offence which you suffer is assuredly willed by Almighty God, and comes to