

## FRIENDSHIP WITH OUR LORD.

## FIRST ADVANTAGE OF THE HOLY LEAGUE.

## II.

"SINCE our last interview, Father, I have some faint idea of the height to which we are raised by sanctifying grace and of the nobility of the friendship by which it unites us with the Saviour of men. But what special claim does membership in the League give us to this divine friendship that it should be considered the first general advantage?"

I trust, dear Associate, I can satisfy you on such an interesting question. You will undoubtedly grant that once friendship has been formed, it must be fostered and strengthened by mutual intercourse of kindness and benevolence, even by presents and gifts. Otherwise it will fail to grow and ripen into friendship's fruits. The Holy Ghost dwelling in the just soul by sanctifying grace, besides being the bond of charity, is a bountiful giver. He is the source of spiritual life and activity, imparting to the soul His lights, His aids, His inspirations and impulses, rousing its energies and awakening its powers into good desires and applying them in supernatural acts.

To revert to our former example of the iron in the fire, when struck or heated intensely it emits numberless sparks which come and go, and falling on dry or inflammable material, enkindle flames and conflagrations. Even so the soul in which the Holy Ghost dwells is ever receiving His actual graces coming and going incessantly, some never to return, others to come back again at short or rare intervals, others again to be multiplied indefinitely. They are so many presents bestowed by the Holy Giver sent into the heart by the Divine Friend, that