

hearts and make us bravely undertake the penances prescribed during the holy time of Lent.

To-day, guilty, brethren, ye hear the voice of the Lord calling you to repentance and offering you generous pardon. Ah ! harden not your hearts ; be careful not to close your ears to those merciful appeals. Render glory to that eternal justice that imperatively exacts atonement for outrages against the infinite majesty of our great God. Our cowardice makes us ingenious in inventing a thousand pretexts for evading expiatory suffering. Let us despise those deceptive excuses and deliver ourselves over without mercy to the salutary practice of Christian mortification. Are we really unable to comply with the law of fasting ? There is no lack of other ways for conquering our rebellious flesh. Let us bend our shoulders under the yoke of labor ; let us multiply our prayers ; let us assist daily at the sacrifice of mass ; let us have courage to abstain even from lawful pleasures ; let us multiply our alms. We have sinned ; let us practise the reprisals of justice on ourselves in this world that we may meet with mercy in the next.

C. LECLERC, C. SS. R.

" The Church is God's "

(Words of St Thomas Becket)

I say the Church is God's ; for He beheld it,
His thought, ere time began, counted its bones
Which in His book He writ. I say that He
From His own side in water and in blood,
Gave birth to it on Calvary, and caught it,
Despite the nails, His Bride, in His own arms.