

a want of that information, which could benefit the society of which he is a member, or by the inhabitants of those countries, whose exuberance discloses, from the bowels of a richer earth as its natural effusions, the most exquisite productions, as well of the vegetable as the mineral species, so that such abundance there, rather than a desire to extend them for the public utility, renders useless and unprofitable, what nature in her negligence adorned, and what man in his folly despised. It is even so with many Christians of the present day, my brethern; who, living in the effulgence of Gospel truth, when they contemplate the heroic virtues and exalted sanctity of the Saints of God, whose glowing lustre plays in the imagination, delights the will, but leaves the understanding unbending and unbent; are so far from communicating to others for the embellishment of their understanding or spiritual nutrition of their soul, the illustrious examples of the Saints of God; that rarely they derive any benefit themselves. The cause of this negligence may be properly reduced to three principal heads. First: the generality of Christians allow their minds to become engrossed and distracted by cares of less importance. The second cause is nearly allied to the first; because the mind thus employed, and consequently indisposed, becomes inattentive, and seems only for a moment to indulge a reflection, which leaves no lasting impression. The third is owing to a remissness in earnestly demanding of Almighty God, the graces necessary to enable the soul sufficiently to consider and esteem the virtuous actions of his own elect. I therefore feel particularly anxious, that you bestow all your attention on a subject, which, as the present seems amply to demand it, lest through my incapability, or