

Our separated brethren have contested this principle of ours, as though the Redemption which they worship as we do, were not an *immense indulgence granted to mankind through the merits of an innocent God voluntarily immolated for us.*"(1)

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Is it true that, with Catholics, "indulgences are sold", according to the saying of Protestants ?

This aspersion, as any other slander against the Catholic belief, proceeds either from ignorance or from bad faith. Indulgences, being spiritual boons or divine graces, can neither be bought nor be sold, as there is no standard value between spiritual riches and material currency as gold and silver. Never are indulgences granted for merely temporal considerations. They must relate to things spiritual though accidentally a temporal consideration, as a subsidiary condition, alms for instance, may be included.

Is it true that indulgences are but "an incitement to crime, a permission granted beforehand to sin again ?"

That is an infamous calumny. In fact, indulgences cannot be gained by those who are in the state

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(1) *Soirées de St-Petersbourg, Xe Entretien.*