

she is not destined to see the end of them all, She was great and respected before the Saxon had set foot on Britain, before the Frank had passed the Rhine, when Grecian eloquence still flourished at Antioch, when idols were still worshipped in the temple of Mecca. And she may still exist in undiminished vigour when some traveller from New Zealand shall, in the midst of a vast solitude, take his stand on a broken arch of London bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's."

The Way of Salvation.

RULES OF A CHRISTIAN LIFE.

On the means of continuing in the grace of God.

It is necessary to be fully convinced that in order to obtain salvation, we must not only desire to be saved, but also adopt the means of being saved left us by Jesus Christ. If we fall into sin, it will be of no avail for us to attempt an excuse at the day of judgment, by saying that our temptations were very strong and ourselves very weak: because God gives us the means of overcoming by his grace all the assaults of our enemies; if, therefore, we will not avail ourselves of them and are overcome, the fault is our own. All persons desire to be saved, but the greater part, because they will not adopt the means of being saved, fall into sins and are lost.

The first means is to avoid and fly from the occasions of sin. He who is not careful to avoid and fly from the occasions of sin, particularly such as allure him to sensual gratifications, cannot possibly avoid falling into sin. St. Philip Neri said: "In the war of

the senses, those cowards who fly become the conquerors." The occasion, when not fled from, becomes as a bandage bound over our eyes, which will not allow us to see any thing, neither God, nor hell, nor our former good resolutions. The scripture tells us, that it is impossible to walk upon burning coals and not be burnt: *Can a man walk upon hot coals and his feet not be burnt?* Prov. vi. 28. In like manner, it is morally impossible to expose ourselves voluntarily to the danger of alluring occasions and not fall, although we may have made a thousand resolutions and a thousand promises to God. The truth of this is proved by the misfortune of so many poor souls who are daily carried headlong into vice, because they will not fly from dangerous occasions. And he who is addicted to any habit of impurity, let him know that to restrain himself, it will not be sufficient to avoid merely the immediate occasions of temptations; if he will not avoid those also which are not altogether immediate occasions he will be very easily overcome and will fall. Let us not suffer ourselves to be deceived by the devil, who tells us that we are safe, because the person who is the subject of temptation to us is holy; it often happens that the more devout such a person is, the more violent is the temptation. St. Thomas of Aquinas says, that the most holy persons have the greatest attractions. The temptation begins in the spirit and ends in the flesh. A great servant of God, Father Sertorius Caputo, of the Society of Jesus observed that, the devil first endeavours to induce us to love virtue in certain pious persons, and then to love the person themselves when he blinds us and hurries us into sin. It is necessary also to avoid wicked companions: we