

“A Holy and Wholesome Thought.”



ARDLY has the office of all Saints ended when the church bids us turn our eyes to that other portion of her family, and to pray God that He will see good to have mercy on the tormented souls in Purgatory.

If we could but for an instant visit that prison of fire we would doubtless find there, many whom we knew but whom we have long forgotten, of whom it is true that to be out of sight is to be out of mind. We might see a father, a mother, a brother, a sister, who has waited and waited counting on a prayer from us, and we have left them in torments. We might see a friend, to whom we had vowed eternal friendship, and who could say to us. “Is this your love for me?” Ah! If God did but permit our parents to visit us, once they had left this world what would their complaints be? Again we might see some one who is detained far from God expiating a sin of which we were the accomplices. To how many on their death bed have we promised our prayers when they should have departed this life, and who are still expecting us to fulfil our promise so that they may take their flight to heaven.

The Holy Souls cannot help themselves, they cannot merit, they have only to suffer and to be cleansed from the least stain of sin; but God in His mercy has ordained that we who are still on earth may if we so please, alleviate and shorten the pains the souls of Purgatory have to bear.

To us the Almighty has given all power of succouring our afflicted brethren by way of suffrage in other words by means of impetration and satisfaction. To understand these terms let us recall to mind that each of our good actions, performed in a state of grace, ordinarily possesses a triple value in the sight of God.