

what means? By the false interpretations of corrupt nature; by pretended reasons of necessity; by vain dispensations which they either obtain or grant to themselves. I have said, vain dispensations, and to convince you of this, we have only to consider three great disorders that are connected with these dispensations. The first is, that in general these dispensations seem to be attached to certain conditions in life, and not to individuals; an infallible proof that necessity is not the rule for them. And is it not really surprising, Christians, that when a man in these days is raised to fortune and rank, there is no longer any fasting for him—that then his strength fails, and that neither his constitution nor health will permit him to do what he could and would have done in a more humble state of life? In the second place, those who imagine they are most dispensed from the obligation of fasting, are those to whom fasting ought to be most practicable; because they are the rich who abound in every thing, and who enjoy all the comforts of life. In the third place, those who strive most to be exempted from the law of fasting are those to whom fasting and penance are most necessary; who are not only guilty of many past sins, but who are still enslaved by the habits of sin—who have daily a thousand temptations before them, that render them more subject to relapses for which they require a remedy.

Maxims of the Saints.

CONTAINING EDIFYING REFLECTIONS,

Extracted from the Lives and Writings of eminent Servants of God.

Often say to yourself: O proud ashes

why are you inflated? Will he who cast Lucifer into hell, spare you?

ST. BERNARD.

Be confounded when you behold a God almost annihilated, and a worm of earth almost exalting itself. O my Saviour, may all the ignominies and reproaches, with which you were covered, fall upon me.

Be attached to no one but God; happy are they who have no other master but God!

Give yourself to God without reserve; you owe him everything, and yet you have given him so little! love Jesus Christ in such a manner that every thing which will not be sweetened by the remembrance of him may become insipid to you.

Endeavour to feel that there is nothing like being entirely attached to Jesus Christ, and loving him alone.

ST. NORBERT.

You fear the devil: if you wish that he should dread you, arm yourself with Jesus Christ; the cross of Jesus Christ alone makes him fly and vanish.

Let your heart and your purse be always open to the poor.

If you were asked to choose between the whole universe and God, ought you hesitate? The whole world is nothing; God is everything; God will supply the place of every thing else.

ST. WILLIAM, Duke of Aquitaine.

Esteem nothing but your title of being the servant of God. Watch and pray, in order that you may not lose God.

Do not content yourselves with offering him desires; hell is filled with those who have had them.

Serve God; we suffer much less in