commission of pardon, not by any special decree of God but because of the moral bar and hindrance it opposes to it. Our Lord forgave the denial of Peter, He pardoned Mary Magdalen her innumerable sins; He absolved the thief on the Cross, He would have forgiven Judas his treason were he truly penitent; and so his pardoning power in Penance forgives the greatest and the most heinous offences when accompanied by true repentance. It is like his Precious Blood omnipotent to forgive and to cleanse all sin. *the Good Repromy of Si...*

Penance forgives the sinner not once or twice but as often as he comes to it with worthy dispositions. It is a fountain always open, inexhaustible and accessible and always potent to heal our spiritual maladies no matter how often we may contract them. It is not like the well of Probatica whose waters healed but one at a time out of the sad multitude of invalids that lay languishing on its brink. The blessed waters of penance heal again and again the patient who is eager for his spiritual cure. Herein we behold another merciful provision for the salvation of sinners. The rebellious angels sinned but once and for them there was no Redeemer, for them there was no sacrament of pardon, they fell once and they remain for ever fallen. And during the thousands of years that have rolled by since their overwhelming fall they have never harboured a good thought or done a good work, and so it will be evermore during the endless eternity that lies before them and before us all. The deadly poison of their sin at once penetrated their whole being and began to live and work there as it shall continue to live and work there forever.

How differently has God dealt with us! He came down Himself from heaven to pardon and to save us, and He established the sacrament of his pardoning love to forgive us not alone "seven times, but till seventy times seven times." As often as men sin, so often they may return, and the pardoning power forgives always as for the first time with a divine and perfect absolution. Our Divine Lord makes no