

Lord from heaven will "forgive the iniquity of his people, and cover all their sins. He will mitigate all his anger, and turn away from the wrath of his indignation." (Is. lxxxiv. 3.)

As another powerful means towards the remission of your sins, you will not fail to give alms to the poor during the halcyon season of the Jubilee." This was the advice of the Prophet to an idolatrous King: Redeem thou thy sins with alms and thy iniquities with works of mercy to the poor." (Dan. iv. 24.) This was also the merciful admonition of the Redeemer himself to the proud Pharisee in the Gospel: "Give alms and behold all things are clean unto you" [Luko xi. 41.—] Whence, as "God loves the cheerful giver," [2 Cor. ix. 7.] give alms according to your ability, "for he that hath a compassionate understanding for the needy and the poor" is declared "blessed," and the Lord will deliver him in the evil day [Prov. Ps. xl. 1] on that calamitous and dreadful day when "in great power and Majesty the Son of man shall come" (Luko xxi. 27.) to judge the world, and to admit to the everlasting kingdom of his Father, all those charitable souls who will have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, and clothed the naked.

The Holy Ghost further assures us, Dearly Beloved Brethren that "He that hideth his sins shall not prosper: but he that shall confess and forsake them, shall obtain mercy." (Prov. xxviii. 13.) Prepare yourselves then by a serious examination of your lives for an humble, penitent, and sincere confession of your sins, after which you will "Go and show yourselves to the priest" (Matt viii. Luko iv) who is commissioned by God to heal the diseases of your soul; and who, if you be truly contrite, is invested with a power unknown to the Jewish priests of old. They merely declared the removal of a corporal leprosy, whereas the priest of the new Covenant can absolve you from the spiritual leprosy of sin, by virtue of the august powers entrusted by Christ to his Apostles, and their successors in the ministry, when he said to them after his resurrection: "Peace be to you. As the father hath sent me I also send you.—When he had said this, he breathed on them, and he said to them Receive ye the Holy Ghost; whose sins ye shall forgive they are forgiven him; and whose sins ye shall retain they are retained." (St. John xx. 21. 23. St Chrysost. de Sacerdotio Lib. iii. c. 6.) "If we confess our sins our God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all iniquity.—" (1 John i. 9.)

Finally the other good works of the Jubilee will be all crowned by the devout reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord—the adorable Sacrament of the Eucharist. By eating the flesh, and drinking the Blood of the Son of Man, you will have life in you and he will raise you up at the last day. (2 John vi.) He will abide in you, and you in Him, so that you can say with the Apostle of the gentiles, "I live, now not I, but Christ abideth in me." (Ibid. Galat. ii. 20.) Thus you will no longer pray, or fast, or perform any other good work of yourselves alone, but Christ will pray in you and communicate to all your merits, the meritorious efficacy of his passion, and "His blood will ask for you with unspeakable groanings, and in your infirmity, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought." But "if Christ be in you . . . he that raiseth up Jesus Christ from the dead, shall quicken also your mortal bodies, because of his spirit dwelling in you." (Rom. viii. 11.)

But this sublime and glorious act of Christianity by which the creature is closely united to its God, requires the purest and holiest preparation, we earnestly exhort you to commence your preparation without delay. "It is truly a great work, for a man preparing not for man, but for God!" (1 Par. xxix.) For we ask you in the language of an illustrious Doctor of the Church: "What ought not he to exceed in purity, who is a partaker of so great a sacrifice? What sun-beam should not be exceeded in brightness, which divides this Flesh? that which is filled with this spiritual fire? that tongue which is filled with this exceedingly tremendous Blood? Think of the great honor with which thou art adorned, and the singular table of which thou dost partake. What the Angels adore with such reverence, and will not dare to look upon too much, how much more should we, who are so near to the fountain of its glittering splendour; that we see upon,

to that we are united, and we are thereby made one body, and one flesh with Christ!" (St. John Chrysostom Hom. 60 to the people of Antioch.)

"Wherefore," we beseech you in the words of the same eloquent Father and deep expounder of the Scriptures "let no one approach the Holy communion with tepidity or indifference. Let all be enkindled, fervent, and excited to love. . . . Let no Judas, nor avaricious creature assist, for such are not received at this Table. Let no cruel or pitiless Christian, no unclean sinner approach; but if there be a true Disciple let him, come; for Christ has said: 'with my Disciples I celebrate the Pasch.' [Ibid.]

We have now Dearly Beloved Brethren, briefly described to you the conditions on which you may obtain a relaxation of the Canonical Penances attached to your sins by the wholesome discipline of the Primitive Church, and a remission of the temporal punishment due to your crimes after their eternal debt shall be forgiven. We have appointed, and we hereby ordain, and declare, that the Jubilee shall open throughout our Diocese on Sunday the 30th of May, the Feast of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity, and that it will terminate on Sunday the 20th of June the Fourth after Pentecost, and the Feast of St. Silvester Pope and Martyr, both days included.

"We are therefore, ambassadors for Christ, God as it were exhorting by us" at this season of mercy. "For Christ we beseech you, be ye reconciled to God. . . . And we helping, do exhort you, that you receive not the grace of God in vain. . . . For the rest, brethren rejoice, be perfect; take exhortation; be of one mind; have peace, and the God of peace and love will be with you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the charity of God, and the communication of the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen."—[2 Corinth. v. 20. vi. 1, xiii. 11, 13.]

TO THE EDITORS OF THE CROSS.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to call your attention to an able article in the Tablet of 6th March, page 146, headed "Recent Conversions."—Though long, in my humble opinion, were you to live, its insertion in the columns of your independent Paper, it would serve as a most appropriate reply to all the clumsy farrago of antiquated polemic lore contained for some weeks past in the pages of several of your Protestant contemporaries. The article in question portrays most happily the working of the Catholic system; it shows that education and civilization in lieu of being hostile, as Protestants would have it, are auxiliary to the progress of Catholicism.

In fact if Catholicism be such a rude, unscriptural, and absurd congeries of human inventions, as your contemporaries would make it, the conversion of so many amid the light and civilization of the 19th century, from every grade of society in the Protestant ranks, forms a most inexplicable moral phenomenon.—Nevertheless, strange as it may appear to many, this phenomenon so unaccountable on the principles of our adversaries, was daily being manifested to the world since the establishment of Christianity. The history of the Christian church especially during the first five hundred years of her existence, giving up this incontrovertible fact, viz: that while thousands and tens of thousands of the poor, the humble, and the unlearned were annually added to the membership of the Church, while also, many of the great and learned of Greece and Rome, enlightened by the grace of God, yielding to the force of truth, threw away their idols, became true believers in, and undaunted apologists of, the religion established by the man-God crucified, yet the proud and haughty philosophers of the age, who would be only learned men of the world looked upon Christianity as a gross superstition, they charged it with the foulest crimes and consi-