


THE MEN'S LEAGUE.

THIRD DEGREE.

(Continued.)

“OU were perfectly right, Father, in surmising that we men of the world could not easily be brought to admit the want of an Association for frequent Communion. The very points you developed in our last conversation militate against the idea. The importance of Communion, its sublimity and impressive character as the central dogma and crowning act of religion, seem to lift it out of the sphere of human associations, and stamp it as peculiarly the object of Divine ordinance. As I understand it, the Divine founder organized the Church mainly with a view to the administration and reception of the Sacraments, and especially of the Eucharist. The Church is by her essence an Association for the reception of Sacraments. Nay, more, in connection with Communion, I should put down as a positive irreverence and distraction all the fuss and external show of regalia and badges and parade attendant on an Association. Was it not in the desert that the Prophet received the heavenly loaf from angel's hands? Such a solemn act of worship should be performed in the awe and stillness of self-oblivion, to which solitude and the wilderness are more conducive than the noise and distraction of profane association.”

There can be no doubt, dear Associate, that the Church was divinely instituted to confer the benefits of Redemption on mankind through the agency of the Sacraments, and especially of Holy Communion; but also to draw men and dispose them to receive these benefits. This she considers her special work; but a general society does not dispense with particular ones. On the contrary, it is