

ceived and, in the eyes of God, the only real evil.

Devout souls who commit no mortal sins, ought to be well persuaded that nothing is more easy than to excite themselves to contrition. Living in the grace of God, they have in themselves as an habitual state, the hatred and detestation of sin, and consequently, they pass very easily from the habit to the act. Let us by an example illustrate this truth so consoling for them.

Suppose a man wants to draw water from a reservoir, but he finds it empty. What must he do? Why, he must take the trouble to fill it, then open the faucet, and let the water run out. If, on the contrary, the reservoir is already full, it is necessary only to open the faucet for the water to flow out. Now, the heart of the sinner is a heart empty of the hatred and detestation of sin. If he wishes to make an act of contrition, he ought to force himself first to excite in his heart this hatred and detestation. But as for the just man, since his heart is already filled with that hatred, nothing is more easy for him than to make an act of contrition.

THE GOOD PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT.

We shall say very little of the good purpose that necessarily accompanies repentance when it is true. It is impossible to repent sincerely of our sins whether mortal or venial, without having the will to commit them no more. Now, the good purpose is nothing else than the will to renounce sin.

This will, if sincere, necessarily comprises the resolution to shun the occasions of sin, and put in practice the counsels given by the confessor to render the amendment lasting.

OF CONFESSION.

It is a truth known to all Christians, that they who conceal a single mortal sin in confession, not only do not obtain pardon for the sins that they have confessed, but that they burden their conscience with a sacrilege. It is, then, a less evil to communicate in mortal sin without having confessed, than to do so after a confession in which a grave sin has been concealed. The sinner communicating without having confessed, does so with one