

ject, are totally ineffectual. We cannot better usher in an account of the institution of Holy Water, and the instructive and salutary lessons which the Church through this sacred element, reads to her children, than by a description of the ceremonial by which water is hallowed, or made HOLY WATER.

FORM OF BLESSING HOLY WATER.

The Priest or Celebrant with surplice and stole first says:

V. 'Our help is in the Name of the Lord,

R. Who made Heaven and earth.'

He then blesses the Salt, saying:

'I exorcise * thee O Creature of Salt, by the Living † God, by the True ‡ God, by the Holy § God; by that God who, through the Prophet Eliseus commanded thee to be cast into the water, to cure its barrenness—that thou mayest be salt exorcised unto the salvation of believers; and become to all those who use thee, healthful both to soul and body: and that in what place soever thou shalt be sprinkled, all illusions, and wickedness, and crafty wiles of Satan, may be chased away, and depart from that place; and every unclean spirit, adjured through Him Who is to come judge the living and the dead, and the World by fire.† Amen.'

LET US PRAY.

'O Almighty and Everlasting God, we most humbly implore Thy infinite mercy that thou wouldst vouchsafe by Thy goodness to bless † and sanctify ‡ this Thy creature of ‡ It which Thou hast given for the use of mankind, that it may be health of mind and body to all who take it, and that whatever shall be touched or sprinkled with it may be freed from all uncleanness, and all incursion of spiritual wickedness. (evil assaults of wicked spirits.) Through our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.

* A Greek word, signifying I conjure thee, or I tell thee emphatically or imperatively.

† In her exorcisms against evil spirits, the Catholic Church generally introduces the last coming of the Son of man, and the judgment of the world by fire, an event which is so much dreaded by the infernal demons, for, deprived of all their present liberty, to infect the world, and seduce unhappy men, they will then be chained down in hell for ever.