

Lord has bidden us to forgive seventy times seven times, and He Himself sets us the example. The sinner could, indeed, repent and sin no more without confession, but there is nothing to bind him to his good resolutions, and he is very apt to excuse his own sins to himself. We are not always the best judges of our own conduct, Charlotte. There is also to help him the grace of the Sacrament and the virtuous resolutions inspired by the knowledge that God has cancelled the past through the absolution given by His ministers."

"But would it not do to confess one's sins to God alone?"

"God already knows our sins; it is the act of humility in confessing to a creature He desires, for in this is our sincerity proved. However in His infinite mercy He has appointed our confessors to be only those who are fitted for it by their lives and vocations; by their oath of secrecy and their knowledge of the frailty of all human nature. As much as possible they are disciplined and schooled for this, and their hard lives are sustained by noble aspirations and high ideals. It is therefore, truly a wonder, and an exception when they fail to be the very highest type of man, for the attraction to their great calling as well as the desire for such a life must be in remarkable unselfishness."

"Jeanne, you have a reason for everything, but you do not speak like most Catholics."

"It is easy for all Catholics to argue the truths of their religion from a purely reasonable point of view; but unlike Protestants we are not always willing to lose sight of the supernatural, for our religion was founded by the great wisdom of Christ, and we recognize that any belief which can not rise above poor human reasoning is of the earth, earthy and as instable as the opinions of different individuals. Like Nature, our Faith possesses mysteries which we are obliged to believe without comprehending; but far from encouraging ignorance and superstition it causes us only to recognize that there are limits to our understanding and that there is a Supreme Intelligence above us."

She was much impressed by this conversation, and an-