

Stations for Lent.

FIFTH STATION.

TO THE HOLY ANGELS.

The author of the Epistle attributed to St. Barnabas says that there are in this world two ways; **THAT OF DARKNESS** over which the devils preside and the **WAY OF LIGHT** in which the Holy Angels are the guides. This thought contained in the most ancient monument of ecclesiastical history is most conformable to the whole doctrine of the scriptures and inspires me with a great confidence in the protection of the holy angels, I cannot think of the way of **DARKNESS** in which the devils lead so many souls astray without being seized with fear and touched with compassion. O how broad is this way! How it is filled with men of every state, of every age, of every profession, of every character. That which is shown me by the holy angels is a narrow way and little frequented. This is not the fault of those holy guides. They are zealous for our salvation and never abandon us until the moment eternity begins. We afflict them when we fail to profit by their care of us: we are inexcusable when we do not implore their assistance.

O angels of the Lord! I present myself at the entrance of these two ways; the one guarded by the powers of darkness, the other pointed out by you to all children of God. I make no hesitation in my choice of these two roads; I wish to enter upon that which you point out, but I enter upon it with my weaknesses, my passions, my ignorance, my stupidity. O celestial intelligences, who unceasingly burn with divine love! you know well that my heart is not inflamed with those holy ardours which penetrate you: and nevertheless it is by love I must be sustained in the career of salvation; obtain for me a spark of that ineffable charity which gives wings to

fervent souls. You have combatted the infernal regions and you have overcome them. You remain in possession of light, whilst the only advantage they have derived from their revolt is the necessity of being for ever in darkness. Ah! how I desire to be united to you in that region which is for ever illuminated with the splendour of God and of the divine Lamb that was slain for me! Beg of Jesus Christ who is essential light, a ray of his all powerful grace, of that grace which enlightens the spirit, and moves the heart; which strengthens faith, sustains hope and continually feeds the flame of charity. Take me this day under your protection and share with me the dangers of the journey on which it is so easy and so dangerous to fall. Angels of the Eternal, *do not abandon me*, grievous sinner though I am; contend for me against the enemy of my salvation, and at the moment of my death receive my soul and transplant it into the bosom of life which is Jesus Christ who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

SIXTH STATION.

TO THE SAINTS.

The saints have prayed on earth for their fellow creatures. It would be absurd to say that in glory they pray for them no longer. The Church militant has always placed confidence in their intercession; and the honour which we pay them at this day is nothing in comparison to what they received from the primitive Church. None, therefore, but the spirit of error could have sought to deprive us of this holy practice. I revere it with a lively sentiment of joy, confidence, and consolation. I address myself to you, O holy friends of God, and I lay before you my necessities and