

they shall lay their hands upon the sick ; and they shall recover." We may apply to our own time the explanation of these promises given by the great St. Bernard in speaking of the missions of his day : " Devils are cast out," says the holy Doctor, when sins and bad habits are uprooted from the heart, when the light of faith shines again in the soul and the love of God is aglow once more, filling the sinner with genuine sorrow for the past and a firm resolve to enter upon a new life. Men speak with new tongues when words of vanity, of fault-finding, of uncharitable gossip, of profanity, of blasphemy, are replaced by a new language, by words that are gentle, kindly, helpful, mild and cheerful, or, when the occasion is offered, by the eloquent language of silence. They take up serpents and cast them out of their path, when they drive out of their mind and heart the poisonous suggestions of the tempter, who strives to induce them to fall back again into their former sins and thus make their last state worse than their first. They drink a deadly thing without being hurt by it, when they refuse to give way to the baneful urgings of their own perverse nature. Finally they lay their hands upon the sick and make them recover, when they cure their diseased affections by applying as a remedy the steady practice of good works, and by implanting and developing a love of what is holy and saving."

These same promises are commented upon in an equally practical way by Pope St. Gregory, the great Pope who, 1300 years ago, sent Augustine and his fellow monks to accomplish the conversion of England : " Our holy Mother the Church," says the holy Pontiff, " does every day for the souls of men what she did in the time of the Apostles for their bodies ; her priests cast out devils when they make use of the power of exorcism in Holy Baptism, impose hands upon the persons to be baptized, and command the evil spirits to begone from their souls ; moreover, her faithful children speak with new tongues, when they lay aside