

then the other missions, now slightly assisted, will become exceedingly impoverished; or we may, for this purpose, stop other projects which are, perhaps at present, in preparation; in which case our indifference would be an unworthy economy. Each of us might possess some peace the more, but a great plan of God's would be interrupted, and we should deprive the Church of a great consolation, and perhaps of a sublime triumph; the sovereign Pontiff, disappointed in his great expectation, would repent of having believed us generous; and finally, thousands of souls would still sleep in error until that day, when awaking in wrath, they would come to accuse our selfishness, in the face of the assembled world. Would not this be to pay too dear for our insensibility and for a miserable saving?

"Moreover, we ought not to forget that charity does not flow like a wave, which returns no more: it flows back to those who dispense it; and hence to make sacrifices to assist our missions, is rather to lend with interest, than to act with generosity. Besides, heaven is more abundantly gained by our gifts than by the cup of cold water, which may, however, acquire it. Besides the share which we have in the merits of the apostles and their neophytes; besides the salutary encouragements which we receive by the recital of their combats, and from the accounts of their virtues, we find a sublime recompense for our exertions in the religious gratitude and fraternal prayers of the new congregations. The conquests of the cross are far from resembling those of the sword; force overpowers and subdues nations, but it knows not how to unite them; it may create subjects but it does not make friends: thus we often see the people which the sword has brought together by its power, continue separated by hatred, and tearing by their divisions the state under which they live. The Church on the contrary, not less powerful, but more mild than the sword, conquers by its word and unites by affection; to multiply its family is for the Church to augment a society of brethren; it never fails to give one soul to the people that it mingles in the same belief; and from the moment that it has united them in the singleness of the same heart, it establishes amongst all, in spite of the distance of places and the difference of civilization, which separate them, a pious interchange of prayers or benefits, which are the fruit of a holy community of affection."

"The same spirit which suggested these thoughts will, we trust, render them agreeable to the readers of our Annals, and each one will say, in a new feeling of generosity: "I am resolved, O holy Church of God, to contribute more than ever, by my alms, to the extending of your empire. I will do so, because Heaven invites me; I will do so, because I am jealous of your glory; I wish to do so, because I desire to see the blood of Jesus Christ, which is to save us all, flow upon the heads of all mankind; I wish to do so, because I am afflicted to think that hell devours so many victims; I will do so in fine, because it is our interest that your family be aug-

mented. Yes; I will always remember, that as long as the apostles, sustained by your aid, shall bring to you new children, so long do they procure for us new intercessors; and that since these mediators enjoy a great influence with God, since kneeling at the foot of an humble altar, in the hollow of their rocks, or the depths of their forests, they can, in this world where I dwell, decide on the safety of a family, city, or even an entire people, no sacrifice shall be too much for me in favour of the missions that produce them?"

To be Continued.

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JAMES DONOHOE

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