

he ever cease his exertions to draw souls from God, and frustrate, in as much as he can, the work of God's Church. He is going around seeking to deceive the intelligence, to inflame the passions, to misdirect the will. That he is an actual personal being, capable of doing all this, the teachings of Holy Scripture, and, in an especial manner, our Lord's words, leave no possibility of doubt. That he is doing this in our own day we have abundant proof. If we leave out his insidious and malign influence on the minds of men, how can we explain the opposition, frequently the fierce dislike, not to say hatred, of many good citizens and kind neighbours, to some work of the highest charity, to the Gospel of Christ, to the teaching of Religion in the school, or to the recognition of God's law in political life. We cannot think all such men are consciously wicked. They have been, however, and are, unwary; hence they have been misled by the catechrys, and sophistries of designing ones who are of "their father the devil." In the rush of modern life few men reflect, fewer reason out conclusions from well-defined premises. The great majority form no opinions of their own. They accept them ready made from the newspaper, or magazine, or lodge room. This condition of mind makes it comparatively easy for the devil to exercise a subtle influence against good through many otherwise worthy men, and to achieve his great modern triumph of hoodwinking them as to his existence. Let such as these remember that our Lord explicitly taught the reality of a personal devil, and that He said:—"He that is of God heareth the word of God. Therefore, you hear them not, because you are not of God."—(John VIII, 47).

This spirit of evil, this malignant opposer of Jesus Christ and His work, cannot be supposed to dwell in the presence of