

the Church of God. Others connect it with the Crown of Thorns, as though the Church would repair the indignities offered to her Lord, by converting the memorial of His Passion into a badge of honour. In Catholic countries the wearing of the Tonsure and of the clerical habit, entails the privilege of exemption from the jurisdiction of the lay courts. The cleric acquires likewise the privilege of the Canon; so that the act of striking him with malice is excommunication, ipso facto — The Tonsure also confers the power of holding a benefice at the proper age. In our own country it is hardly necessary to say these privileges are in abeyance; and although the form of giving the Tonsure, is always, under pain of suspension, observed, the badge has not been habitually assumed since the Church was under persecution.

The same rite which reclaims the youthful soldier of the Cross from the service of the world, by imprinting Christ's seal upon him, introduces him into the Sanctuary by investing him with the robe of virginal purity, the symbol of the "new man" regenerated after Christ's image. It is true indeed, that by entering the ecclesiastical state, and even by receiving the minor orders; the return to a secular life is not absolutely precluded, but the Church presumes of every one who voluntarily offers himself to her service, that he has a deliberate intention of persevering in it, although as yet, she does not bind him by any irrevocable engagements.

It is a short but exquisitely sweet and touching office, that, by which our holy Mother consecrates the purposes of such as would devote themselves to her ministries, and obtain part in that choice promise. "Beati qui habitant in domo Tua, Domine; in sæcula sæculorum laudabunt Te." The sweet tones of the sweetest of psalmistry are never heard more touchingly than in this initiatory rite, and the Church furnishes, as usual, a clue to the "intention" in which she employs them by the annexation of an antiphon. The Psalms chosen are those beautiful ones, the 15th and 23rd, and wonderfully does each of them shroud, in that soft graceful disguise which the words of an earlier dispensation throw over the truths of later, what may perhaps be called without affectation—the "sentiment" of the peculiar occasion. The 15th

psalm, which comes first, appears to be said in the person of the candidate; it immediately precedes the act of giving the Tonsure; and embodies a prayer for help, a pledge of fidelity. "Preserve me, O Lord, for I have put my trust in Thee.— I have said to Thee, Thou art my God, for Thou hast no need of my goods." And then of the wicked, (that is, of the children of this world, whose society he forswears,) "I will not gather together their meetings for blood-offerings," (the sacrifice of their goods to the gods of their idolatry,) "neither will I be mindful," (or make mention) "of their names with my lips."

(To be Continued.)

A PROTESTANT CONVERTED TO CATHOLICITY

BY HER

BIBLE AND PRAYER BOOK.

Continued.

Yes, it was for Jesus I endured all, and did he leave me without a recompense? Oh! let my tongue be sealed in death, when it shall praise Him for the mercy He has shown me, for the recompense He has heaped upon me, for the peace I enjoy, for all, and every thing. Even my very sorrows,—I can but praise Him for them for they led me to joys, unknown, and untasted, but by those, for whom they are prepared.

The step taken, my peace made with heaven, and my soul enjoying the precious fruits of the happy exchange I had made, my thoughts naturally fell upon the good man, who had first been the means of leading me to suspect all was not right with the foundation on which I had been building for eternity.

His answer relative to Ash Wednesday, showed me he was not perfectly satisfied with what he professed himself. Instantly, therefore, I determined to go to him and tell him all that had happened to me, if, perhaps, God might, thereby, convince him, it was better to sell all in this world, to buy eternal life in the next.

I went to him—we conversed for more than two hours. I told him how happy I was, and how infinitely I preferred the scorn and desertion of the world, with what I possessed, to the whole world without it. He looked quite puzzled and said nothing, but that I had taken a very awful step.

I asked him if he would read something I would give him, because that I persisted in asserting he did not know what the Catholic faith really was.