

with God ; why shall I pray or perform any religious duty when it will not avail to my salvation ?" Fatal and ill-founded reasoning ! first, because there are duties of obligation which cannot be omitted even in the state of sin, without our being guilty of a new sin ; and secondly, the sinner should increase the number of his good works and prayers, to obtain from God the grace to amend his life.

DECEMBER 28.

ON THE PERFECT LAW.

I. *The evangelical law is the law spoken of by the apostle St. James, when he says : " Those who attentively consider the perfect law," &c.*

It is called *perfect*, because there is nothing inconsistent in its perfection ; if it severely forbids private revenge, it permits and authorizes public punishment on offenders ; if it proscribes avarice, and too great an attachment to the goods of this world, it does not forbid us