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THE CROSS.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is Crucified to me, and I to the world.—St. Paul, Gal.vi. 14.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1848.

No. 12.

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

- May 21. Sunday V. after Easter. Rogation Sunday. On the three following days the Litanies of the Saints are recited.
22. Monday, S. Paschal Baylon Conf.
23. Tuesday, S. Julius L. Pope and Conf. (from April 12.)
24. Wednesday, Vigil of Ascension. Feast of B. V. M. under the title of 'Help of Christians.'
25. Ascension Thursday. Holyday of obligation.
26. Friday, S. Philip Neri. Conf.
27. Saturday, S. John L. Pope and Mart.

Paschal Tide.

ROGATION SUNDAY.

The fifth Sunday after Easter is so called because in this week occur the three Rogation Days, which are the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before the great Festival of the Ascension.

The Rogation Days are days of public and solemn prayer, accompanied by processions, and have been for a long time observed as days of abstinence.

On these days the Church offers a

holy violence to heaven by her repeated supplications to God for mercy. She also prays him 'to avert his indignation from us' to preserve us from all public calamities, and to pour down on the fruits of the earth the fertile dew of his heavenly benediction. The Rogations were first established by St. Mammertus, Bishop of Vienne, in France, about the year 469.

For many years that part of Gaul and Savoy had been afflicted by various calamities. Not only were the people scourged by earthquakes and conflagrations, but the whole country was also ravaged by multitudes of wild beasts who destroyed every thing they met, and in their fury rushed into the very streets and public places of the unfortunate city itself. According to the historians of the time every day brought some fresh proof of the divine indignation.*

* Sidonius Apollinaris, Bishop of Auvergne, a contemporary of St. Mammertus, Avitus Cæsarius, one of his successors in Vienne, St. Gregory of Tours.

On Easter night, 463, whilst the people were assembled in the Church with their holy Bishop, the Town House, an immense building, situated on an eminence in the midst of the city, was reported to be on fire. The alarm instantly spread, it was feared that the whole city would be reduced to ashes, and the entire multitude rushed out of the Church, leaving the Bishop alone before the altar. Deeply moved by the calamities which weighed so heavily on his beloved flock, he burst into tears, and earnestly besought the Almighty to stay his avenging arm: To appease the divine anger he made a vow to establish public prayers accompanied by processions and fasting. His mediation was effectual. The conflagration instantly ceased. The people returned to the Church, and were informed by the Bishop of his vow. He exhorted them to penance, and the three days before Ascension were appointed for its fulfilment, and to be celebrated by Processions, public Litanies, and a fast similar to that of Lent. Such were the fruits, both spiritual and temporal, derived from this holy exercise, that the good custom speedily passed into other Dioceses.

Finally it was adopted by Pop

Leo. III. in the eighth century, and has been since observed by the Universal Church.

The Litanies of the Saints are sung in Procession on these days. The word Litany is of Greek origin, and signifies Supplication or Prayer. Those Litanies open with an address to the Holy Trinity, to the Mother of God, and to all the angels and saints of his glorious kingdom. When each is named, thousands of voices cry out *Miserere nobis*, Have mercy on us; or *Ora pro nobis*, Pray for us. To each of the three Divine Persons and to them alone, we say *Have mercy on us* because in God alone do we recognise the power to shew us mercy. To the Queen of Heaven and to all the Blessed Spirits and Friends of God we say *Pray for us*, because we look up to them as charitable mediators of intercession before the throne of Grace. Jesus is our great and only Mediator of atonement, and he has fully paid our ransom in his blood. But we know that his angels and saints are not unmindful of us poor pilgrims in this place of exile. We know the angels of our Father rejoice over the conversion even of one sinner amongst us; and that those heavenly spirits present the

prayers of the just on earth before the altar of incense above. The saints too know our frailty. They know the terrible enemies with which we have to contend in this place of trial. If it was lawful to ask their prayers whilst they were on earth, and their eternal lot unknown, surely it cannot be improper to do so now when they are confirmed in grace and glory. If their love for their neighbour induced them when living, to pray for his spiritual welfare, would it not be impious to suppose that their charity has cooled since they have been translated to its source? Oh no! those who would deprive us of a communion with the Saints of God who compose the Church Triumphant, would inflict a great injury on the members of the Church Militant. We want to look up to them both as models and intercessors. God has crowned in them his own gifts, and in celebrating *their* virtues we publish *his* glories. In them, says an ancient Father, he has afforded us both an example and a protection.

The venerable usages of the Rogation week are now consecrated by antiquity. They have been observed for nearly 1400 years. With what pious fidelity our holy Church

has always treasured up those ancient rites! Even in the fourth century St. John Chrysostom had his solemn processions in Constantinople, at which the cross was borne between lighted torches, and public prayers were offered up to God for the conversion of sinners, and the wants of the faithful.

Saint Ambrose and St. Augustine speak of the Processions at Milan. The memorable Processions of St. Gregory the Great at Rome are well known, and the venerable Bede writing on the Processions of the Rogation Days alludes to the custom of bearing the relics of the saints in them, as one long established in the Church.

This, therefore, is by preeminence a week of prayer, and of more austerity than any any other in the Paschal days that have gone by. The fast has been abolished because it was not the spirit of the church to impose a general fast during the joyful days of the Paschal season. But the spirit of penance which she inculcates is still the same; and it is our duty to pray this week with more than usual assiduity and fervour, to assist, if we possibly can, at the public devotions of the church, to recite the Litanies, Rosaries, or

other approved forms of prayer in the midst of our families, to pray that all public calamities may be averted, that peace and true charity may prevail amongst men, that infidels and sinners may be converted from the error of their ways, that the boundaries of Christ's spiritual kingdom may be enlarged, and that the choicest benedictions of heaven may descend into the bosom of the earth, and fructify those seeds which have been sown to it by the industry of man. What a blessed occupation! what a glorious work! what an appropriate introduction to the grand Festival of our Lord's Ascension!

In order to shew the efficacy of the holy exercise of prayer, the Church selects for this Sunday, the following Gospel from St. John, *evi. 23. 30* :

“At that time : Jesus said to his disciples : Amen, amen, I say to you : if you ask the Father any thing in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto you have not asked any thing in my name. Ask and you shall receive ; that your joy may be full. These things I have spoken to you in proverbs. The hour cometh when I will no more speak to you in proverbs, but will

show you plainly of the Father. In that day you shall ask in my name : and I say not to you, that I will ask the Father for you. For the Father himself loveth you, because you have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world : again I leave the world, and go to the Father. His disciples say to him : Behold now thou speakest plainly, and speakest no proverb. Now we know that thou knowest all things, and thou needest not that any man should ask thee. By this we believe that thou camest forth from God.”

Hebdomas Mariana ;

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS FOR EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK, IN HONOUR OF THE MOST GLORIOUS VIRGIN MOTHER OF GOD, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE GRACE OF A HAPPY DEATH.

Translated from the Latin, by a Catholic Priest.

SUNDAY.

○ Holy Mary, merciful Queen of Heaven ! daughter of God the Father, Mother of God the Son, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, noble Gouerness of the whole

Trinity, elected by the Father, preserved by the son, beloved by the Holy Ghost: overshadowed by the Father, inhabited by the Son, filled with all grace by the Holy Ghost! Through thee, and for thee, may I be blessed by God the Father, who created me, may I be blessed by God the Son, who redeemed me by his most precious blood; may I be blessed by God the Holy Ghost, who sanctified me in Baptism, and may the most Sacred Trinity, thro' thy intercession, receive my soul at the hour of my death!

Holy Mary, Queen of Clemency, I flee under thy protection and shield of defence; under the covering of thy wings and maternal guardianship I desire to live and die.

O Holy Mary, Mother of beautiful love! be thou my defence and firm assistance in the hour of death, that "those may be confounded who seek my soul to destroy it."

O Holy Mary, most-sweet Virgin! bless me now according to thy great mercy, and according to thy clemency strengthen and console me in the sorrows of death.

O Holy Mary, powerful Advocate! grant that I may live in thy maternal benediction; that I may die happily in thy Virginal custody!

O Holy Mary, my life and sweetness! pour out upon me the spirit of thy grace, receive me into the bosom of thy love, and may thy soul bless me in the hour of death.

O Holy Mary, Queen of Celestial glory! I plunge myself into the over-

flowing and inexhaustible sea of thy graces, I throw myself into the arms of thy congenial piety, I firmly choose to dwell in thy heart, and there I wish to die happily.

O Holy Mary! let Jesus and Mary be my last word, my last invocation. Remain with me, O Mary, when the evening of death approaches, and the day of my life is declining.

O Holy Mary, Virgin Mother of God! at the hour of my death make me hear thee in the voice of gladness and salvation: shew me thy countenance, for "thy speech is sweet," and thy face beautiful."

O Holy Mary! at the hour of my death commend me to God the Father, reconcile me to God the Son, represent me to God the Holy Ghost, that I may be enabled to cry out: "Blessed be the Holy, and Undivided Trinity, because it hath shewed me its mercy." Amen.

MONDAY.

O Holy Mary, Virgin of Virgins, Mother of God, and of all who are in purgatory! who dost frequently console them by thy presence; deliver them by thy intercession, and through the bounty of divine grace, conduct them from the fire of affliction, and the water of tribulation unto everlasting comfort: obtain for me with thy son, thy beloved Son, an humble and contrite heart, intercede for me that I may close my life with a good and pure conscience.

O Holy Mary, Mother of Divine

Grace! Oh! that I may through thee obtain from God, mercy and the remission of all my sins in the hour of death.

O Holy Mary, Mother of all Virtues! pray for me, that, always being in the grace of God, I may at length die happily.

O Holy Mary, most Chaste Mother! my only confidence next to God, in whom I place my whole trust. Do not abandon me, Mistress of my salvation, lest my enemies should laugh at me, when my spirit shall be troubled.

O Holy Mary, undefiled Mother! be thou my hope, now and at the hour of my death; when my days shall fail, and my years be in groaning; when my strength shall forsake me, and the light of my eyes be not with me, then arise in my defence.

O Holy Mary, Most Amiable Mother, beseech thy Son, that when it shall please him, he would bring my soul out of prison, to confess to his holy name, that in an abundance of charity towards God and my neighbour, I may enter the tomb as the sheaf of wheat is brought in, in its season.

O Holy Mary, Most Admirable Mother! direct the steps of my life in the good pleasure of thy Son, that I may so deserve to abound in good works, as to be received by him at the hour of death into the everlasting tabernacles.

O holy Mary, Mother of our Creator! vouchsafe by thy intercession so to conform my soul to the divine will, that I may to my last breath be able to say: if thou willest that my soul should pass away, thy will be done.

O holy Mary, Mother of our Redeem-

er! say at the hour of my death that thou art my Mother that I may be blessed, and that my soul may live for thee. And if I shall be sent to that prison of burning until I pay the last farthing, may thy mercy descend with me to refresh me in the flames, to solace me in my torments, that I may say: according to the multitude of my sorrows in my heart may thy consolations rejoice my soul. Then, O Mother, then hasten to assist me, let not thy Son depart until he shall have blessed me and remitted all my debts, because thou hast requested him. Amen.

TUESDAY.

O holy Mary, Queen of Angels, who alone wert worthy after the salutation of an angel, to conceive Him to whom all the angels minister, by whose command the angels guard us in all our ways, ever solicitous for our common salvation, lest we might at any time dash our foot against a stone until they introduce us to the place which the Lord hath prepared for us, vouchsafe; therefore that my angel may guard and anxiously protect me during my sojournment here, and departing this life; let him not permit thy servant to be defiled, but conduct my soul into that holy light which God formerly promised to Abraham and his seed for ever.

O holy Mary, most worthy Virgin! my soul desires thee, pants after thee, wishes thy protection now, and in the hour of my death, that it may praise thee without end, and love thee for ever.

O holy Mary, virgin most renowned, may thy pity have mercy on me, and bless me, may it shine forth its countenance upon me when snares shall be around me on every side, that my enemy may not affright me by his terrible aspect.

O holy Mary, most powerful Virgin; pray my God, I beseech thee, to take away from me whatever displeases him, assist me when I shall be contending against all the wickedness of the enemy in my last agony.

O holy Mary, most element Virgin! my comfort and refuge in all my necessities, be thou my strength and fortitude at the hour of death from the face of the enemy.

O holy Mary, faithful Virgin! who rejectest no one, but lookest on all with the eyes of thy clemency; into thy hands I commend my spirit, which thy Son hath redeemed, who is blessed for ever.

O holy Mary, Mirror of justice, pray that thy Son, the Just Judge, may bestow the last gift of remission before the day of reckoning, may grant me a place amongst the sheep, and separate me from the goats, and having confounded the accursed, may invite me with the blessed.

O holy Mary, seat of Wisdom, who hadst always the words of wisdom in thy mouth; intercede for me, that when my soul shall have to depart from this world, God may place my enemies the footstool of thy feet.

O holy Mary, Spiritual Vessel, make my soul rejoice in the hour of my death, and say: "This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise. To-day

we shall enter the house of the Lord, we shall rejoice therein, and our joy no man shall take from us."

O holy Mary, Cause of our joy, render me by thy intercession a vessel of election, that my heart may constantly bear the name of Jesus thy Son, lest I might become in the hour of death a vessel of contumely, a vessel of wrath and indignation. Amen.

WEDNESDAY.

O holy Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, who was with thee by his grace before he honoured thee by his corporal residence. Blessed be the hour of the Incarnation of the Son of God. Blessed and sanctified be the day which shone upon us when the Gentiles walked in its light. Blessed be the years of the child Jesus, and blessed be those moments during which he improved in grace, in spirit and in wisdom with God and man. Blessed be his infancy, in which he was subject to thee and Joseph, making himself obedient to man on account of man's disobedience to God. Pray for me to thy Son, that in the hour of my death he may not prove a severe Judge, but an amiable infant: who having condescended to be in a manger between beasts, may not reject me who am become as a beast in his sight.

O Holy Mary, vessel of Honour! may I become through thy grace a vessel of honour and praise to God.

O Holy Mary, singular Vessel of Devotion! pray that the Angelic spirits who love thee, may run after

the odour of the name of Jesus, and may run to me after this fragrance.

O Holy Mary, Mystical Rose! I beseech thee in the last hour of my death transform the brambles of my conscience into roses: let however, my soul be pierced by thee, and wounded with the thorns of grief and contrition, that it may reach that place where the rose stingeth not, and thy Beloved feedeth among the lilies, as long as the day of a happy eternity continues.

O Holy Mary, Tower of David! in the trouble and fear of death, be to me a tower of strength from the face of the enemy: be to me a wall, and let thy breasts be to me as a tower, that I may find peace and rest therein in the day of of tribulation.

O Holy Mary, mother of mercy, Queen of clemency; let thy virginal compassion descend into my soul, that the bitterness of my heart may become sweet, when fear shall seize me in the day of death knowing that "my iniquities have gone over my head."

O Holy Mary, Tower of Ivory! in thy conception a white and immaculate rose! Be thou my refuge: banish the troubles of my soul when my spirit shall be in the gall of bitterness.

O Holy Mary, House of Gold! I have preferred to be the last in thy house rather than dwell in the tabernacles of sinners; make me as one of thy hired servants, that the bread of thy grace may abound in me, by which I may deserve at the end of life to enjoy that Angelic bread in whose strength I can walk even to the mount of God.

O Holy Mary, Ark of the Covenant! pray for me, that in the hour of my

death my angel may say to thy Son with a strong cry: arise unto my help, thou and the Ark of thy sanctification, that all who wish me evil may be put to flight, and conduct this soul which thou hast entrusted to my care into thy rest.

O Holy Mary Morning Star! which never knew the setting of crime, illuminate me with the brightness of thy countenance in my last hour, and look upon me intently with the eyes of thy mercy. Banish the prince of darkness far from me.

O Holy Mary, Health of the weak! Daughter of David have pity on me when my soul shall be grievously annoyed by the Devil, and thy servant shall lie on his bed torturing in pain. Grant O most Clement Mother, that thy Son may then say to me: I am thy salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY.

O Holy Mary, blessed earth out of which hath sprung the wheat of the elect, and the wine that buddeth, forth virgins: true table of that bread of propitiation which descended from heaven, containing in it all the delight of Sweetness. Obtain by thy intercession, that I may be refreshed with this salutary food when my strength shall fail, that I may walk in its strength to that place where the blessed hunger no longer, nor the tide of misery cometh upon them.

O Holy Mary, Refuge of Sinners! to thee I fly; do not forget me when I shall be engaged in the last conflict, then shew the strength of thy power on my body and soul, that being assisted by thy mercy, and all my iniquities ta-

ken away, I may not be blotted out from the book of life.

O Holy Mary, Comfort of the Afflicted! I have sought a consoler in the hour of death, and have found none but thee to reconcile me to thy Son: for he honours thee so much as to deny thee nothing. When, therefore, my soul shall begin to tremble and grow sad, when the sorrows of death surround it, shew me for my consolation the fruit of thy womb.

O Holy Mary, Help of Christians! obtain for me in the hour of my death, that I may die a true Christian in the Catholic Apostolic Roman Faith: that I may fight bravely as a soldier of Christ against my enemies, and then arise to my succour, because my time and hour are come, to pass out of this world.

O Holy Mary, Queen of Angels! may the Angels of God succour me in the hour of my death, receiving my soul and presenting it in the sight of the most High. May the holy standard bearer Michael precede me, and at the tribunal of the just Judge, may thy mercy await me, in order to defend me, and render my most sweet Jesus propitious that I may not perish in the dreadful judgment.

O Holy Mary, Queen of Patriarchs! blessed fruit of Joachim and Anna! Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, sweet Jesus. Pray for me, that in the hour of my death I may receive the kingdom promised to Abraham.

O holy Mary, Queen of Apostles! as thy beloved Son, commended thee to his beloved disciple, saying: Son behold thy Mother, so do thou commend my soul to thy Son in the hour of my death, saying: Son, behold thy soul which thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

O holy Mary, Queen of Martyrs! excite in me a continual desire of shedding my blood for thy Son's love and faith, that in the hour of my death, being defended by the patience of the Martyrs, if camps should stand against me, I may not fear: then I beseech thee "instruct my hands for battle and my fingers for war."

O holy Mary, Queen of Confessors! obtain for me the gift of perseverance, lest after putting my hand to the plough I may look back, and become unfit for the kingdom of God. Therefore, in the hour of my death obtain for me, that by incessantly running after the promises of thy Son, I may deserve to obtain the prize of glory.

O holy, Mary, Queen of Virgins! the like of whom nature has never beheld, pray to my God that my tears may be my bread day and night lest thy Son shutting the gate of heaven against me, may say, "I know thee not:" father may He say: "Enter into the joy of thy Lord." Amen.

FRIDAY.

O holy Mary? more than Martyr, by that grief which thou didst feel, when the sword of the cross pierced thy soul; when for me a sinner thou didst behold thy innocent Son expiring, after having commended thee to John, and his soul into the hands of his Father; I beseech thee, commend me into the hands of thy Son, that he may hide me in his wounds that thus my soul being purified by his blood, and safe in the midst of his wounds, I may deserve to hear: "This day though shalt be with me in Paradise."

O holy Mary, Queen of all Saints ! intercede for me, that I may live and die in the fullness of the perfection of my state of life : pray that in the hour of my death, my dwelling may be in the plenitude of the Saints.

O holy Mary, Queen of Glory ? of whom glorious things are said, and of whose glory there is no end, look upon me an inglorious sinner, lest dying without grief for having offended thy Son, I may lose everlasting glory.

O holy Mary, I flee under thy patronage, do not despise my unworthy supplications, and delay not to free me from all dangers in the hour of my death.

O holy Mary, mother of our Salvation ? when my soul and my heart shall cry out in the hour of death, " Save us we perish : " may thy crucified Son arise and command the sea of afflictions, and the winds of temptations, that a great calm may ensue, by which I may be carried into the haven of eternal felicity ?

O holy Mary, full and overflowing with grace, may my salvation be seriously entrusted to thee, and when my wretched soul departs from the body, present it in such a manner to thy Son, that it may be pleasing in the sight of the Prince of Glory.

O holy Mary, my greatest patroness with God ; turn thine eyes of mercy towards me, and in the end of my days do not remove thy heart full of mercy, far from me.

O holy Mary ! to thee I cry, after thee I aspire thee I wish for, thee I desire with all the earnestness of my heart. My soul longs for thee in the night of my death, that by thy guidance it may find its beloved in the mid day of glory, and may remain with Him as long as

the day of a happy eternity shall continue.

O Holy Mary ! to thee my heart says and declares in the excess of its love ; " Let him cease to extol thy mercies who has ever invoked thee in his necessities and found it to fail him." Consider that my poor wretched soul is committed to thee, that thou mayest be its assistant in that moment on which eternity depends, lest the great labour of thy Son (who sought after me in fatigue and redeemed me by the suffering of the Cross) should be spent in vain. Amen.

SATURDAY.

O holy Mary ! true light which was separated from darkness ! O true seventh day, which commenced from the morning of original justice, and was never terminated by the evening of any sin. O happy Mary ! " He who created thee, has rested in the tabernacle of thy womb." Pray thy beloved Son, that when my days shall fail, he may receive me into his eternal tabernacles.

O holy Mary, Mother of God ! as thou didst receive back thy Son when presented in the temple, from the arms of holy Simeon, so may thy Son who has redeemed me by his most sacred Cross, receive me at thy intercession in the hour of death !

O holy Mary ! as the Mother consoles her child, so do thou bring me assistance on the bed of my grief, and although I am not worthy that thy Son should enter under the roof of my heart,

nevertheless, beseech him to descend with his grace, and heal my soul.

O holy Mary! most sweet Virgin! as in the hour of thy death, thy soul melted away, when thy beloved said to thy heart: "Enter into the joy of thy Son:" so intercede for me, that Jesus Christ my Redeemer may not desert me in my agony, that fighting bravely for eternal glory I may deserve to hear; "Come, thou shalt be crowned."

O Holy Mary, mild Queen of Heaven! as thy Son when suspended on the Cross, commended the Mistress to the servant, the Mother to the disciple, saying: "Woman behold thy Son," and from that hour John received her as his Mother; so commend me in the hour of my death to thy Son, that he may receive me for His servant, and that the Angel of the Lord may guard my soul on its return to its Creator.

O holy Mary! as the heavenly Father, when his Son being made man, was born of thee, commended Him to thy care, so in like manner I commend my body and soul to thee, when I am about to depart from this world.

O Holy Mary! as the most Sacred Trinity received amidst the joy of the whole Court of Heaven, thy most pure spirit at its departure from the body, so by thy intercession may my God receive my soul; the Father who created it, the Son who redeemed it, the Holy Ghost who sanctified it by baptism. O clement! O pious! O sweet Virgin Mary!

O Holy Mary, sweetness of my soul! Fountain of Graces, and Well of living waters! I commend myself, now and at the hour of my death, to the bowels of thy pity. In thy mercy I trust and hope; and when my heart shall have left me, my strength failed

me, and my days be in groaning, bring me assistance from the holy place, and from Sion, protect me. Be thou to me a tower of strength from the face of the enemy.

O Holy Mary, most agreeable daughter of the Prince of glory, who being clad with light, as with a garment, enlightenest the whole heaven, present me to the eternal Father, reconcile me to thy Son, pray for me to the Holy Ghost. Permit me not, O Pious Mother! to be separated from thee: defend me from the malignant enemy, and receive me in the hour of death.

O Holy Mary! most glorious Virgin, most loving Mother of Christ! when my tongue shall cleave to my throat, and I am about to be brought down into the dust of death, commend my body and my soul, my life and spirit, my heart and members, and all my senses and strength, to thy Son, that he may receive my last sigh, in which with a contrite heart and soul, I shall say, JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH. Amen.

Spiritual Maxims for June.

1.

The imperfections of a community generally spring from the negligence of the superior; and in like manner, the good conduct of the members depends on the regularity of their head, and on the wisdom of his government.

2.

A soul that is always guided by the Spirit of God becomes capable of doing extraordinary things.

3.

Jesus Christ has taught us by his example, how much glory is given to God by sufferings, and how greatly they contribute to our sanctification.

4.

Meekness is a virtue most efficacious for gaining souls to God.

5.

Pride never makes a truce. It attacks in various ways the greatest saints as long as they remain on earth. It tempts one to indulge in vain complacency on the good he has done; another to glory in his learning; a third to consider himself most perfect; a fourth the most constant and firm.

6.

The tempter makes use of the rigour and severity of certain persons to torment souls in a cruel manner, and make them fall from one precipice to another.

7.

We should behold but God alone in all men, and honour the Divine perfections. This reflection will fill us with love and respect for all those with whom we may be brought in contact.

8.

Prayer is a great book for preachers; it is from thence they will draw in the eternal word, the truths of which it is the source, those holy truths which they are commanded to announce to the people.

9.

It is our own will which injures and corrupts our actions, our labours, our penances, &c. Hence that we may not lose our time and labour, let us never act through natural emotions, interest, inclination, humour, or caprice, but accustom ourselves to do the will of God in all things.

10.

We should never abandon, on account of difficulties, any enterprise that we have commenced after due reflection.

11.

We should always profess to act according to the doctrine of Jesus Christ, who can never deceive us, and never conform to the maxims of the world, which are always deceitful.

12.

The practice of prayer is as necessary for the ministers of the altar as his arms are to a soldier.

13.

Has not Jesus Christ commanded us to imitate his meekness above all things? It is, therefore, with this virtue we must

approach him, and conduct others to him.

14.

We cannot be guilty of an excess in true hope, which can never be too great, because it is founded on the goodness of God and the merits of Jesus Christ.

15.

We should not confine our attention to the consideration of the exterior, or the natural talents of a poor peasant, or a poor woman. They are so gross and earthly, that you will hardly find reason in them. But if you behold them by the light of faith, you will see in these poor people the true representatives of the Son of God.

16.

Those to whom God has confided the charge of assisting the poor, should experience as much pleasure in procuring them relief as a tender father does when he presents some consoling gift to his children.

17.

A superior should principally aim at a constant communication with Jesus Christ by means of prayer. In this book he will find all the instruction he requires.

18.

That which we have patiently in any good work we have undertaken, merits for us the necessary graces to ensure its success.

19.

Be as condescending as you please, provided God be not offended.

20.

When a superior, preacher, or professor, relies too much on his own prudence or knowledge, God withdraws from him and permits him to act alone. All his attempts in such a case will end in nothing. God acts in this manner to convince him of his insufficiency, and to teach him by his own experience, that all his talents are nothing, without the assistance of heaven.

21.

Prudence is a virtue most necessary for us, if we wish to accommodate ourselves to the situation and dispositions of those with whom we have to deal. It teaches us the greatest circumspection in our words and actions, and the avoidance of everything that may do the least injury to others, or wound charity or decency.

22.

Vain complacency is the poison of good works, if it enter into them. It is a plague, which infects the most holy actions, and makes us speedily forget God. It is a vice most fatal to all progress in a spiritual life and perfection.

23.

He that will have loved the poor during his life, will behold the moment of death approach without fear.

24.

Zeal for the salvation of souls is only an ardent charity, an inflamed desire of making them arrive at eternal bliss, by fidelity in the service of God.

25.

God does not require bodily strength from us, but a sincere disposition to seize on the opportunities of serving him according to his will, and his designs in our regard; he requires a real desire of suffering, even martyrdom, if it were his good pleasure.

26.

It would be better to be cast into the fire with our hands and feet tied, than to perform our actions with the design of pleasing men.

27.

In order to acquire a solid habit of any virtue, it is necessary to form good resolutions, practical resolutions on the particular acts of this virtue. It is necessary also that we be faithful in executing them; without this, no matter what delight or facility we may experience in meditation, we are not really virtuous, we are so only in imagination.

28.

He that labours for the salvation of his neighbour with pleasure, and for the glory of God alone, and who follows in this respect the example of Jesus Christ, may be assured that God will crown his labours with the happiest results.

29.

A superior should choose a suitable

moment correcting for those who abuse his patience. He should reprove them with a meekness undisturbed by any movement of passion, and exhibiting only a true zeal for the good of all in correcting those that are culpable:

30.

Condescension in evil or dangerous matters is not a virtue; it is a weakness and a disorder.

ALPHABET

OF THE

WISDOM OF THE CROSS.

“Jesus said to all: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross daily, and follow me.” Luke ix. 23.

Admire, adore, and love Jesus on the Cross. John xix. 25. Heb. vii.

Bless the authors of your Crosses. Luke vi. 28.

Crucify your flesh, your vices, and your passions with Christ on the Cross. Gal. v. 24.

Demand of God, the science and love of the Cross, Ephes. iii. 18, 19. I Corinth. ii. 2.

Esteem those who patiently bear their Crosses. James i. 12.

Familiarize yourself with the Cross. I Peter ii. 20, 21.

Glory in keeping silence and secrecy in what regards your Crosses. Matt. xxvii. 14.

Have in view, when you clothe your-

self, Jesus stripped of his garments and led to the Cross. John xix. 23, 24.

Imitate the disposition of Jesus, carrying his Cross. Heb. xii. 2.

Joy and gladden at being able to throw all your anxiety and sorrow into the heart of Jesus on the Cross. 1 Pet. 5. 7

Keep in remembrance, the last words and submission of Jesus on the Cross. John xix. 30.

Look frequently into holy Scripture, it is the book of the Cross. John v. 39. Apoc. i. 3.

Meditate on the maxims of Jesus on the Cross. John xix. 6, 7, 8. Col. iii. 16.

Nourish your body in order to glorify God—and so to die a true disciple of the Cross. Cor. x. 31.

Open your hearts to the wisdom of the Cross. Acts xvi. 14.

Prepare yourselves always for fresh Crosses. Acts xiv. 21.

Quit all things except the Cross. Luke ix. 23.

Rejoice and thank God for all your Crosses. Matt. v. 12. James i. 2.

Sacrifice all to follow Jesus dying on the Cross. Luke ix. 23. 1 Peter ii. 21.

Tremble, when you are without Crosses. Heb. xii. 6.

Use creatures to lead you to the Cross. 1 Cor. vii. 31.

Vary your occupations that you may be the better able to pray with Jesus on the Cross. Luke xxiii. 24, 46.

Watch and be vigilant, that you may be always ready to die with Jesus on the Cross. Mark xiii. 33.

Exile every thing, except the Cross. 1 Peter iv. i. 2.

Yield not to idleness, it will be a bar to your perseverance on the Cross. 1 Peter i 7.

Zeal is consummated on the Cross. 1 John xix. 30.

And all good, honour, and glory succeed the death of a Christian on the Cross. Phillip ii. 8, 9.

Poetry:

A HYMN

TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

Ave Maria! most humbly I hail thee;

Thou Queen of the Angels look down upon me.

And, oh! when the heralds of sin shall assail me,

Then, Refuge of Sinners, I fly unto thee.

Ave Maria! while in danger I stray,

An exile from heaven, a pilgrim of woe;

Let virtue direct me aright in the way,

And Mater Maria, assist me below.

Ave Maria! when expiring I lie,

Exhausted with illness, and gasping for breath,

When life, like a culprit, is waiting to die,

Oh! lend me thy aid in the terrors of death.

Oh! "Mother of Mercy," thy face do not hide;

Thou "Mirror of Justice" and "Star of the Sea."

Oh! Virgin most clement of sinners, the guide;

In death I implore thine assistance for me.

To thee, as my advocate, I humbly bend,

Ave Maria, most tender and mild,

Be thou my mother, oh! be thou my friend.

Oh! Mother of mercy, look down on thy child.

Ave Maria! most humbly I hail thee;

Thou Queen of the Angels, look down upon me.

And, oh! when temptation and vice shall assail me,

Then, Refuge of sinners, I fly unto thee.

