

not meant to know evil in this way. We should not know evil by tasting it and practising it, but only as something that is foreign to us, as we know a deadly poison.

(4) The power to choose between obedience and disobedience, of doing this or that, is called free-will. Animals are moved simply by their inclinations. A cat may be trained not to steal meat for fear of punishment, but man must deliberately choose between actions not according as they are pleasant or unpleasant in their results, but as they are right or wrong. To have control over one's will in this way is to be like God. To be the slaves of passion or desire is to put ourselves beneath the rest of creation which we have been told to rule. Happiness in Eden depended upon obeying God's command. Sin blots out the presence of God—hides God from us—illustrate by the words on the Cross: "Eli, Eli, lama sabacthani." The cleansed man enjoys God's presence, feels it and knows it. There is no happiness so great as that of the faithful communicant, who knows the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and eats then of the tree of life; that brings us back all the blessings of Eden. The man who practices "the presence of God" by frequent meditation and by constant communion with God in prayer, and, above all, by regularly and frequently attending the Blessed Sacrament to worship Jesus, really present in a heavenly manner, lives the eternal life here on earth. He is in a paradise and walks with God every day.

March 12th.

(First Sunday in Lent.)

Subject —

SIN'S ENTRANCE INTO THE WORLD.

Main Scripture Reference: Genesis iii.

Explain the story. Note "Ye hath God said" means "has God really said?" The Serpent suggests that God is envious. Eve's first mistake was in listening to such a suggestion. She knew God's love and friendship—she should have refused to hear the Serpent

at all, when he spoke disparagingly of God; she forsook God's friend-ship and allied herself to the Serpent because his wicked suggestion aroused her lust for the evil thing. She believed God was a liar and that the Serpent was telling the truth, because she longed for what God had forbidden. The majority of people who reject the truth and refuse to believe in God now, do so for the same reason. It is convenient to accept Christ as Master because He demands an obedience which would include abstaining from the evil indulgences we are fond of. It is more pleasant, for the time being, to reject His claims and satisfy our lusts. The main reason why young people fight shy of Confirmation and why people neglect their Communion, is that they are not willing to live a life consistent with an open confession of Christ. The Devil constantly suggests to us, when we want to do anything that God says is wrong, that God is trying to deprive us of something good. He tells young people and old people that the restraints on our bodies which Christ puts upon us, which our Godparents have promised we would observe, which we are asked at Confirmation to acknowledge, and which are expected of us if we make a confession of Christ before men, that these restraints are too severe—"Has God really said?"—he tries to persuade us that these restrictions are unnecessary and if the forbidden tree is there why not eat of it and be "free." Christ, on the other hand, tells us: "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light." To accept the "wages of sin" from the Devil is to die, but to be a slave of God is to be perfectly free and that is true life. God does not prohibit anything that is really good for us. We are called upon as Eve was called upon to choose whether we will trust God "Whose service is perfect freedom," ("cui servare est regnare.") or trust the Devil and become his slaves. These Latin words really mean "to be a slave of God is to be a king." If Eve had obeyed God she would have overcome the tempter and been a Queen—she obeyed the Serpent and became a slave. "It shall bruise thy head, etc." This passage is called the protevangelium—the first gospel—because in its mystical meaning it foretells the victory of Christ over Satan. Eve sinned first in distrusting God's love; wrong ideas of God are at the bottom of many sins, hence the importance of a right faith. Eve was not content with ruining herself, but she offered the forbidden fruit to Adam as well. Sin is not merely an offence against God; it always results in some way in injury to others. When one member of the body suffers or sins, the health of the whole body is involved. Never say "If I do wrong, it concerns only myself." Adam's sin consisted in listening to Eve's temptation when he knew God had forbidden them to touch the fruit. Human love is a gift of God—the love of a man for his wife is a type of Christ's love for the Church, but when a man loves his wife or anyone more than he loves God, and disobeys God to please her, he commits the same sin as Adam. Matthew x. 37, Luke xiv. 26.

March 19th.

(2nd Sunday in Lent.)

Subject —

HOW TO FOLLOW GOD OUR GUIDE. ABRAHAM.

Main Scripture Reference: Genesis xxii.

Tell briefly the story of Abraham's life. Terah who lived in Ur of the Chaldees—Lower Babylonia—had three sons, Abram, Nahor and Haran—Haran had a son, Lot, and died: Abram married Sarai, Nahor married Milcah (Lot's sister); the family left Ur of the Chaldees, intending to go to Canaan—they stayed on the way at Haran—Terah died, and Haran, Abram and Sarai, and his nephew Lot, came on to Canaan. The stories of the patriarchs are traditions written down at a later time. The narrator (whether Moses or someone else) ascribes the choice of providence of God. God wished to raise up a people to whom He might reveal a fuller measure of truth. Abram, brought up among polytheists, is taught to worship the one true God. God appeared to Abram as he worshipped under