

The Angel of Purgatory.

HOW MANY SWEET REMINISCENCES THIS TITLE
RECALLS TO A CHRISTIAN MIND.

PURGATORY.

So near the gate
Of Heaven's encircling radiant wall.
So near that gleams of glory fall,
Upon the Souls in Justice thrall—
The captives wait.

They wait until
The mystic searching flame consumes
Each fruit of ill, and sweet perfumes
Of Purity's celestial blooms
Their being fill.

'Ah, hear ye not
The anguished echo of their cries?
'Tis borne on every breeze that sighs
Its miserere to the skies—
"Pity our lot!"

"Release! Release!
From molten bars and flaming screen
That glow a fiery mass between
Soul-viewed and the vision seen
In realms of peace."

"We long to turn
Unto the Sacred Heart's caress
And His dear Mother's; e'er to bless
With Angel throngs, Love's tenderness—
In exile yearns.

"True hearts on earth,
Not tears, but charity's soft dew,
Sweet alms of prayer, we beg of you,
And Calvary's Sacrifice anew—
Our ransom's worth."

Catherine M. Sweeney.

GOD'S ACRE.

Various names are given the burial place of Christians. The name graveyard, which is the most common, scarcely requires explanation. Churchyard was the name given such burial places on account of their proximity to the Church. The word cemetery is of Greek origin and signifies place of sleep or place of rest, and is certainly a very appropriate name. But of all the various names given to Christian burial grounds, we can think of none more beautifully proper and significant,

than the name, invented by mediæval piety and theology—"Godsacre." The psalmist says that the heavens are the Lord's but the earth he has given to the children of men.

Yet on earth also God has reserved a spot for Himself, has blessed and sanctified it for His holy purposes. As men possess fields and meadows, acres and gardens, so is God possessor of an acre on earth, and the very name proves His proprietorship thereof. Man's acres are not left to lie fallow but are improved, cultivated, planted and made to yield a profitable harvest to their possessor. Neither does God leave His acre unimproved, but sows it with a choice seed and makes it yield a great harvest. The seed is a most wonderful and extraordinary seed and it develops into a glorious, golden, eternal fruit. No acre of man yields a harvest so certain, so abundant and so precious as is the harvest of Godsacre.

Which is this wonderful seed, that God sows into His acre? This seed is the bodies of His saints, the mortal remains of the children of His Holy Church. It is a chosen seed and none other may hope to enter the soil of Godsacre. The faithful Catholic alone has claim to a resting place in this holy land.

As the seed must decay in order to develop its germs and attain to a new life, so this seed, the Christian body is destined to decay and dissolve into dust and earth. Only then will it be enabled to develop into new life, only then will its germ sprout and grow and produce a golden fruit for eternal life.

The natural seed decays and rises to life again, grows and produces fruit according to the laws and by the powers of nature, with which God has endowed it. The holy seed in Godsacre rises from decay and corruption to a new, a heavenly and glorious life by the supernatural powers, which God has given