

and stress which one gives to the assertion of truth. The clients of Saint Anne will be grateful to us for quoting these passages, a feeble echo of the piety of the East towards a loved mother.

St John Damascene, in his sixth and seventh homilies on the Nativity, says that Mary is the daughter of grace more than of nature, that we are indebted for possessing her to the prayers and holiness of her parents. Let us quote the whole page :

"Who was the father of this virginal stem, who was her mother ? Anne and Joachim, glorious couple, united by the Word Himself, whose union was more divine than all others ; since their offspring is of priceless value, how could the stem that bears it not be worthy of it ? Now, that magnificent stem, issued from a holy root, seemed unable to produce its fruit. But " the just cried, and the Lord heard them ; and delivered them out of all their troubles." King David had thus predicted in his divinely inspired song. The just cried, did he say, and it seems to me that in these words he speaks as the interpreter of all the human race..... The just cried, they have claimed the fruit of their union and a more perfect manifestation of God.

" Adonai, Lord God of Hosts, Thou art aware of the shame of our barrenness, Thou knowest in what affliction it lowers us. Look favorably on the lowliness and humility of thy servants, grant them the object of their desires, and they will offer thee their gift as an homage. Then the God who is quick to pity and slow to punish heard their prayer, He gave them her who bears the name of Mary, who became for us a splendid and unspeakable compensation for the unhappy Eve.

" Let every creature, therefore, rejoice on this day, and celebrate with transports of joy the holy deliverance of the Blessed Anne ! She has given to the world the Treasure of all riches ; no created power may deprive her of them. By endowing mankind