

fore their eyes, and which spoke to them and third, a marble box, containing among other relics two teeth of S. Peter, which Pope Calistine III. deposited there in the old church in 1194, and which, under Sixtus V., in 1588, June 29th, were transferred into the present church.

Year 69.—After the outbreak of the Jewish war Vespasian, the commander in chief of the Jewish forces, consulted a certain Basilides on Mount Carmel, who, through the "oracle" (thus the pagan reporters style the oratory) gave him the answer that he would obtain all his wishes, and rule over many people. When, on the following year, Jerusalem fell, and the Jewish people were killed or sold into slavery, Vespasian and his son Titus treated the Carmelites with consideration and did not molest them. But their houses near the cenacle and near the golden gate were destroyed with the city, the inhabitants having fled to Pella.

Year 83.—The chapel, dedicated to the Bl. Virgin, near the fountain of Elias on Mount Carmel, which had existed since 38, was dilapidated. Hence the Carmelites raised a new church on the top of the mountain on the spot where Elias had seen the little cloud rising from the sea. It was naturally dedicated again to Mary, and its principal ornament was the picture of S. Luke. This picture was in later times brought to Constantinople, from whence a Carmelite monk, Eutymius, carried it to Bologna, where it is to-day. An authentic copy of it is in the S. Maria Traspontina, the mother house of the order.

(There are a good many pictures of the Bl. Virgin, which are claimed to be the painting of S. Luke. It is possible that S. Luke, to satisfy the pious desires of the Christians, painted a number of copies himself, otherwise they would be but copies of the original, made by other painters.)

The chronicles of this year mention a certain Abbas, a very saintly hermit of Mount Carmel, who for a time was instructor in spiritual matters of Josephus Flavius. The latter, however, did not persevere.

Years 138-139.—At this time a savage war of extermination was raised by Emperor Adrian against the Jews, who had

gathered again in Palestine and raised a rebellion against Rome. The fate of the Carmelites there is described by Peter Sarzacene thus: Ours attempted to flee and like beasts they were hiding in mountain caves, excavations, deserts and solitudes, unknown to men, but known to God. The blood of many holy martyrs was shed. The monasteries were levelled to the ground, or polluted by their new inhabitants, churches were profaned or thrown down. And not enough, all divine services and loud praises of God were forbidden, and the gathering of our religious impossible. Many and terrible persecutions ours have suffered from the pagans, and intolerable evils they saw,—hunger, thirst, cold and sickness. And never was the vineyard of Carmel more depleted than by Aelius Hadrian, the most inimical emperor against Jews and Christians.

One of the Carmelites, then driven into exile, was Fructuosus, who in after years was made bishop of Tarragona by Pope Sixtus.

Years 142-53.—During these years the papal throne was occupied by S. Telesphore, who, according to the chronicles of the order, was a Carmelite hermit. He was probably born in Calabria.

There is mention made of the Abbot Frontonius, who with 70 followers, left the towns of Egypt, and built a monastery in the desert. As he is prior to S. Anthony or S. Paul, the hermits, he could belong only to the one monastic institution existing at that time,—the Essenians or Carmelites.

Year 188.—S. Narcissus, Bishop of Jerusalem, an hermit from Mount Carmel, died at the age of 116.

Year 190.—S. Serapion, Bishop of Antioch, was glorious. He was an anchorite of the prophetic order.

Year 240.—The Roman martyrology on Oct. 19th, incidentally mentions the martyrdom of 7 monks in Egypt. Hundreds of others of the Elianic institute perished in the savage persecutions of the Christians, but their names are not known, the records being destroyed by the persecutors.

Year 250.—This year a great persecution broke out in Alexandria in Egypt, during which many of the Carmelites were slain; others found refuge in the de-

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