

keys of a piano and the *Hail Mary* of the Rosary, but it is very useful to bear it in mind as an answer to the fault found with this devotion for its constant repetition and monotony. The keys have each their distinct notes, which when, combined, produce melody so varied and harmony so rich that the ear can never tire of them. So it is with the *Hail Marys*: every one that is piously said must awaken different sentiments in the heart, and when woven together into a crown, they naturally create religious impressions so new and so elevating that it must be a dull mind indeed that would complain of their monotony. There can be no monotony in saying the same thing over and over again day after day to those we love, nor any dread of fatiguing others by repeating what we know they are glad to hear. An agreeable salutation can never become monotonous. Every new mood in which we find ourselves and every new set of circumstances lend a new meaning and force to our words, which those who know our hearts can detect and appreciate. Our Lady knows our hearts, and pleased as she was with the angel's salutation, the first time she heard it as a message from on high, she cannot but be pleased each time that we repeat it in memory of the great honour paid her by the Almighty and in testimony of our desire to know more of her great dignity.

A great master of eloquence used to say that the best way to grasp a truth, and to make others grasp it also, is to repeat it over and over again until its sound and sense becomes familiar to our faculties. If this be true of ordinary simple truths in the natural order, it is true *a fortiori* of the most sublime truths in the supernatural order. When such truths are stated in the most concise form, repetition becomes doubly necessary as well to impress them more deeply on our minds, as to make us dwell with more leisure and with more active interest on