



Written for
THE CANADIAN MESSENGER

A ROYAL PEACEMAKER.

THE parents of the great saint and princess, Elizabeth of Portugal, were Peter III, king of Aragon, and Constance, daughter of Manfred, king of Sicily. She was born in the year 1271, and at her baptism received her name, in memory of her aunt, the famous Elizabeth of Hungary.

The little princess' mission, even in her cradle, was that of "peacemaker" for the family discussions which existed at her birth between her father and grandfather, James I., were amicably settled and never resumed. Her grandfather James took little Elizabeth under his special care, surrounding her by persons whose counsel and example were to implant in her soul a practical faith and a love of solid virtue. Our little saint corresponded admirably to the desires of father and grandfather, for at the age of eight, she delighted in assisting at the offices of the church, in the practice of bodily mortifications, and seemed able to suppress every sally of self will, and master all her inclinations. From her touching compassion for the poor, it was easy to presuppose that she had inherited many of her saintly aunt's characteristics, and that she would one day become the mother of the needy and afflicted.

Elizabeth had but attained her twelfth year when ambassadors came from Naples and England to ask her hand or the respective heirs of the two kingdoms. But Denis.