

lowed its Rule. Why then refuse the daughter of the Count of Toulouse, that which had not been denied to the daughter of the King of Bohemia?

At the news of the decision made by the holy General, Joanna could not restrain her joy. She saw the fulfilment of her dearest wishes. She went immediately to the altar to kneel before the Blessed Sacrament and the image of Our Lady, and poured forth her heart in the sight of God in a sweet canticle of love and thanksgiving.

She promised her Divine Master to redouble her fervor for her own sanctification, and that of her neighbor. She hastened to assume the brown habit of Carmel, and to make her profession with solemn vows before the Bishop, and the Superior General of the Order.

While her cousin Jane reigned over the domains of her ancestors, with the Count of Poitiers, her august husband, she took the veil of the humble servants of Mary. Thus she made known to the world her firm resolution to renounce all that belonged to it, and all human alliances. She wished alone to have Jesus Christ for her Lord and Master. Poverty and self-renunciation, and the absence of all the pleasure of the senses, were to be her only inheritance.

Not having a material cloister, the veil with which she covered her face, served as a mystical cloister, behind which she might shelter herself, without leaving her family, to protect the virtue of holy purity, so frail and delicate. It would be for her the "Garden enclosed," in which, hidden from the eyes of men, the most pure and fragrant lily of virginity might be cultivated.

Now she avoided frivolous companies more than ever and despised the vain adornment and the pomp with which

persons of her rank and sex were pleased to ornament their miserable bodies.

#### CHAPTER VI.

BLESSING OF THE MONASTERY, AND CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE CARMELITES IN THE CITY OF TOULOUSE. LIFE OF ST. JOANNA AFTER HER ADMISSION INTO THE CARMELITE ORDER. SHE FOUNDS THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE HOLY SCAPULAR.

The blessing of the monastery, and the consecration of the Church of the Carmelites, in Toulouse, took place in the year 1264, Saint Simon Stock being present at this splendid ceremony. The foundation of this house had been miraculously revealed to him.

Raymond of Falgar was the consecrating prelate. The chronicle tells us that, during the rite, he was surrounded by the council-men of the city and by an immense concourse of the people.

After the death of Raymond, the Catholics were no more molested or oppressed. The heretics and the Jews were content to remain inactive.

These happy results likewise made Joanna happy; for the religious and political pacification of her beloved country was dear to her heart. But, let us not forget that she was a Carmelite nun. Let us glance at her interior life, and her relations with her neighbors. To assist at the divine Office; to hear the eloquent sermons delivered; to help her friends, the poor; to work, unceasingly, by her prayers, by her exhortations, and by her charities for the conversion of Jews and heretics was the daily occupation of this pious recluse. She was continually occupied.

To visit the Church of the good