

LIFE OF ST. JOANNA OF TOULOUSE, CARMELITE NUN.

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CHAPTER III.

ARRIVAL OF THE CARMELITES AT TOULOUSE. THEIR ESTABLISHMENT AT FERETRA. LATER IN THE JEWISH QUARTER. BULL OF CONFIRMATION OF THIS LATTER ESTABLISHMENT. APPROBATION OF CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES. GREAT AND NUMEROUS MIRACLES WROUGHT BY THE IMAGE OF THE VIRGIN BROUGHT FROM MOUNT CARMEL.



SAINT JOANNA had now entered on her twenty-fourth year. This was in 1238. In the archives of the monastery of Grands Carmes of Toulouse we find an

old manuscript, composed in Latin in the year 1320 by Rev. Fathe. Trenqua. From this we quote :

"In the year 1237 the Reverend Father Alanus called together a general Chapter of our holy Order on Mount Carmel. At this Chapter permission was given to the Carmelite monks to pass over to Europe from Asia in order to escape the persecutions by the Saracenes of the Orient."

"In the year 1238, Brother William Anesias, a born Toulousian, together with six brothers, embarked for France. They took with them the image of the Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel, which, during their voyage, delivered them from a multitude of dangers. In the same year, at the beginning of the month of July, these monks arrived at Toulouse, where Brother Raymond, of the order of the Preaching brethren, received them with great kindness and gave them for their establishment, in

the neighborhood of the city a place in the quarter which was called Le Feretra and which to-day is known as the Faubourg St. Michel. There they built a little church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and blessed by the same bishop. There the image of the Blessed Virgin became famous by its numerous miracles.

"In the year 1241, the walls of the belfry, of the cloister and of the cells collapsed. The same catastrophe was repeated in the following year 1242. In the year 1242 a newly converted Jew of Toulouse gave his house to our brethren, on account of the frequent apparitions of the Virgin, by which he had been favored in his garden. Having heard of this miracle some citizens of Toulouse wished to erect at their own expense a church and a monastery at the same place where the Blessed Virgin had appeared to the Jew."

"In the year 1246, four years after the work had begun, the councilmen of the city opposed the completion of the church. This opposition lasted to the year 1247. In the year 1263 the construction of the church was completed. In the year 1264 the brethren were installed in the new monastery by the people, the councilmen and by the Bishop of Toulouse, Raymond, of the