

knowledge of her place in the gospels, close their hearts, their homes, their churches to her blessed influence and presence ? Not so with Catholics. We follow the Bible. In the very first words of Genesis the Woman and the Child are put together in prophecy ; in the fulfilment of the prophecy the Mother and the Son are kept united. In Catholic doctrine and devotion they will not be divided.

The Bible next shows us Jesus and Mary together at the ceremony of the Purification.

" There was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon ; and the Holy Ghost was in him. And when his parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His Mother : Behold this Child is set for the fall and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted ; and thine own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed."—St. Luke, ii, 25-35.

What a sword of grief, beloved brethren, pierced the Blessed Mother's soul in the passion and death of her Divine Son ! And can we not easily realize that so small part of the bitterness of that soul-piercing sword of grief was caused by the knowledge of the ingratitude of men who would put asunder what God had joined together, and who, while professing to honor the Son, are so prompt in dishonoring the Mother ?

The adoration of Jesus, by the Wise Men of the East affords further scriptural evidence of the union of Son and Mother.

" There came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying, where is He that is born King of the Jews ? For we have seen His star and have come to adore Him. And entering into the house they found the Child with Mary His Mother, and falling down they adored Him ; and opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts ; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having received an answer in sleep that they should not return to Herod, they went back another way into their own country."—St. Matt. ii, 1-11.

Here once more is the model for Catholic devotion. Like the Wise Men we find Jesus and Mary together ; like them we fall down to ADORE HIM. But we do not fall so low as to fail to understand that His Mother is also there.

The protection of the Almighty over Mother and Son is set forth in the biblical account of the Flight into Egypt.