

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA.

PATRONESS OF THE ADORERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD.

" In the Blood you find the fire."

ST. CATH. OF SIENA.

(Continuation.)

ON the thirteenth of September 1376, the doors of the pontifical palace opened suddenly.

The pope, followed by fifteen cardinals, was preparing to descend to the Rhone where a galley awaited him, when his aged father appeared all in tears, uttering heart-rending cries. Up to that moment he had not believed in the possibility of his son's departure. Transported with grief, he extended himself upon the threshold, saying to his son.

You will pass first over my body.

God has said, answered Gregory : " Thou shalt walk upon the asp and the basilisk ; the lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet," and he passed over.

The mule which they presented to the pope became refractory and refused to carry him which seemed a bad omen.

Avignon loved the popes. The citizens had determined to retain Gregory even at the price of a riot. Nevertheless, the crowd gave way. Ruled by an irresistible impression, they left the way free for the Roman Church returning to the eternal city.

In the road of Marseilles, twenty galleys waited at anchor, commanded by the grand master of Saint John of Jerusalem's order.

On leaving the port, the fleet was assailed by a frightful tempest. A wave carried off the bishop of Luni. It took sixteen days to reach Genoa.

The pope disembarked broken with sufferings. His courtiers and the cardinals entreated him to turn back. The most sinister rumors from Rome reached the pope, where the emissaries of the revolution agitated themselves at his approach.

Happily, Catherine had just arrived at Genoa by way of land.