

## Mary "performed all things according to the Law of the Lord."



MARY made her offerings, and "performed all things according to the law of the Lord." For the spirit of Jesus was a spirit of obedience; and although the brightness of angelic innocence was dull beside the whiteness of her purity, she obeyed the law of God in the ceremony of her purification, the more readily as it was in fact a concealment of her graces. But she bore also in her arms her true turtle-dove, to do for Him likewise "according to the custom of the law." She placed Him in the arms of the aged priest, Simeon, as she has done since in vision to so many of the saints: and the full light broke on Simeon's soul. Weak with age, he threw his arms around his God. He bore the whole weight of his Creator, and yet stood upright. The sight of that Infant Face was nothing less than the glory of heaven. The Holy Ghost had kept His promise. Simeon had seen, nay was at that moment handling, "the Lord's Christ." O blessed priest! worn down with age, wearied with thy long years of waiting for the consolation of Israel," kept alive in days which were out of harmony with thy spirit, even as St. John the Evangelist was after thee, surely He who made thee, He who is so soon to judge thee, He whom thou art folding so fondly in thy arms, must have sent the strength of His omnipotence into thy heart, else thou wouldst never have been able to bear the flood of strong gladness which at that moment broke in upon thy spirit! Look at Him again. See those red lips so soon to speak thy sentence of eternal life. Light thy heart at the fire of those little eyes. It is the Christ! Oh, how much pro-