

## An Inundation Checked.



URING the first half of the XVII, century and probably about the year 1630, according to tradition, there occurred at Canosio, a little borough of the valley of Macra, in the diocese of Saluzzo, a marvellous event by which God wished to strengthen faith in the real presence, not only among the inhabitants of the village, but also among those of the neighbouring countries infected by the heresy of Calvin. A vow then made by the entire population and still rigorously observed to-day confirms the miracle.

A few days after the solemn celebration of the feast of *Corpus Christi*, one night, in the midst of thunder and lightning, a terrific storm swept over the peaceful valley : the rain fell so heavily and for such a length of time that each mountainous stream was changed into an unruly torrent, while a deep gap at the base of the rocks overlooking Canosio became an impetuous current carrying death and destruction in its course. The inhabitants on seeing their poor homes in constant danger of being submerged by the angry waters or demolished by the falling rocks, were distracted between fear and anxiety. They realized the impotence of human aid and knew their only hope of succor was from above, from Him whom the winds and the waves obey.

Meanwhile, the Pastor fully alive to the imminent danger rang the church-bell to gather his flock together in the sacred edifice. He urgently exhorted them to put their confidence in God, to implore pardon for their sins and to make a vow which they and their descendants would ever hold sacred, that of sanctifying as a Sunday the octave of *Corpus Christi*. Tears of contrition and firm promises of amendment responded to his fervent appeal, hope re-took possession of all hearts and the vow was unanimously ratified. Then the venerable Pastor opened the tabernacle door and placing the pure white