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read their hidden meaning. It is thus that every detail, even the most insignificant, often has some special purpose.

Our aim in this volume has been to explain some of these meanings, so that those who have not studied the matter, and are not artists, can nevertheless understand the most important stories told by the pictures they see. It is a fascinating occupation to trace out every allusion for one's self; but unless a large collection of pictures is available, a long list of paintings where the various symbols can be seen is aggravating to the average reader.

Only a few paintings have therefore been mentioned here, and those are so well known, owing to the manifold reproductions of them, that all can recall them without any effort. It is only when the *story* is clearly understood that the finer and often hidden meaning of the artist can be seen, and that we can best perceive the many lessons besides those of faith, hope, and charity which are taught by most of the pictures of the Virgin and of Christ.

THE END.