

employed, the end that is in view. Special devotions are always manifested exteriorly by definite practices. Mere exterior devotion i.e. the simple performance of a few acts of piety, such as the recital of certain vocal prayers, unaccompanied by, at least, a sincere desire of attaining into devotion, would be false devotion, or rather would be undeserving of the name of devotion, since it would be incapable of producing that affective and effective interior devotedness without which there cannot exist any true devotion.

When our Lord repeated the prophetic words of Isaias : " This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me," and, in another place : " Not every one who saith to me : Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven," he addressed those who limit themselves to purely exterior worship.

In order to make us more clearly understand this doctrine, our Founder, Bishop LaRocque, was in the habit of employing the following comparison : " When two friends are warmly attached to one another, their affection prompts them to give exterior signs of their friendship, and to lend mutual assistance on all occasions. Is it not true that the more ardent their affection, the greater need do they feel of manifesting it exteriorly ? So with devotion : the stronger it is interiorly, the more expansive it is exteriorly, and the greater its need of multiplying or perfecting the signs by which it expresses itself.

Any of the mysteries of the life of our Lord, or even the members of his adorable Humanity, may be made the object of special devotions. The same is true of the Blessed Virgin and the Saints.

§ III.

Practice of this doctrine developed by an example.

To be devout toward a mystery is, in the first place, to consider it, that is to say to look at it from different points of view, for the purpose of acquiring a perfect knowledge of it ; then, to study it attentively, in order to learn its nature. The contemplation of a beautiful object excites admiration, next love, and finally imitation, which is the end and consummation of all true devotion. For