

of that canonization, stand forth the reasons, testimonies of piety, modesty and in bold relief, the major virtue—purity, which merited for him the name “Angelic.” That lily bloomed with a vigor that filled his young life with an aroma of peculiar holiness, which God rendered permanent by blessing him with a double vocation, a call to wear the white robe of the Dominican company and to bend beneath the yoke of Christ’s priesthood. He responded and his sanctity grew till humility, devotion and innocence alone, would have sufficed to place him on God’s altar. But there was more in the sanctity of Thomas. Providence had vaster designs. That extraordinary virtue was to be ordained to the verifying in him of the beatitude which reads: “Blessed are the poor in spirit for they shall see God and the things of God.” Thomas was to be a seer and a prophet. He was to be a thinker, and since ’tis the same soul that thinks and wills, his genius found a mighty auxiliary in that virtue which kept his soul from corruption, that the sublimity of his conceptions might be unimpaired. Thus the very excellence of his visual power, the grandeur of his intellectual achievements, prove the necessity of his moral greatness, and so peremptorily that Pope John XXII. has placed himself on record in these words: “We doubt in no way that Brother Thomas is in glory since his doctrine could not have been without miracle.”

Let us then confine ourselves to the consideration of doctrine and we shall evidently make for sanctity as well. Let us look at St. Thomas, the arch-scientist, the inspired educator, and we shall have a topic of absorbing interest for students and professors.

Christ in His Church is the divinely appointed teacher of nations, and with Christ we include His successors in the chair of Peter. To tell men of God and His law, to explain both, to show how faith and reason mutually support each other, and to guarantee the hope that is in us, such is the Divine right of the Church, nay more, her duty to “enlighten every man that cometh into this world.”

Marvellously she has fulfilled her mission and seen heresy and sophism smash on the granite of her reasonable creed. She has become learned for the salvation of the learned, and fought error on its own ground, taking advantage of the very resources of her