



BLESSED MARGARET MARY.

A FEW CHAPTERS ON HER LIFE COMPILED FOR THE
CANADIAN MESSENGER.

I

MARGARET Mary Alacoque was born at Lhaute-cour, a hamlet in Burgundy, on July 22, 1846. She was the daughter of Claude Alacoque, a judge of the highest integrity. Her godmother Margaret Saint-Amour, the wife of Claude Fautrieres-Corcheval, Seigneur of Verosvres, was the one who seemed to have exercised the greatest influence on her earliest years. She appears to have held her little spiritual daughter very dear, devoting herself, from the time the child could first lisp the holy Names, to her instructions and guidance, and later on, taking her into her own house that she might the more perfectly fulfil her duties towards her.

The child proved an apt and docile pupil. From her very first years she was distinguished by an extraordinary horror of sin and a marked love of prayer and solitude, which drew her frequently to the chapel attached to the chateau. Whenever she could escape from the maid who had charge of her, she flew to this chapel, and there, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, she learned even at the early age of four or five years, the practice of mental prayer. She used to become so absorbed in it as to remain kneeling before the altar for hours, hardly conscious of things external, but imploring incessantly the grace to be able to return His love who was calling her closer union with Himself.