

A PRAYER TO MARY.

Mary my Mother, on thee will I
call;
Thine is forever my heart and my
all;
Listen, I pray, to this sorrowing
heart
From thy bright throne, now thy
comfort impart.

Always thy goodness is ready to
aid,
Whether in sunshine or hovering
shade;
Never withheld was thy generous
hand,
Never did't man in his sorrow dis-
band.

Yearning and waiting for beautiful
May,
Hearts are prepared to receive thy
bright ray;
Grant then, dear Mother, that I,
like the flowers
Blossom forever, beneath thy soft
showers.

—Edwin Ruthven.

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A FRIEND OF CARMEL.

Sketch of St. Francis, from the
masterpiece of his life by Rev. Leo-
pold de Cherance, I.S.F.C.

"God is admirable in all his
works in the least as well as in the
greatest, in the smallest drop of
dew on the leaves of the forest, in
which are reflected the glowing
lights of heaven, as well as in the
vast seas, where thousands of ves-
sels ride majestically with sails un-
furled. He is still more admirable
in His saints, the masterpieces of
His grace, and the ideal of human
nature regenerated, restored, exalted
by the light of the Gospel and
the Blood of Jesus Christ."

These glowing words from the
beautiful "Life," of which we desire
to give some idea to our readers,
seemed a fitting prelude to our lit-
tle sketch or "book-notice." Admir-
able, indeed, are the stars differing
in glory as they differed in grace,

and most consoling to contemplate,
praise, love, and from afar, even
emulate. In St. Francis the var-
ious rays of beauty seem in some
way to combine, and there is a dif-
ficulty in deciding to which of his
natural gifts or supernatural per-
fections we shall apply our reflec-
tions. We see him with the sweet
"Bambino," the little Babe clasped
tenderly in his arms, and again we
hear him mourning amidst the
wooded heights of Alverno and lis-
ten to the pathetic accents "Amor
meus crucifixus est!" The Sacred
Wounds impressed in our Saint
made Him as it were a living cruci-
fix and completed the likeness that
commenced at His birth in a stable
of Assise.

Lofty contemplation, Apostolic
zeal, admirable fortitude, magnan-
imity and courage, combined with
profound humility, sweetness, and
the simplicity of a child, perfected
the work of grace, and love, for
this was the prevailing tint, and
the key-note of his life-long melody,
"Deus meus et omnia!"

Why have we styled him a "Friend
of Carmel?" Because of his connec-
tion with their glorious martyr St.
Angelus, with whom he formed a
most holy friendship when they and
St. Domine met in the chapel
of St. Sixtus at Rome. Be-
cause, also, it was on the 16th
of July, 1228, that the glori-
ous ceremony of our Saint's canon-
ization took place, while Holy
Church was calling on her children
to rejoice, "celebrating a festival in
honor of our Lady of Mt. Carmel."
(We may be forgiven a little digres-
sion here, to remark that the 16th
of July was the birthday of St.
Clare, his illustrious daughter.)
Perhaps it is to be expected that to
an "Enfant" who lives to "make
melodies," there is a special attrac-
tion in the poetic taste and wonder-
ful live of nature we see in the "Ser-
aph of Assisi."

The wild beasts became gentle at
his bidding. The birds, his "little