

of *Massabielle*, which means old rocks. In this wall of gray stones, nature has hollowed a grotto about twelve feet in height and of equal depth. This grotto was the place designated by Providence for the manifestation of the glory and goodness of the Blessed Virgin.

No one ever came to this lonely spot, unless it were some shepherds, who, surprised by bad weather, sought shelter in the grotto. The earth in the cavern was, in fact, very dry.

II.

LITTLE BERNADETTE.

MARIE—Bernarde Soubirons, of Lourdes, to whom we will give her familiar name of BERNADETTE, was, in 1858, a little girl of fourteen, humble amongst the humbler of this world. Her family lived by work and saving, in a poverty, which was little short of misery.

Bernadette was born delicate ; but this frail child hid a treasure which God guarded ; this was her heart, her innocence. At fourteen, Bernadette had not yet made her First Communion. Yet her baptismal innocence remained intact in her soul. She had a horror of evil, and faults committed in her presence pained her. Her sister, three years younger, relates with tenderness and respect, that Bernadette often scolded her for not caring to pray, her abruptness and her rough ways.