

sacred countenance of Him Who was at once her Saviour and her Son ?

If the Precious Blood of Jesus shed on the Cross satisfied the justice of God and blotted out the handwriting of the decree that was against us, is it not a sublime reason for our love and reverence that this saving blood had its source in the heart of Mary, His Mother.

If Jesus was subject to Mary while on earth, and the Bible tells us that He was, does it not follow that He grants the requests she presents to Him in heaven as readily as He obeyed those which she addressed to Him on earth ?

If to be a servant of God will bring us glory such as eye hath not seen nor ear heard, nor hath the heart of man conceived, what must be the glory of her, who was not His servant, but His Mother ?

The Bible picture takes us from the first book of the Old Testament, through the prophecies, through the psalms, to the New Testament, where we read of the Blessed Virgin Mary time after time, and see her always with her Divine Son. In the beginning, in the first pages of Genesis, there was a man, a woman and the serpent, and in the final book of the New Testament, there is a man, a woman and a dragon. The man is the Son of God, the woman is Mary and the dragon is the devil. Always the Bible places Mary in this intimate association with Jesus in the divine scheme of the Redemption of the human race. Immeasurable the distance which separates them inasmuch as He is the Creator, she the creature ; He the Redeemer, she the redeemed. But impossible to conceive of a more intimate union since she is the Mother, He the Son.

We Catholics love and reverence the Blessed Virgin Mary. For us she is supremely beautiful, the Queen of angels and of men, standing next to her Divine Son in the Kingdom of His glory and sympathizing with Him in the great work of the Redemption. Her very name arouses in our hearts the tenderest memories. It was she who showed us in childhood's years the little Jesus of the manger of Bethlehem. Almost the first prayer that we learned at our mother's knees was couched in the words the Angel and St. Elizabeth spoke to her : " Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus."

And when the shadows lengthen and the night comes on, may that same blessed Jesus enable us, if not with failing lips at least with faithful hearts, to utter, " Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen."