

MAY DEVOTION

Great men saying their Beads

It is sometimes said, that the Beads is a devotion only fit for women. You are about to see how true that is: The illustrious Bossuet, one of the greatest geniuses of the time of Louis XIV., not only recited the Rosary assiduously, but also had himself enrolled in the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary, at the Dominican Convent, in the Rue St. Jacques, in Paris, on the 10th of August, 1680. In its train we may range all the institutors or reformers of modern congregations: St. Francis de Sales, St. Vincent de Paul, the Blessed Jean Baptiste de la Salle, the learned Cardinal de Berulle, the pious Olier, founder and first Superior of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, with a crowd of others. Better than that, the kings and great ones of the world have imitated these celebrated men. I can quote for you Edward III., King of England, the Emperor Charles the Fifth., Sigismund and Casimir, King of Poland, St. Louis, Francis the First, Louis XV, Louis XVI., and several other Kings of France who made public professions of that devotion. Father de la Rue, a learned religious of the Company of Jesus, relates that one day being admitted to an audience by Louis XIV., he found him saying his beads. The religious could not help showing his surprise. "You appear surprised," said he King, "to see me saying the Rosary; I glory in saying it; it is a pious custom which I have from the Queen, my mother, and should be sorry to miss a single day without discharging that duty." How beautiful is this! how admirable, Let us not be ashamed, then, of a devotion which has been that of so many great men.—Selected.