

habit, which she offered to him, saying: 'This is the pledge of the privilege granted to thee and to all the Carmelites; he who piously dies wearing this habit, shall be preserved from eternal flames.' This happened on the 16th July, 1251. pp. 8, 9.

"No confraternity has ever received a greater number of approbations from the Sovereign Pontiffs than this of the Scapular. Nineteen Popes have confirmed and approved it by publishing some forty Bulls and Rescripts in its favor. A number of the Popes have been members of the Confraternity. The Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits have been, with the Carmelites, its defenders and propagators. When the devotion was attacked in 1699, Father Aquaviva, the General of the Jesuits, not only defended it, but wished the members of the Society to use and recommend the devotion of the Scapular as one most pleasing to the Blessed Virgin, and most useful to the faithful. In this country, where there were more than forty houses of White Friars, or Carmelites, before the suppression of the monasteries, there was undoubtedly great devotion to our Lady of Mount Carmel. Kings and Queens of England, and of Scotland, (before the apostacy of the sixteenth century), and innumerable multitudes of persons of every condition of life throughout Christendom, have worn, and still wear, the Scapular. In Ireland it has been the comfort and the joy of the people for centuries, especially during the long night of persecution" (pp. 10, 11). We strongly recommend this little manual to all our readers.

In spite of the attacks made upon it by Gallicans and other enemies of the Holy See, in spite of the insinuations of the *Catholic Dictionary*, this absolute reliance remains, and will ever remain, ineradicably fixed in the hearts of the faithful children of the Holy Church. What the *Ecclesia docens* accepts and approves, what Catholic instinct, the unerring touchstone of truth in things spiritual, pronounces to be in accordance with the ways of God's Providence, and what an ever increasing experience confirms and ratifies, cannot be rejected without the greatest peril, except where invincible ignorance excuses.

(4). We have only one fact more to clench our argument. We do not cast it in the

teeth of the authors of the *Catholic Dictionary*, since we believe they wrote before it was known to them. Among the offices lately granted to England by our Holy Father, Pope Leo the Thirteenth, is the office of St. Simon Stock. On the 16th of May Mass is said in his honor in every church of England, and his office recited by every priest throughout the country. The Collect of the Mass and the Lessons for the office have the sanction and approval of the reigning Pope. Now, if ever there was a Ruler of the Church, whose wise and prudent moderation was slow to admit into official records anything to which objection could be taken, it is he who now sits in Peter's chair. If ever there was an earnest advocate of a thorough and searching historical criticism, it is our present Pontiff. Even non-Catholics admit his astonishing prudence, his well-balanced judgment, his scholar-like discrimination, his instinct for historical truth. Already he has given orders for changes in certain Lessons of the Breviary, because the statements made therein were not certain matters of fact. The whole tendency under his Pontificate is to an ever increasing accuracy of historical criticism. We do not say that the Pope makes himself responsible for every statement of fact in a new lesson, but we do say that overwhelming evidence is required to justify the rejection of what is recommended to the faithful with this authority. Now the new Collect for the feast of St. Simon is distinct enough; the Third Lesson of the Second Nocturn of his office is more distinct still. The Collect is as follows: May Thy people, O Lord, dedicated to Thee and Thy Virgin Mother, rejoice in the solemnity of the blessed Simon, and as through him they have obtained a mark of so great protection, so may they attain the gifts of eternal predestination. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, etc. The words of the Lesson are these: As he (Simon) was praying the Blessed Virgin, to distinguish his Order, which rejoiced in bearing her sacred name, from the rest by some special privilege, she herself appeared to him, accompanied by a multitude of angels, holding in her hand the Scapular of the Order, and saying, "This shall be for thee a sign, and for all the Carmelites a special privilege, that he who devoutly dies in this shall not suffer eternal burning."