

APPROBATIONS

THE volume which we now offer to the public, under the title of "*The Admirable Life of the Glorious Patriarch St. Joseph*," is a faithful extract, without change, modification, or alteration, taken *verbatim et literatim* from the celebrated production, "*The Cité Mystique*,"* of Mary of Jesus of Agreda. Hence, all the approbations conferred on the latter work are applicable to this. We subjoin a sketch of these various approbations, of which we guarantee the authenticity, having copied them from the acts of the process for the beatification and canonization of the servant of God, Maria d'Agreda.

1. Approbation of the bishop of the place where this servant of God died in the odor of sanctity, and also of that where the work was published. Bishops (as every one knows) are the judges, in the first instance, of the doctrine of the books which are published in places under their jurisdiction.

2. Approbation of the inquisition of Spain, who examined it, word for word, and authorized its publication and diffusion.

3. Approbation of all the religious bodies appointed to examine this work. They have bestowed unbounded praises upon it, and recommend it as a fruit of the Holy Spirit of God.

4. Approbation of the most celebrated universities, who, after a minute examination, have declared that this book contains nothing contrary to faith or morals, and who have exalted it beyond measure, as the Sovereign Pontiff, Benedict XIV., attests in his decree of 1748. The University of Paris alone offers an exception, because, at that epoch, it was controlled by the influences of Jansenism.

5. Finally, the Roman Church, after having placed this work on the Index, August 4th, 1681, on account of the controversy which it excited,

* The Mystical City of God.