

tained from the observance of all religious practices. My prayers, as well as the advice I ventured to give him on the subject, had no effect. In the month of May which preceded his death, I had according to my custom raised a little altar to the Blessed Virgin in my room, which altar I adorned with flowers that were changed from time to time. On Sunday, my husband spent the day in the country and on his return he offered me a bunch of flowers which he himself had gathered and carried home; with these flowers I decorated my oratory. Did he notice what I did with them? Did he act thus for the sole purpose of making himself agreeable to me, or was he animated with piety towards the Blessed Virgin? I know not. At all events, not once during the month of May did he omit to offer his gift of a bouquet of flowers. Early in the following month, he was suddenly stricken down and died before any spiritual aid could be given him. I was inconsolable, and my health was in consequence seriously impaired. My relations obliged me to take a trip to the South. As I had to pass through Lyons, I wished to see the holy Curé d'Ars, who was still alive; I wrote to him requesting the favour of an interview and asking him to pray for the soul of my husband who had died suddenly, but I said nothing more. I had scarcely entered the saintly priest's room, when he said to me "Madam, you are sad, Have you then forgotten the bouquets of flowers, the bouquets presented every Sunday in the month of May." I am utterly incapable of expressing in words how astonished I felt when I heard M. Vianney recall to mind an event of which I had spoken to no one, and which he could not have known in any other way than by revelation. The Curé d'Ars went on to say; "God had pity on your husband because he had honoured His holy Mother, at the time of his death, he repented; his soul is in purgatory, by our prayers and good works we shall obtain his deliverance."

The preacher obtained the lady's authorisation to make the fact known. We have related this curious and remarkable incident for the benefit of our readers. It will serve to strengthen them in their belief, that the filial love and reverence for the mother of God to which we give expression by adorning her altars with flowers and candles is