

HIS MIRACLES — HIS CULTUS OR WORSHIP.

Eight or nine centuries after the Saint's death, Count de Richemont, who had been made a captive by the Turks, saw his irons fall from his hands through the miraculous intercession of St. Nicholas. These chains remained for ages suspended to the walls of the church of St-Nicholas-du-Port, near Nancy, in France.

In the thirteenth century, St Louis, assailed at sea by a furious tempest, promised for the same church, a silver ship of five marks in weight, and the sea immediately grew calm. It was the Sire de Joinville, the king's historian, who executed the promise. St Nicholas has ever since been the patron saint of sailors.

The limits of this sketch prevent us from showing how the great archbishop of Myra confessed the Faith at the council of Nicæa, where was drawn up the creed now solemnly sung at high mass, nor how he was the most redoubtable foe to idolatry. But we cannot avoid mentioning his love for children.

St. Bonaventure assures us that he raised to life at Myra two school-boys who had been murdered, and he performed the same miracle in the case of four other little children who had been cruelly slaughtered. It is this latter miracle, which is always represented in the images of St. Nicholas, that has made him the most popular patron of youth. Those who have attended the classes of the Christian Brothers, are familiar with the picture.

Who does not remember the innocent December joys, the lovely presents of St. Nicholas, and his salutary warnings always greeted with promises, alas ! only too often forgotten ? These remnants of a *mystery* of the middle ages should be religiously kept by Christian families.