

## ST. ANNE AND THE FAITH OF THE BRETONS.

The inhabitants of Brittany are distinguished for their profound and generous faith ; their faith is both simple and frank, and has become as it were so natural to them, that they do not even suspect that any other belief than their own can exist upon earth.

A few years ago, a physician from Paris, after having visited that lovely country, related, in a public journal, the impressions made on him by the simple and christianly manner of the country-folk.

— I have just assisted, wrote he, at a Breton repast ; it was a sober and frugal meal, in a dark and rustic room. It was seven o'clock in the evening, and the apartment was lighted only by a poor candle and a torch of resin. After the meal was over, one of the farm-girls took from a shelf a large book bound in black. It was the *Lives of the Saints* in the Breton language. She read the Saint of the day. The men listened gravely and devoutly. When she had finished, each one made the sign of the cross, then arose and went away. — The same act of devotion is repeated every day.

Three *Lives of the Saints*, an *Almanac* and a few prayer-books, compose the whole library of the farm. At the appointed hour, the inmates of the farm-house kneel down. Evening prayers are said aloud.

After the *Pater*, *Ave*, *Credo* and *Gospiel* in Breton, they recite in Latin the *Angelus*, the *Litanies* of the Blessed Virgin, an invocation to St. Anne and the *De Profundis*, then a series of special prayers for all the wants of the household. At the beginning and at the end of this recitation, the head of the family takes holy water in a vessel suspended to the wall, near the chimney, and he gives some to all present. The sign of the cross is then made in religious silence.