

ites into a community. The priest Phocas, who visited Carmel in 1183, said he found a small church and a convent, which was erected by a priest from Calabria, who, moved by a revelation from St. Elias, came to reside there, and had gathered about him ten other brothers.

In the year 1209 St. Brocard, then the superior, applied to St. Albert the Patriarch of Jerusalem, for a Rule, which they received. It is the same which is observed till this day. The convent inhabited by St. Brocard and his community was situated in the Valley of the Martyrs. It was afterwards assailed by the Saracens and was finally completely destroyed by a troop of Mahomedans.

In 1245 St. Simon Stock of Kent, England, came to Mount Carmel and lived there for some time. This was the saint to whom the Blessed Virgin afterwards appeared and handed the Scapular, the heavenly habit which is now worn by all zealous Christians.

In 1291 one hundred of the religious were massacred on Mount Carmel whilst they were singing the *Salve Regina*. The infidels continued at times to harass the Carmelites who were all massacred in 1635. After this, the school of the prophets was converted into a mosque. Some years later the venerable sons of the prophet again assembled in their convent on Mount Carmel. In 1821 Abdallah Pascha of St. John d'Acre, under pretence of fortifying the place, destroyed the church and convent, from the material of which he erected a summer palace which now serves as a light-house.

During the siege of St. John d'Acre by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Carmelite convent was used as a hospital for the sick and wounded. After the retreat of the French army, the Musselmen slaughtered all the inmates of the hospital and left them unburied. When the Carmelites returned to their monastery they found the bones of the

victims scattered over the mountain. They gathered them together, and interred them in one common grave which faces the door of the church. A small pyramid marks the spot, and here it is that the French pilgrims every year sing a Requiem for the souls of the soldiers who are buried there.

Mount Carmel extends from south east to north-west. It is fifteen miles long and four in width. The mountain terminates in a most pronounced promontory towards the sea. Its height is over 1,800 feet. The mountain is well wooded and most fertile, producing many plants most valuable for medicinal purposes. I walked over the whole length of Mount Carmel, and discovered but two small villages. The ground is entirely abandoned to wild animals. There are many hyenas, bears, and panthers. There is plenty of game, especially a large number of partridges.

The good Carmelite Fathers were always willing to answer all the questions which I put to them, so that I had to admire their kindness towards me.

J. B. BROUN.

Akron, Ohio.

INDULGENCES.

During April a Plenary Indulgence can be gained on

- (1) Easter Sunday.
- (2) The Patronage of St. Joseph (April 23), and during the Octave.

The usual conditions are Confession and Communion.

By a rescript of the Sacred Congregation dated March 26th, 1729, Pope Benedict XIII conceded to the Prior of every Carmelite Monastery, or his delegate, the power of imparting the Papal Benediction four times a year. All our readers living near Carmelite churches should avail themselves of this Blessing, which will be given in all our churches on next Easter Tuesday.