

among women, a mother happy among mothers ; from her chaste womb came forth resplendent in the eyes of men the Temple of the Lord, the Sanctuary of the Holy Ghost, the Mother of God."

" May a tribute of just praise be paid to all the women who, since the beginning of the world, have made themselves illustrious by the rarest virtues ; in none of them, however, may be recognized the privilege of having given light to the Mother of God, to the Mother of all consolation , such a privilege was reserved to this glorious Princess."

Certain hymns of the Greek Church express the same sentiment with an enthusiasm altogether Oriental, and attest by their transports the high opinion which the Greeks had of the holiness of St. Anne. We quote the following fragment :

" Hasten, all ye who love Christ, and with us, in hymns adorned with all the flowers of speech, raise your voice and sing :

" O Anne, thou art worthy of all veneration ! Blessed is the womb that bore the Mother of the Divine Word ! Blessed are the paps that gave suck to the young Virgin whose milk has fed the Creator of all living beings ! Anne is above all praise : she has brought into the world the Stem which blossomed before every other, without having ever been blighted.

" Hail, O blessed Land, which hast given to the world a spot inhabited by a God ! O thou who, attached to the divine law by an unceasing practice, hast traced before all others the first element of the law of grace, when by the birth of an illustrious Virgin thou hast broken asunder the chains of thy sterility.

" O glorious Anne ! Thou hast begotten heaven upon earth, and shortly after, that heaven has received its Creator, who has transported thee, the mother of that heaven, into the eternal kingdom."

Finally, George of Nicomedia interprets the same sentiment in several of his discourses :