

Some special Lovers of the Blessed Sacrament.



THE annals of the Dominican Order abound with beautiful instances of the tender devotion of its members to the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. It is recorded of its great Founder, St. Dominic, that "when a boy, serving Mass with others of his age, he preached to all beholders by the reverence of his manner and the holiness of his looks." But of his myriad followers, St. Thomas Aquinas is the one most closely identified with the Adorable Sacrament of the Eucharist. To him we owe the majestic hymns, immortal in their loveliness, melody and truth, *Verbum supernum, Pange lingua, Lauda Sion, Adoro Te*, and even the *Anima Christi*, commonly attributed to St. Ignatius Loyola. It is said that when St. Thomas presented to Pope Urban IV the first part of his *Calena Aurea*, the delighted Pontiff wished to reward him with the mitre; but the saint threw himself at his feet, and besought the Holy Father as his sole reward to extend the feast of the Blessed Sacrament over the whole of Christendom. This, Pope Urban gladly consented to do: and commended St. Thomas at once to write the Office for the feast. About the year 1269, when the same saint was teaching at Paris, the Doctors of the University referred to his decision a certain controversy which had arisen concerning the sacramental species in the Holy Eucharist. After