

in denouncing servile fear,---the least noble, she said, of all human sentiments.

This young girl, who was so astonishingly sweet and gentle, loving children and flowers, possessed to an heroic degree, that quality, which, according to Lacordaire, is so wanting to most men of our age, courage.

Most Holy Father, said she tenderly to Gregory XI, ---the "gentle Christ of the earth," as she loved to call him, Most Holy Father, you should be surrounded by counsellors who fear not death. It was the most sanguinary epoch of the Italian middle ages. Anarchy reigned supreme. Governments passed away as swiftly as the seasons themselves; they rose and fell according to the vicissitudes of the war between Guelphs and Ghibellines on the one side, between nobles, bourgeois, and the *Papalini* on the other, and blood was always flowing.

Catherine heard the groans of her afflicted country, of that beautiful Italy, which had become, according to the expression of Dante, *the house of sorrow*.

The desperate populace, did not in vain hold out supplicating hands to the beloved one of Christ.

She accepted the perilous mission of mediating for peace, and in those days of implacable hatreds and fratricidal struggles, she was the angel of reconciliation and the arbitrator between nations.

Accused by her fellow-citizens of conspiring in secret, she replied : I spend, and have spent my life in uprooting hatred from the hearts of men.

One day, the populace of Florence, deceived by base falsehoods, rose up against her. Catherine listened, without changing color, to the terrible clamors of the mob, and calmly met the enraged multitude who sought to kill her. Upon seeing her, the most furious let fall their arms, and the Saint, weeping bitterly, because "she was not judged worthy to die for the Church," glanced down at her white Dominican robe, and exclaimed : Oh, how beautiful would it be were it tinged with blood ! This uncultivated mystic, not even of noble birth, was the *master-mind* of the XIV century. Her soul was truly noble ; she prayed "that she might be always ready to speak the truth and to die for it."

Writing to an illustrious prelate : I conjure you, said