

Now, you know that finding favor implies that she had sinned; you feel that it would be absurd to say that God had shown favor to Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ was without sin.

You must not, however, think that my great joy arises from the discovery that Mary was only a blessed and very happy woman, like any other who is pardoned and saved. No; but from the moment that I took down that idol from the throne it occupied in my heart, room was ready for Him who ought always to have occupied it.

Yes, while seeking in the Bible to know Mary, I have learned better to appreciate Jesus Christ, my only, my beloved Saviour; and what I find in Him is not what I found of old in Mary—a body of flesh molded into such or such a form—but with a mind and heart and love that nothing on earth can worthily express.

Ah! dear brother, when I saw the Son of God quitting heaven to dwell upon earth, when I followed Him step by step, instructing the people, curing the sick, visiting the poor, not expecting anything from them, reproving the great, at the risk of their displeasure, and, above all, when I heard that Saviour say to me: "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest;" "He who believes in me shall never die;" "I lay down my life for my sheep;" and, at length, when after listening to Him, I saw Him hanging on the cross to atone for my sins, and crying, when dying, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do," Oh!