

➤ LAURENCE ➤

A little Flower of the Desert.

(Continued.)

Two days later, I was again beside the little invalid. I found him lying on his bed as usual. As soon as he saw me he sat up, and with a joyful and smiling countenance said:

"How good you are, *Black-robe*, to come so soon again to see me! Do you know during these days I have been thinking always of you and of the beautiful things you have told me? Oh, tell me some more, for you know so much, and you give me so much pleasure."

"I have come for that, my boy. I will satisfy your wishes at once." And taking a seat beside him, I showed him a Crucifix, asking him:

"Do you know who this is whom you see nailed to the wood?"

The child took the Crucifix in his hand, gazed at it with attention and replied:

"I do not know. But is He a man? Oh! why was this done? What evil had He done to deserve this torment? Poor creature! How much He must have suffered?"

"Yes, He is a man, but He is not only a man, He is also the Son of God."

"What?" said the child in amazement; "He is the Son of God, and He was treated thus? But why? You told me the other day that God is very good, that He wishes to do good to men, because they are His children whom He Himself has created. Oh! was this, perhaps, a bad son and He put him on the cross?"

"No, this Son was not bad; He was very good. He did good to all, healed the sick by only laying His hand on