

waiting on her. After continual proofs of love and affection he lost her in the 95th year of her age.

So many virtues could not but procure him universal confidence, and hence he was often consulted on the most important affairs. Some persons one day asked him, what they should say in a public consultation relative to some ecclesiastical concern? "Be silent in the matter," said he; "God will not have you interfere with what does not concern you, and you know this belongs to the Church."

Knowing that external ceremonies have great power over the mind and heart, Bessard was most zealous in procuring them for the village. He proposed to the inhabitants of Staines to enter with one accord into the sodality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, then but lately established. He was delighted with this holy devotion, as it immediately placed under the eyes of men the immense love, the eternal charity with which God has loved them. Very soon the Church of the religious of St. Chaumont, where this devotion was solemnly established, was filled with the peasantry of Staines, on the feasts of the most Sacred Heart of the Incarnate Word. With Bessard at their head, they devoutly approached the holy table, and after making a fervent thanksgiving for this new proof of the charity of Jesus, returned home in silence and recollection. On these holy days this good peasant did not forget this beautiful idea of St. Augustine—"The side of Jesus has been opened to give us a passage to his Sacred Heart, that we may therein learn how much he loved us."

As he received in holy Baptism the name of the beloved disciple, he imagined he was in a particular manner a child of the blessed Virgin's. Knowing that to merit her patronage it was necessary to imitate her virtues, he never

lost sight of them. Those which he admired in her, were love of solitude and silence, humility, obedience, purity of heart, love of the cross, and constant union with God. He never spoke of this blessed Mother but with profound respect. He drew several young women to her service and perfect imitation; some of them totally renounced the world and became nuns, and those who continued in the world declared, that it was by being devout to the august Mary they persevered in the service of God.

Bessard was also very devout to the nine choirs of angels, and avowed, that if in early life he had determined to be vigilant over his ways, it was because he was unwilling to offend the sanctity of their presence who continually beheld him, by any thing unworthy of a Christian.

John was tall of stature, but by dint of labour he was greatly bent. He carried to prayer a most sovereign distrust of his own endeavours, and he never was more pleased than when, in commencing, the presence of God inspired him with a lively sense of his miseries, his weaknesses, and sins. This animated him to say with more faith and confidence, in his invocation—"Have pity on me, O Lord, for I am alone and poor."

His life, so replete with good works, now approached its term, and the supreme Remunerator was about to reward the virtues which had been so long the admiration of the shepherds of Staines. In the middle of November, 1752, John having gone to Paris to see one of his nephews, died in that metropolis after an illness of about six days. Fortified with the holy Sacraments, and "considering death as a gain," he joyfully beheld the moment approach, which was to free him from his tene-ment of clay, and when ready to expire