

heaped up riches, but you have surpassed them all ; but she herself can say to us, with me are glorious riches and justice, that I may enrich those who love me and may fill their treasures.

Unhappy is he who loves not Mary, who has been loved by, and who so much loves her Son and her God ; and blessed is he who truly loves Mary, for he *will be truly rich* ; in communicating with her his understanding will be wonderfully enlightened, and his heart will receive grace to profit of the light. Are we happy or unhappy ? rich or poor, are we, in fine, the children of Mary ? Ah, tender Mother, I prostrate at your feet, and humbly beseech you to accept my heart, which I dedicate irrevocably to your love ; diffuse on it your benedictions, and enrich it with your graces.

Flower.—Say often, “Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

Fruit.—Filial love towards Mary.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 20.—Anguish of the Sacred Heart of Mary at her last interview with Jesus.

First Point.—Consider the cutting anguish of the Sacred Heart of Mary on taking a last farewell of her Son, preparatory to his Passion. “After the Supper,” says St. Bonaventure, “our dear Lord Jesus came to his Mother, and sitting down near her delighted her with his presence once more, of which he was soon to deprive her, ‘dear Mother,’ said he, ‘it is the will of my Father that I should go and suffer death, since the period of the redemption is come. All that is predicted of me is

now about to happen, they will make me an object of derision—they will exercise on me all their cruelty.’ ‘What, my Son,’ replies Mary, ‘what do you say ? * * * O, my spirit is disturbed—my heart is broken—I am fainting—Eternal Father ! Divine Providence ! What shall I say ?’” But sobs choke her utterance, she sheds a torrent of tears, and Jesus, at the sight of her tears, experienced a mortal grief. St. Bridget learned by revelation from Mary herself, and when Jesus saw her tears he was sad even to death. He alone could form a just notion of what his mother suffered—he alone could feel thereat a proportionate grief.

Who has separated those who were so closely united—such a Son and such a mother ? Who has so cruelly pierced these two hearts ? Ah, it is we and our sins. And yet we remain plunged in fatal indolence. O, Mary, the most desolate of all mothers ! O, my Jesus, the most afflicted of all sons ! Unconscious I have been the cause of your affliction. Why, then, is not my heart broken with sorrow ? Ah, my Divine Redeemer, penetrate it with the darts of a true contrition. By the sweet and precious tears of your beloved Mother, grant that my eyes may shed salutary tears, to wash away my abominable sins.

Flower.—Abstinence in honor of Mary.

Fruit.—Compunction for our sins.

MEDITATION.

AUGUST 21.—The Sacred Heart of Mary torn at the Scourging of Jesus

First Point.—Consider how the tender heart of Mary was torn at the sight of her Son, stripped before a furious