

can bestow, sung to her honour by the spouse of Christ? And these shall continue as long as this spouse will endure, that is, to the end of all time. This honour of being called 'Blessed,' was first paid to the virgin, by Gabriel; was afterwards repeated by Elizabeth, and has been thenceforward kept up from generation to generation: "For behold all generations shall call me blessed."

Now follows the next reason why Mary is called Blessed to all generations. We learn it from her own lips, in the next verse of this admirable canticle.

FOR HE THAT IS MIGHTY HAS DONE
GREAT THINGS TO ME.

With justice and truth does she sing: "He that is Mighty: for none but a being of might and power could perform the great and wondrous things which he has done to her. And is that God who accomplished these wonders, a God of Might! Vain and superfluous enquiry! Let the heavens and the earth, and all things contained in them, which started into existence at his almighty fiat, bear testimony to his power. For he but spoke and they were made: he but commanded and they were created. Let Moses, the chief of the inspired penmen, describe his might. "Who is like to thee among the strong, O Lord! Who is like to thee, glorious in holiness, terrible and praiseworthy, doing wonders!"

Listen to Job: "He does things great and incomprehensible, and wonderful, of which there is no number." And again: "He is wise in heart, and mighty in his strength; he removed mountains, and they whom he overthrew in his wrath, knew it not. He

shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble. He commandeth the sea, and it riseth not, and shutteth up the stars, as it were under a veil. He alone spreadeth out the heavens, and walketh upon the waves of the sea." Listen to the royal David: "Sing a psalm to his name. Give glory to his praise. Say unto God—how terrible are thy works, O Lord! Whatsoever the Lord pleases he has done in heaven, on earth, in the sea, and in all the depths." And again: "The Lord is great, and does wonderful things; he is God alone. There is none among the Gods like thee, O Lord, and there is none according to thy works. All the nations which thou hast made, shall come and adore before thee, O Lord; and they shall glorify thy name, for thou art great, and dost wonderful things; thou art God alone."

And again: "The heavens shall confess thy wonders, O Lord, and thy truth in the church of the saints; for who in the clouds can be compared to the Lord, or who among the sons of God can be compared to God? God who is glorified in the assembly of the saints, great and terrible above all that are about him. O Lord God of hosts, who is like to thee. Thou art mighty, O Lord, and thy truth is round about thee. Thou rulest the power of the sea, and appeasest the motion of the waves thereof." Listen to the wise man. "At his sight shall the mountains be shaken, and at his will the south wind shall blow. The noise of his thunder shall strike the earth..... at his word the wind is still, and with his thought he appeaseth the deep."

And again: "Great power always belongs to thee alone; and who shall resist the strength of thy arm?" Listen to the prophet Nahum: "The Lord's