



Magnificat.

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FROM the summit of a mountain of Judea a maiden of fifteen years, inspired by the Divine breath, and piercing the veil of the future, announces to the astonished world that her glory shall increase through all ages, and make its way amidst all nations. This maiden came from Galilee, one of those provinces whence nothing great arises. Her early years had been passed in a solitary cell of the temple at Jerusalem. At length she quitted that lonely dwelling, ascending into the hilly country, and when she saw in prophetic vision the world at her feet, and the nations attentive to her voice, she sang, and more even with her heart than with her lips, that song of rapture which she sent forth upon the winds : « My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoiceth in God my Saviour, for the Lord hath regarded the humility of his handmaid ; all generations shall called me blessed. (LUKE I, 16.)

Yes ! the world heard and was astonished. What ! such exultation promised to such weakness ! So great glory to so great obscurity ! Ah ! pride still makes victims. Satan had seduced Eve still in life's morning, and the hour of redemption is yet far distant. Ten centuries before Mary chanted the *Magnificat*, Solomon, that great king of Israel who ruled over a powerful nation — Solomon, the admiration of the universe by his wisdom and magnificence, Solomon, at the height of splendor, treated his glory as nothingless, and said of all that surrounded him : « Vanity, O Vanity of vanities ! » and whilst a monarch condemned his renown to the silence and forgetfulness of the tomb, a poor virgin promises triumph to her unknown name !

Thus spoke the world ; but whilst it reasoned thus in the secret of its thoughts the young virgin chanted still and said in the face of heaven and earth : « The Almighty hath cast down the proud and He hath exalted the humble. »

Two thousand years will soon have passed away since that prophetic hour ; and if we ascend the tide of time who do we behold on the majestic front of all these ages, forming, as it were, the splendid