

It was thus that she reconciled the Maconi family with the families of Rinaldini and Tolomei.

We were then in war, said Stephen Maconi, with a family more powerful than ours, and, in spite of the efforts and negotiations of honorable citizens, it had been impossible to obtain from our enemies any hope of ever coming to an agreement. Catherine was then enjoying a great reputation throughout all Toscane ; every one praised her virtues, and related admirable things of her. They told me that if I begged her to intervene in the affair, she would certainly obtain peace for us, as she had for many others. I went to take counsel with a gentleman who had been thus reconciled, and who had become the friend of Catherine. When the gentleman had heard me, he answered immediately, saying : " Be certain that you cannot find in this city a person more capable of making peace. Do not delay, I will accompany you. We paid her the visit, and she received us, not, as I had thought, with the bashful timidity of a young girl, but with the tenderness of a sister who welcomes her brother after a long journey.

I was greatly astonished, and listened with surprise to her words addressed to me, exhorting me to confess and to lead a more christian life.

When I had exposed to her the object of my visit, she answered me without hesitation : " Go, my dear son. Confide in the Lord. I will do all that I can to obtain peace for you ; leave me in charge of the affair."

" Catherine had great influence with the Tolomei family ; she used it to obtain, though not without pain, a meeting between the hostile parties on the Piazza Tolomei. On the day fixed, both the Tolomei and the Rinaldini failed to appear at the appointed rendez-vous ; and, for several days after, they all avoided meeting Catherine. Seeing their bad faith, the Saint cried out : Ah ! they will not listen to me : very well ; whether they wish to or not, they shall listen to God." After saying that, she went out, and, upon arriving at the Piazza Tolomei, found Conrad Maconi, his son Stephen, and their relatives in waiting. Catherine led them all into a church close by, and prostrating herself before the high altar, became wrapt in ecstasy. All at once the Tolomei and the Rinaldini, impelled by an impulse which could have come only