

FAVORS OBTAINED THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL.

An Invincible Rampart.

In 1597 the people of Holland fought the Spaniards, who had taken possession of their country. The Hollanders knew that the garrison of the city of Geldern was not strong, and, besides short of ammunition. Therefore they resolved to re-take Geldern, but they did not know that this city had a powerful protector in Mary. Mary loved Geldern because its citizens were devoted to the holy Scapular.

As soon as the authorities of Geldern heard of the plan of the Hollanders, they knew that human means to defend the place would be without avail. It was impossible to defend Geldern against a disciplined army, an army great in numbers and fanatical.

It was the day after the beautiful feast of Our Lady of the Holy Scapular which had been celebrated with great solemnity by the good people of Geldern.

The statue of the Mother of God, followed by the clergy and the faithful, had been carried in grand procession through the streets of the city. Was it possible that this demonstration in honor of Mary could be followed by universal grief?

The Blessed Virgin showed to the pious people of Geldern that she knows how to bestow benefits on those who honor her publicly.

At the first alarm the mayor, the members of the city council, the clergy and the people went to the Carmelite church and there prostrated themselves at the foot of the altar of Our Lady of the Holy Scapular. It was a truly touching spectacle. All the people surrounded—like a group of children—

the statue, full of fear and ready to perish near their Mother. Tears flowed and suppliant prayers were said.

Then the mayor solemnly deposited the keys of the city at the feet of Our Lady of Carmel. All exclaimed: "Oh, Holy Virgin, Mother of the Lord of hosts, be to-day our refuge, shield our city, which has remained faithful to you. Do not allow that it falls into the hands of heretics and enemies of your son. We promise to persevere in our Faith, and to revere you most ardently."

Mary was not insensible to this cry of distress. Of a sudden a terrible tempest came, which confounded the enemy, who fled in great disorder, leaving behind munitions of war and provisions.

We shall not attempt to depict the enthusiasm of the good citizens when they saw their city thus preserved. Expressions of gratitude were heard everywhere, and the munificence of the beloved Queen of Mount Carmel was praised by all. The citizens gathered all objects of value the enemy had left behind and deposited them at the feet of the statue of Our Lady of Carmel. A Latin inscription remains to-day commemorating this event.

When faith grows weak, all virtues are weakened; when faith is lost, all virtues are lost.

Whenever you are found fault with on any point, receive the reproof with both interior and exterior humility, and pray to God in behalf of the person who reproved you.—ST. THERESA.