

A BEAUTIFUL ESSAY.

An Old Testament Type of Mary.

One of the names under which Our Lady is known is that of Queen of Patriarchs. In this character we find her typified by Sara, the wife of Abraham, the mother of Isaac. How pleasing is the picture presented to us in the Book of Genesis of the free, pastoral life of the patriarchs of old, the princely shepherds of Palestine, the servants of the one true God in ancient times! Their state appears to us a singular mixture of lowliness and dignity, of grandeur and simplicity. Abraham is the most prominent and striking figure in this noble company. He is very rich in the possession of gold and silver, lord over a large body of dependents, the owner of flocks and herds innumerable; the master of servants and slaves, ready to do his bidding in his house, or take up arms at his command against the hostile tribes around. Yet we see him not disdaining to wait upon guests whom chance apparently has thrown upon his hospitality; strangers whose errand he has not yet heard. He himself selects from the herd a calf for their entertainment; he sets butter and milk before them; serving them himself with lowly reverence.

Such as Abraham, the prince of patriarchs; and such also was Sara his wife, who lived with him in modest retirement, in the practice of matronly virtues. Sara was childless,—not because, like Holy Mary, she had voluntarily relinquished the joys of maternity, the great desire of Jewish women, and had chosen a state of virginity; but because the Lord had restrained her from bearing children, and her advanced age now rendered it impossible. Yet she was to bear a son; in her case, as in that of our Blessed Lady, the ordinary laws of nature were to be set aside, and that was to be accomplished by command of Divine Omnipotence which appeared a thing impossible to man.

Sara is engaged within the tent, in household occupations, when the celestial visitants arrive who are commissioned to announce to her the miracle to be worked in her person. It is not a single messenger who comes to her, as the Angel Gabriel came to Mary with the startling intelligence of the dignity to which she was to be raised. Three travellers, representing the three Persons of the Holy Trinity, stand at Abraham's threshold; and while her husband receives them with Eastern courtesy, Sara hastens to prepare bread to set before them. Little does she think, as she exercises this humble office, that the cakes she is baking upon the hearth are to be the food of angels; little does she imagine whence those strangers come, how all-important to her is the message they bring, how great is the happiness in store for her. He that is mighty is about to do great things for her; she will be told that in her seed—the son that she shall bear—all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. But when she hears from the lips of the angelic messenger that, despite her age, and that of her lord, she shall conceive and bear a son, she secretly smiles; she can not believe at the first moment that he speaks seriously; she can not believe that a thing so improbable will really come to pass. All the more admirable is the act of faith she makes, and which earns for her, as did the fiat uttered by the lowly Virgin of Nazareth, a great and glorious privilege.

Mary, too, was troubled at the words of the Angel Gabriel, and asked, when he announced the miraculous birth of the Saviour: "How shall this be done?" Thus we see how Sara, who by faith obtained power to conceive,—who, "because she believed that He was faithful who had promised," became the mother not only of Isaac, the child of promise, but in him of a multitude like the stars of heaven and the sand on the sea-shore,—foreshadowed one greater than herself; one to whom her holy cousin Elizabeth said, "Blessed are thou that hast believed, because these things shall be accomplished that were spoken of thee by the Lord."

And Isaac, the son of Sara, born of promise, was the son of a free-woman in the order of nature, as our Blessed Redeemer was the Son of a free-woman in the order of grace. St. Jerome, in his commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes, explaining the 17th verse of the 10th chapter, "Blessed is the land whose king is noble," writes as follows: "Woe to the land whose king is the devil. But blessed is the land whose king is Jesus

Christ, a Son of noble lineage. He descends from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; from prophets and saints who shook off the yoke of sin, and were therefore doubly free. Of these was born a Virgin still more free—Mary, who enjoyed complete immunity from the bondage of the devil. The Apostles and saints of the Church are princes, having for their King a noble Son, a free Son, born not of the bondwoman Agar, but of the liberty of Sara the free-woman. Yes, glorious Sara! thou art the type of the true free-woman,—of her who alone of all the enthralled human race was free, sovereignly free: free from sin, free from Satan, free from the curse of a corrupt nature; born to reign; chosen of God in the depths of her humility to have a name which, after that of her Son, is above all names."

And is not the life of Mary with her chaste spouse St. Joseph foreshadowed in the lowly dignity of the patriarchal life,—not only in its humility, of which mention has been made, but also in other points? Observe the detachment, for example, of Abraham and Sara. Abraham was commanded by God: "Go forth out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and out of thy father's house, and come into the land which I shall show thee." Thus he had to abandon friends, habitation, country, in a moment at the call of God. He took Sara his wife and obeyed at once, without reasoning, without questioning, without repining. "By faith Abraham obeyed,..... and he went out, not knowing whither he went."* Does not this recall the action of Joseph, who, when commanded by the angel in the dead of the night to "arise and take the Child and His Mother, and fly into Egypt; and be there until I shall tell thee," complied with equal promptitude with the order he had received, and set out upon his strange and perilous journey?

Well were it for us could we imitate the unquestioning docility, the uncomplaining resignation, wherewith the great Queen of Patriarchs accomplished the will of God when she was commanded to flee into a strange and unknown country. Well were it for us, wayfarers on life's highway, exiles in this vale of tears, could we imitate the patience and courage wherewith she encountered the fatigues and hardships of the journey, the miseries of a seven years' sojourn in a distant and idolatrous land. Like Abraham and Sara, like Joseph and Mary, let us proceed on our way, walking in faith, looking for the fulfilment of the promise.—ELLIS SCHREIBER, in the Ave Maria.

CATHOLIC NEWS.

A \$5,000 church is to be erected in St. Mary's parish, Greenfield, Wis.

The gift of the Golden Rose will be bestowed this year on the Queen of the Belgians.

Pepe Leo recently gave a formal reception to 1,000 pilgrims from Malta. Archbishop Pace, of Rhodes, introduced the pilgrims.

At the Chapter held recently at SS. John and Paul's, Rome, the Most Rev. Bernard Mary (Silvestri), C. P., was elected General of the Passionists.

The Rev. Father Anderson, O.S.A., having finished collecting for the Church of St. Patrick at Rome, is travelling in New Zealand for the benefit of his health.

By order of the Holy Father the authorities at the Vatican Library have bought the original copy of the letter is "Epistolia Christophore Colum, de Insulis nuper inventis."

Brother Clementian, the visitor of the Christian Brothers from their headquarters in Paris, is at Manhattan College preparing to start on an inspecting tour of the schools of the order in the South.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of St. Viator's College was celebrated by former and actual students on May 24th. A banquet was given on Thursday, preceded by a meeting of the alumni in Science Hall.

Cardinal Rampolla, Secretary of State to His Holiness, has completely recovered from his recent illness. His first visit on being permitted by his doctor to go out was paid to the Prussian Minister to the Holy See, Herr von Bulow.

The Methodists on Friday last buried from St. John's church a man who wore a scapular in his coffin. The man was Judge Lanham. He was reconciled to the Church of his youth a month before his death; he recanted his heresy and received the last sacraments. When

a boy Philip S. Lanham served at the altar. For forty years he boasted that he was loudest and lustiest of shouting Methodists. But when he came to die he thought it was time to quit his foolishness.—Watchman.

Bishop Foley has prohibited the holding of church bazars for at least a year in the Detroit, Michigan, diocese. While he has no objection to this sort of entertainment, he believes that too many of them have been held of late.

The pretty little Church of Santa Maria at Olinda Park, Oakland, Cal., was erected by a wealthy lady, now deceased. In her memory E. Le Breton, her brother, had donated to the church a magnificent set of stations of the cross.

The next congress of the Catholics of Italy will be held at Milan. The days on which it will sit have just been fixed, the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th of October next. Cardinal Sanfelice, Archbishop of Naples, has been appointed honorary president.

From an interesting article in the Philadelphia Press it appears that the Church is making rapid advances in New Jersey. It is now accredited with 224,274 members and property worth \$6,050,682. There are 219 church organizations and 191 church edifices.

The corner stone of the Church of the Gesù, Milwaukee, Wis., was laid with becoming ceremonies on last Sunday by Archbishop Katzer. Bishop Burke of St. Joseph, Mo., and other prominent prelates and clergy and many people witnessed the exercises.

Among the manuscripts of the Borgia Museum, copies of which will be sent to Chicago, is a letter of Nicholas V. to two Irish bishops in regard to sending missionaries to Greenland. This letter was written in 1448, forty-four years before the discovery of America.

The Fathers of the Birmingham Oratory are about to bring out an interesting collection of Cardinal Newman's devotional papers. The Cardinal left behind him an important series of unpublished papers in the nature of meditations on various points of doctrine and devotion.

We are able to announce, says the London Tablet, that on the 2d of July there will take place at the oratory the solemn dedication of the whole country to St. Peter. The ceremony will be of the most imposing kind, and it is expected that the Cardinal and all the Bishops and representatives of the chapters and the clergy of all the dioceses and the heads of religious orders will assist. A sermon will be preached in honor of the Blessed Virgin in the morning, and of St. Peter in the afternoon.

The Moniteur de Rome says that the documents for the introduction of the Cause for Beatification of Jeanne d'Arc are being examined by the lawyers of the case, under the direction of Signor Alibrandi. The careful examination of these documents will continue until probably the month of August, and then, if the result is of a satisfactory kind, it will only serve as the base for the first meeting of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, in which the cause will be introduced.

A Puny and Fretful Baby.

This is now quite unnecessary! Like many others, you may have your baby fat, laughing and happy, if you give it Scott's Emulsion. Babies take it like cream. 45-2

The New York Herald's Berlin correspondent sends by commercial cable an account of the German campaign, and predicts that the new Reichstag will oppose the Army bill and the Kaiser will declare it a law by royal decree.

A SIMPLE WAY TO HELP POOR CATHOLIC MISSIONS.

Save all cancelled postage stamps of every kind and country and send them to Rev. P. M. Barral, Hammononton, New Jersey, U. S. Give at once your address, and you will receive with the necessary explanations a nice Souvenir of Hammononton Missions. 34-2

Emilio Castelar, for some time Dictator of Spain and for nearly fifty years conspicuous among Spanish republicans, announced at a breakfast Sunday that he had retired definitely from public life. He advises his friends to become Liberals and support the Monarchy.

The National Bank of Elmira, N.Y., has failed.

Catholic World's Fair Visitors

Catholic families and young men visiting the Chicago Fair can be accommodated at very reasonable terms, in responsible hotels and private Catholic families in Chicago, with whom very liberal arrangements have already been made by the Columbian Catholic Bureau of Information, 403 Owing's Building, Chicago, incorporated under the laws of Illinois. Endorsed by Archbishop Feehan and leading business men of Chicago.

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