

IRISH NEWS.

For the Carmelite Review.

WAS delighted to see, in the April number of *THE REVIEW*, the beautiful lines on the Holy Face of Jesus. It shows that you are not exclusively devoted to the Brown Scapular, but that you will include occasionally, I presume, other devotions. We Carmelites have a great devotion to the Holy Face, and can claim it, to a certain extent, as our own.

Love and reparation to the Holy Face, like devotion to the Sacred Heart, are as old as christianity itself, but the Arch-Confraternity owes its origin to a Carmelite nun, Sister Mary of St. Peter. Our Blessed Lord appeared several times to this holy soul at Tours, and revealed to her His desire to establish and extend devotion to His Holy Face, and promised most precious graces to those who would practise this devotion. A few extracts will make this clearer.

On the 11th of November, 1845, she writes:—"Our Lord transported my spirit to the road which leads to Calvary and represented to me in a very life-like manner the pious office rendered to Him by St. Veronica, who with her veil wiped His Most Sacred Face, which was all covered with spittings, with sweat, with dust, and blood. Then the Divine Saviour made me hear impious men, by their blasphemies, renewing the outrages inflicted at that time on His Holy Face." "Then I was made to understand that our Lord said that by applying ourselves to the reparation of blasphemies we render Him the same service that the pious Veronica rendered Him, and that He looks upon those who render it with the same complacent eyes with which He looked at the holy woman during His Passion." And again He said, "I seek Veronicas to wipe and honor My Divine

Face, which has few adorers." "All those who honor My Holy Face in a spirit of reparation will, by so doing, perform the office of the pious Veronica." "In proportion to the care you take to restore My Face, disfigured by blasphemies, I will take care of yours, disfigured by sin." I will imprint My image upon it; and will make it as beautiful as when it was washed in the waters of baptism. Then He made beautiful promises in favor of those who would practice the devotion."

Sister St. Peter died in the odor of sanctity on the 8th day of July, 1848, and the devotion to the Holy Face was taken up with the greatest fervor by M. Dupont, known as the Holy Man of Tours. This great promoter of the devotion died in 1876. The Archbishops of Tours, Collet and Rene-Meignan established the Confraternity of the Holy Face, and Leo XIII in 1884 approved of it, and thus after years of prayers the devotion was established. It spread very rapidly and miracles and graces without number have been wrought through the Holy Face.

All this and much more is well known to your readers. The devotion in this country spread very quickly, as do all forms of piety, for Ireland is a country, on account of its great Catholicity, well adapted for that end. There is a beautiful shrine to the Holy Face in our church here. A very fine marble altar with a painting of St. Veronica holding the veil on which is represented an authentic likeness of the suffering Face. Lamps and candles burn constantly before it. The Archconfraternity was canonically established here by the late Cardinal McCabe, and the members now number fully 25,000. The exercises are regularly carried on with both pomp and solemnity. Even little children love the devotion and are taught in the schools to say "Blessed be God," when they hear anyone curse or take God's Holy Name in vain.

A. E. FARRINGTON, O. C. C.

Carmelite Convent,
Dublin, May 1, 1893.