

we believe our religion is true, and that there is only one true religion; and of strict religious duty in the case of English Catholics, because such prayer has been expressly enjoined upon them by ecclesiastical authority. There is a third reason, which comes to us all accompanied with very touching and grateful reminiscences. Our martyrs in the 16th century and their successors and representatives in the times which followed, at home and abroad, hidden in out of the way nooks and corners of England, or exiles and refugees in foreign countries, kept up a tradition of continuous fervent prayer for their dear England down almost to our own day, when it was taken up as if from a fresh beginning. It was a fresh start on the part of a holy man,

FATHER SPENCER OF THE PASSION,

himself a convert, who made it his very mission to bring into shape a system of prayer for the conversion of his country, and we know what hardships, mortifications, slights, insults, and disappointments he underwent for this object. We know, too, how in spite of this immense discouragement, or rather I should say by means of it (for trial is the ordinary law of Providence,) he did a great work—the visible fact of the conversions that have been so abundant among us since he entered upon his evangelical labor, coupled as it is with the general experience which we all have in the course of life of the wonderful answers which are granted to persevering prayer. Nor must we forget, while we bless the memory of his charity, that such a religious service was one of the observances which he inherited from the Congregation which he had joined, though he had begun it before he was one of its members; for

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS.

its founder for many years in his Roman monastery, had the conversion of England in his special prayers. Nor, again, must we forget the great aid which Father Spencer found from the first in the zeal of Cardinal Wiseman, who not only drew up a form of prayer for England for the use of English Catholics, but introduced Father Spencer's object to the Bishops of France, and gained for us the powerful intercession of an affectionate people, who, in my early days, were considered this side the channel to be nothing else than our natural enemies. The experience, then, of what has actually come of prayer for our country in this and the foregoing generation is a third reason, in addition to the claim of charity and the duty of obedience, for steadily keeping up an observance which we have