

therein, by assembling us all, and addressing us in these words:

DEAREST BRETHREN:—Praised be God, who abandons not those, who place their confidence in Him, and who hath not ceased the supplications of His servants.

Praised be the most Blessed Virgin, the Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who, remembering former days, and seeing all the trials which have surrounded us on all sides, since "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution," addresses to you to-day, through me, words of consolation which, I am sure, you will receive in the joy of the Holy Ghost.

I pray the same spirit of truth to guide my tongue, that I may speak in a worthy manner, and announce with utmost fidelity the work of God, and the favors accorded by Heaven.

For, when I, who am but dust and ashes, was pouring forth my soul in the presence of the Lord, beseeching, with the most fervent confidence, Our Blessed Lady that, since she had deigned to honor us with the glorious title of Brothers of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, she might now, show herself our Mother and Protectress, that she might deliver us from our tribulations, that she might, by granting us some visible sign of her favor, cause those who now persecute us, to honor and respect us; while I was repeating with fervent aspirations the prayer: Beauty of Carmel, Virgin flower forever in bloom, bright ornament of Heaven! Thou Virgin, Mother of a Man God; Mother of meekness, be thou propitious to thy dear Children of Carmel, Star of the Sea; behold—the Queen of Angels, surrounded by a great company of blessed spirit, appeared to me, holding in her hands the Scapular of the Order. Speaking to me, she said: Receive, my dear son, this Scapular of thy Order, as the distinctive sign of my confraternity, and the mark of the privilege which I have obtained for thee and the children of Carmel. It is a sign of salvation, a safeguard in danger, and a special pledge of peace and protection till the end of time. Whosoever dies wearing this shall be preserved from eternal flames.*

The glorious presence of the Blessed Virgin filled me with exuberant joy, but my weakness and misery not being able to bear the splendor of her majesty, she de-

parted from me, asking me to send a deputa- tion to Pope Innocent, the Vicar of her Son, as he would not hesitate to remedy our troubles.

My brethren! Preserve these words in your hearts, and strive by good works to make sure your calling. Be watchful in gratitude for such great mercy, and pray without ceasing that the word which was spoken to me, may be fulfilled in honor of the most Blessed Trinity, God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost; and in honor of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.

This promise our venerable Father Simon also communicated to his brethren in distant parts by means of a consoling letter, which I, altogether unworthy, wrote at the dictation of this man of God, that they, too, might be consoled in their sadness, and by prayer and perseverance in good works might give thanks to God.

Cambridge—on the day following the feast of Divisio Apostolorum—the 17th day before the Calends of August (15 July, 1251.†

* NOTE.—The words of the Blessed Virgin, as reported by Father Swaynton, are quoted thus by William of Coventry, in the "Scapula Carmelitarum" which appeared in the year 1118, also by P. Jean le Gras in "De Sanctis Ord. Carm.," 1412.

† The same words are found in an old manuscript of the Vatican Library numbered 3813.

‡ Father John Paleonidorus died 1507 in his book, De Antiquitate, etc., (3 book; ch. 7) quotes the words as they are generally found in the manuals of the Scapular. "Receive, most beloved son, the Scapular of thy Order, a sign of my confraternity, a privilege both to thee and to all Carmelites, in which he that dieth shall not suffer eternal fire; behold the sign of salvation, a safeguard in danger, a covenant of peace and eternal alliance."

• A GREAT novel is a gift of God; but the average novel is generally a gift of the devil."—*Dr. Maurice F. Egan.*

If we fulfill the greatest of commandments, that of charity, we follow Jesus Christ, put on the new man and obtain life everlasting.—*St. Philip.*

SOCRATES, when asked of what country he was a native, answered: "I am a native of the universe." "As I am Antoninus," said the emperor, "Rome is my city and my country; but as I am a man, the world." In this age of progress and intelligence, let us indulge no silly prejudices for or against any country or foreigners.—*Catholic Telegraph.*