

## A Christian Rule of life under THE GUIDANCE OF GOOD ST ANNE



*HE twelfth and last Christian rule of life treats of how to know whether we shall be saved, and whether we are taking effectual means to be saved.*

The first series of a Christian Rule of life, which we presented our Readers at each month of the year, we now conclude, by pondering those earnest words of the Gospel. « A certain man said to Jesus : Lord, are they few that are saved ? But Jesus said to them : Strive to enter by the narrow gate, for many I say to you shall seek to enter and shall not be able. » (Luke XIII-23, 24.)

Last month we considered what is the way of salvation, and we saw that it is a narrow way, because it is the way of God's commandments. It is narrow because we are hemmed in on either side by the will of God saying : Thou shalt do this, thou shalt not do that. On one occasion, Our Lord spoke of two roads — a narrow road leading to life, and along which, but few were walking ; and a broad road along which many were going, but it led to destruction. We may, indeed, hope that many of those who are walking along the road that leads to destruction will see their danger in time and repent, and pass over to the narrow road that leads to life ; so that we have no absolute proof in these words of the fewness of the saved. Yet, it is a terrible thing that at any given time the number of those who are keeping the commandments of God is small, compared with the multitudes who, by doing their own will and following their passions, regardless of God's commands, are walking towards destruction.

In the text of St Luke, Our Lord says nothing of the multitudes who are hastening heedlessly to damnation. He speaks only of the narrow gate that leads to life, and He advises us to strive earnestly to enter it, since many will seek and will not be able. Let us try to understand this saying, and to see clearly why it is, that some are unable to enter by the narrow