

that of the Apostles, was the proof and the food of the christian faith ; he is not an Evangelist, but he wrote in his heart, and in the hearts of his hearers, in vivid and indelible characters, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was not a Martyr but he sought sufferings, and he sighed for martyrdom.

He founded no religious order, but he restored faith and piety in the Church, and the numberless wonders he has wrought since his death, bear evidence to the child-like but strong faith which leads to God, and even overthrows impiety. He is ranked amongst the confessors in the catalogue of saints, but the gentle and sympathetic character of his influence, and the universality of his benevolence cause him to be loved among all the saints in Heaven. This influence, is not limited to any particular country, its action is felt everywhere, and to day its social range is considerable. The Holy Father has indeed good reason to style him the *Saint of the Universe*.

\* \* \*

The more we consider the developments of the devotion towards the Thaumaturgus, the more we are astonished, and the better we understand the unheard-of enthusiasm it has everywhere created.

The shrines consecrated to him have become frequented pilgrimages. An engraving, or a statue representing him, is to found in all the principal churches. Painters and sculptors have made it their delight to exercise their skill in reproducing his angelic features in some event of his life, and the subject is always new.

When we meet with one of those masterpieces, and endeavor to trace its origin, we always discover that it proceeds from a miraculous incident. The devotion to St. Anthony is everywhere inaugurated by a miracle, or else the very fact of its taking a solid footing wherever it is once introduced, through the zeal of his clients, is in itself miraculous.

For instance, we may be surprised to see the picture of the humble St. Anthony in company with Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin, and some of the Apos-