

nothing in comparison to the spiritual riches with which she fills her great soul. Solely bent on pleasing God, with a disdainful foot she tramples the earth, and far elsewhere, in return for her alms, fasts and prayers, she seeks her true bread: an increase of desire and love.

"And she hath risen in the night and given a prey to her household, and victuals to her maidens!

What attentiveness and what forgetfulness of self! Where are the mistresses that become, after Our Lord Jesus Christ, the servants of their servants as St. Anne was? What a tender preoccupation for their welfare, and how proper the conduct of that kind mother is to encourage our devotion! That venerable woman did not limit her care to material wants, she was much more interested in the spiritual welfare of her dependants. She always acted towards them as she still does towards those who place their trust in her; she works with marvellous efficacy for the sanctification of their souls, and treats them as a foster-mother treats her nurslings.

"She hath considered a field and bought it, with the fruit of her hands she hath planted a vineyard.

In the eyes of attentive consideration what is that ground the entire possession of which she desires? What is that vine-producing field? Is it not herself? She succeeded in clearing that rich land, in uprooting therefrom all useless plants, and in fertilizing it. By ceaseless watchfulness, by a persevering struggle, she succeeded in gaining a perfect mastery over herself, and upon the kingdom of Nature forever ruined, she placed the Kingdom of Grace; by such marvellous husbandry she merited to behold, shooting from her own root, the Rod of Jesse, the hope of Israël, and in that field immaculate, to make the Vine thrive that yields the wine of virgins.

*(From the Trench of Father Mermillot, S. J.)*

*(To be continued.)*