

pletely purified the dwelling it was to inhabit, so that no trouble of the flesh might disturb its peace. Could it be otherwise? When the house of God was being built, it was built with stone already shaped and polished. "There was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron heard in the house, when it was in building (1). How much more, O the most perfect Temple of the Godhead, shouldst thou be composed of the most accomplished body and soul that can be conceived, wherein the hammer of contrition had nothing to break, nor the file of mortification anything to polish."

This mortification and sacrifice had done their work in St Anne and St Joachim, and, even unto the division of soul and spirit, had cleansed everything in them, without leaving the shadow of a stain. God could take of that pre-sanctified earth to create His beloved Daughter, to shape thereof the master-piece of his goodness, and confide it to the guardianship of so worthy parents. At her appearance, heaven and earth envied her who had the remarkable honor and the glorious merit of being her mother.

(From the French of Father Mermillod, S. J.)
(To be continued.)

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THE FEAST OF ST ANNE AT APT, IN PROVENCE.

One of our readers is kind enough to send us an extract from a letter he has just received from an Armenian lady, a devoted daughter of Good Saint Anne. It is useless to say how willingly we publish this delicious page, and please God that it be followed by many others from the same pen!

"Now, my Reverend Father, writes the pious correspondent, will you allow me to give you some details about the feast of St Anne, such as we have celebrated it here at home?"

(1) III, Kings, VI, 7.