

first blow or of the recoil was the greater. Fifty years after the Lutheran separation, Catholicism could hardly maintain itself on the shores of the Mediterranean. A hundred years after the separation, Protestantism could scarcely maintain itself on the shores of the Baltic.''

The life of a man who contributed in so large a measure to bring about changes so momentous cannot fail to be of interest to the Associates of the Apostleship. We regret that we can give but a faint outline of the remarkable events in the career of this champion of the Faith.

Canisius was born at Nimeguen, capital of the duchy of Guelders, on May 8, 1521. His father, James Canisius, was so favourably known as an upright and learned man that the duchess Philippina of Guelders, consort of Rene II., summoned him to Lorraine to preside over the education of the young princes, her children. Owing to his natural tact and shrewdness he was attached to several embassies of importance. Gillette Houvingane, Peter Canisius' mother, was a woman of tender piety, scrupulous in the fulfilment of all her duties, the most important of which she rightly considered to be the education of her son. This, during the few years that God spared her to him, was for her a labour of love. After the loss of this pious mother, God, in His goodness, provided for the further formation in virtue of the young saint in the person of the sister of James Canisius' second wife. This lady, who formed part of the household, led a secluded and as well ordered a life as if passed within the pale of the most rigid cloister. Her sole concern was to please God, and she deemed that nothing could be more agreeable to Him than to cultivate the good dispositions which she admired in the child, and to make them more fit for the furtherance of the designs of God's providence yet hidden in the future.

Whether in all this she acted through foresight or inspiration her discernment was not at fault, for Canisius advanced in perfection as he grew in years. He was gentle, truthful