



THE MEEKNESS OF THE HEART OF JESUS.

II

WE are all familiar with the maxim of St. Francis de Sales, so characteristic of that gentle saint :—
“ More flies are caught with a little honey, than with a cask of vinegar.” A meek man represses the movements of anger, usually indicated by violent words and gestures. He knows how to bear contradictions ; and the remembrance of wrongs excites in him no resentment ; he overcomes the natural inclination to impatience.

Phillip II, King of Spain, a profoundly religious prince, had worked through part of the night, writing to the Sovereign Pontiff on an important matter. He asked his secretary for the hour-glass. The latter, half asleep, by mistake, poured the ink over the royal parchment. “ Give me another sheet,” said the king calmly, “ and we will begin again,” Who can fail to admire control like this in little things, which great souls exercise over themselves ? Meekness represses the desire of vengeance, and when practised by a superior towards an inferior, becomes clemency.

Constantine was clement, when refusing to avenge himself on those who had created a sedition. When urged to act against those who destroyed his statues, he replied : “ I do not feel injured.” Still more beautiful was the remark of a great man, who having received a blow, the most