

many souls from the flames of hell, and the numerous indulgences, does not the Scapular offer priceless advantages to the innocent souls of those little ones? What a mistake to deprive them during their infantile and childish years of the inestimable benefit to be derived from the special protection of Mary!

Adopted children of the Blessed Virgin! Of what countless favors, both spiritual and temporal, is not that protection the pledge! Can we doubt that the words of our divine Saviour, "Suffer little children to come unto Me," find a ready response upon the lips and in the heart of Mary? And if the teaching of our holy faith permits us to see in children who have been baptized, and whose souls are still fragrant with the lovely flowers of baptismal innocence, living temples wherein the Holy Spirit delights to dwell, we can well believe that there too the Immaculate Mother finds a sweet abode.

And besides, no one can say positively when the use of reason dawns upon the child. It depends upon the physical constitution, also upon the moral and intellectual development which the child has enjoyed, and therefore christian parents should hasten to provide their precious charges with such a powerful weapon for those assaults which will not fail to be made in their earliest years.

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In the village of Sterrebeck, between Bruxelles and Louvain, a very remarkable cure was effected through the intercession of our Lady of Mount Carmel.

A little child, when she had reached the age of eighteen months, suddenly lost the use of her limbs. She had been perfectly able to stand alone and had begun to walk quite well, to the joy of her fond mother, whose delight it was to guide her child and watch its restless wanderings here and there. But all was changed. For five weary years little Marguerite was helpless; then she was provided with crutches, which enabled her, although very slowly, to move a few steps.

The parents finally thought of enrolling their afflicted child under the banner of Mary. This was accomplished in due form, and an offering was made to the altar of our Lady.

The next day brought a decided improve-

ment. Marguerite could dispense with one of the crutches, and upon the following morning she was even better still. She cast down the other crutch and ran joyously to her mother, crying out that she was cured.

The pastor of the village and the Director of the Confraternity had an exact account of the miracle written out and attested to. Several copies were made, and the original document was sent to a monastery of the Carmelite fathers.—*Speculi Carmelitani*, part III, p. 639, *Pere Brocard, de Sainte Terese, Recueil d' instructions*.

Fr. Theophile Raynaud, of the Society of Jesus, relates the following: "Anna Merle, a child four years of age, the daughter of a lawyer of Toulon, became so seriously ill that her life was entirely despaired of. Her parents hastened to lay their petitions for her recovery at the shrine of our Blessed Mother, and their promise to have the child enrolled in the Confraternity of the Scapular was followed by her speedy restoration to health.

"Strange to say, they neglected to do as they had promised, and seven years passed away. Meanwhile their daughter again fell ill, and much more seriously than before. The attending physicians declared that there was not the least hope of her cure. With the deepest contrition of heart they implored the assistance of the 'Comfortress of the afflicted,' and hastened to comply with the promise made in the distant past. Anna was enrolled in the holy confraternity, with sentiments of the greatest devotion, and again her health was restored. Her parents, to testify their gratitude to the queen of heaven, placed a beautiful marble tablet, with an appropriate inscription, in the chapel of our Lady of Mount Carmel as a token that God protects those who wear His Immaculate Mother's favorite badge."

The feast of the Presentation of our Lady, November 21, 1655, witnessed the establishment of the confraternity so specially dear to our Queen in the church of Austricourt, near Douai. Two days later a child came into the world in the same parish without manifesting any sign of life.

Its parents were inconsolable, but full of faith in the protection of Mary, they placed entire confidence in her and begged her to grant their request. The body of the in-