

or ask for the removal of the evil by prayer, until preceiving the sorrow it caused her mother, she decided to make a novena to obtain relief. Not only were her wounds entirely healed, but she never experienced the least illness, although she had already recommenced her austerities with greater fervor than ever.

II

About the year 1662, Margaret Mary being then about fifteen years of age, a change came in the household which has never been clearly explained, owing to the young girl's extreme reserve in speaking of this part of her life. After her mother's death, her first fervor began gradually to wane. The consciousness of renewed health and the consequent temptations born of a life of freedom and the enjoyment of companionship of her brothers who were very fond and proud of her, the somewhat worldly friendships which she had contracted, and the love of society which had begun to take hold of her, had a rather blighting effect on her devotions. This is her own version of this phase of her life: for the dreadful worldliness of which she accuses herself so vehemently was hardly perceivable to others. Our Blessed Lord would not suffer one of His chosen souls to take pleasure in anything but Himself; and to bring her



Margaret Mary tenderly cares for her mother.

back — not to His service, for this she had never left — but to the perfect following of the "way of sorrows," He sent her a fresh cross as a token of His love. That cross was a very bitter one, indeed.