

## OUR LADY'S WEDDING DAY.

How few live to celebrate their golden wedding! Such an event is considered memorable, and an occasion of much joy and congratulation. But memorable as it is, that day soon passes into obscurity. The joyful occasions of one generation give place to others, and the red letter days of the domestic circle are soon forgotten. Such are human events, nevertheless there is one wedding day which will always remain green in our memory. It is more than a golden anniversary—it is the commemoration of that happy day of more than a thousand years ago when our Holy Mother was espoused to Holy Joseph about the middle of the sixteenth century, in order to remind us of this joyful event, holy church instituted the Feast of the Espousal of the Blessed Virgin, which we celebrate on the 23rd of this month.

We read that a French Princess Johanna de Eyreux, wife of Philip the Fair, was very much devoted to our Blessed Lady, and was one of the principal benefactors of the church of our Lady of Mount Carmel in Paris. On one occasion the pious princess decorated the statue of the Blessed Virgin with a beautiful golden crown, which was set with diamonds, rubies and emeralds. In addition to this, the royal devotee placed on the statue a veil rich with pearls and skilfully wrought lilies. We too should bring some suitable wedding gift to our Queen. We may not be able to imitate the French princess in the wealth of our gifts, but we can nevertheless make an offering just as acceptable to our Blessed Lady. Mary had vowed to live a life of virginity. What a sacrifice of her own will did she not make in obeying her parents and entering the married state. Free-will is man's noblest gift—that which makes him the crown-work of creation, and when we give it back to God we can offer Him nothing more valuable. On this account did God also reward Mary's sacrifice, and was

pleased to give her a spouse who was to be her protector and the guardian of her holy purity. Thus was our mother crowned. We, too, can offer our wedding gifts. Let it be also a crown, viz, a sacrifice of our own will; let us offer her, too, a wreath of pearls and lilies—that is to say, according to our state in life, to imitate her angelic purity. Such presents are the most acceptable in the eyes of our Holy Mother.

Now that Advent is past, weddings will again be the order of the day. Let those who are entering this holy state take Mary as their model. In order that God may bless their union, let them receive the holy sacrament in a way becoming christians and Catholics. How unchristian to see so many fulfilling all the fashionable requirements, but neglecting to receive the nuptial blessing at Holy Mass. Mary's example is a reproach to many—she did not on the score of royal extraction claim exemption from being married in the temple,—follow her example and each anniversary of the nuptial-day will be an occasion of joy and happiness.

THE make-up of the front cover of THE CARMELITE REVIEW may not appear appropriate. Nevertheless it will remain as it is at least during this year, first for economical reasons, and secondly because by associating our projected Hopice with the great cataract and showing the building on its future site, will be a means of attracting the attention of many who otherwise might be unaware of our location.

CHARITY and gentleness should be a law for whoever writes for a Catholic journal; as moderation in style and argument is an evidence at once of a christian-like spirit, of true mental culture and of gentleman-like breeding.—*Archbishop Feehan.*

Praise everybody, and find good in everybody.—*St. Philip Neri.*