

*Q.* By whom was this feast established ?

*A.* It was established by the churches of the east, and celebrated with great pomp from an early period. It passed into France after the Crusades, about the middle of the fourteenth century.

*Q.* How must we consider the Blessed Virgin in her feasts and in her whole life ?

*A.* We must consider her as the model of all Christians, but especially of Christian women. As daughter, spouse, mother, widow, and ever virgin, Mary offers to women a perfect model in every position of life. It is by imitating the Blessed Virgin that they will enjoy that respect and happiness which religion is destined to procure them.

*Q.* What effects are produced by the veneration of the Blessed Virgin ?

*A.* It fills the soul with meekness, purity, and confidence ; it has an influence in sanctifying public morals, and inspires and ennobles the arts.

## CHAPTER XLIX.

Christianity visible.—Finding and Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

*Q.* What is the first festival established in honor of the cross ?

*A.* That which Constantine caused to be established in memory of the miraculous cross which had appeared to him.

*Q.* Was this a solemn festival ?

*A.* From the commencement it was very solemn, but it became still more so when, in 326, St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, had found the cross of the Saviour. These two circumstances form but one feast, which we call the Finding of the Holy Cross, and is celebrated on the 3d of May.

*Q.* What is the second feast in honor of the cross ?