

LIFE OF ST. PETER THOMAS, OF THE ORDER OF CARMELITES:

DEVOTED SERVANT OF MARY—TITULAR PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE—LEGATE OF THE CRUSADE OF 1365.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF L'ABBE A. PARRAUD.

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CHAPTER V.

THE APOSTLE OF AVIGNON—THE DOCTORATE—PROFESSORSHIP OF THEOLOGY—SERMONS—HIS SUCCESS IN SOLICITING ALMS—DIRECTION OF SOULS—1343-1347.



HE preacher, for whom the future held within its depths such vast opportunities in the exercise of his wonderful eloquence, had taken, nevertheless, only his first degree in theology. Would not his words possess a greater weight if they were surrounded with the prestige inseparable from the doctorate? Such was—and justly—the universal opinion of his friends. At the solicitation of Cardinal Talleyrand, the General Chapter of Carmelites relieved the Procurator of his charge, and Peter was forthwith sent once more to the Sorbonne, there to enter the lists for the honorable title of doctor.

His marvellous facility enabled him, without ever losing sight of the principal aim, to act as professor for the course of Holy Scripture. Worthy exponent of the inspired volumes, he seemed to be inspired himself, as he

commented upon the texts with the enthusiasm which springs from a fervent piety, and the wisdom which might be expected from his unusual gifts. And then, when he left the professor's chair, and became himself a disciple of the Masters in Theology, he shone forth as one of the most distinguished of the students in an institution which numbered so many illustrious names within its ranks.

According to the ordinary regulations, a five years' course was necessary before the title of doctor was given, but with the unanimous consent of the faculty, in consideration of his incontestable capacity, after only three years he was proclaimed Doctor in Theology, *Magister in Sacra Pagina*.

Behold Father Peter Thomas in the full vigor of manhood's years, in the splendor of his intellectual development, full of enthusiasm for the good cause, ready to go forth, a valiant knight, to combat against the kingdom of darkness. He is now armed with full authority to direct, as chieftain, all over the world, the never ceasing conflict against vice, wickedness and