

mould and rust of those long years go out. Those years when only the dead were here. Was it not so, Hepzibah?

"Good Lord, no," said Hepzibah, "I defy anyone to say that ever spook or sperrit of any sort was seen round here.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

THE BLESSED VIRGIN AND JAPAN.

BELOW is an extract from a long letter sent to THE CARMELITE REVIEW:

"In 1847, when Japan was seemingly as unapproachable as ever, Pope Pius IX, by an inspiration from heaven, declared the Holy Virgin principal patroness of the whole Japanese Empire, under the title of Her Most Holy Heart.

At length, in 1854 the year in which the same Sovereign Pontiff proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, Japan, after having been so long secluded, was opened again to foreigners and preachers of the gospel.

But all was not yet done. The Protestant ministers installed themselves first. The offspring of the ancient Christians came to see them hiddenly—for they were still under the ban of persecution—hoping to meet in them the successors of those who converted and taught their ancestors. Alas! they did not find *Santa Maria*, and returned disconsolate.

Soon after a Catholic church was also raised. It was finished in Feb., 1865, and dedicated to the twenty-six Japanese martyrs canonized in 1862. In that church an altar was built to Our Lady, and above that altar was put the statue of that august Mother holding her child in her arms.

As soon as the church was opened to the public, there was every day a great flow of visitors. The descendants of the martyrs were in the presence of *Santa Maria*. They had found again the priests of the olden days. On the 17th of March they revealed themselves to one of them—

Father Petitjean—who, the next year, was appointed by the Holy See to rule them, with the title of Bishop of Myriophyta and Apostolic Vicar for all Japan.

Some time afterwards Pius IX, in order to perpetuate the memory of the benefactions of Mary towards this country, established in her honor a special holiday, which he fixed on the 17th of March of each year. We call it the feast of the discovery of the Christians or simply the feast of Our Lady of Japan. The same Sovereign Pontiff attached indulgences to the invocation 'Our Lady of Japan, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us.'

An Incident of the Scapular.

A SHORT time since a young man was preparing to go on a fishing excursion. While dressing, he thought he would leave off his scapulars, as the cord was considerably frayed. He mentioned the fact to his sister. She expostulated with him, and after a good deal of persuasion, induced him to wear the scapulars. During the day the boat in which were the young man and his companion capsized. The companion could swim, but the other could not. The first named said he would bring him safe to shore. He took a cramp, however, and went down to rise no more. Our young man was rescued after going down once or twice. When he was brought to shore and his clothing removed, it was found that although his apparel was soaked through and through, the scapulars were perfectly dry. This was noted, not by Catholics, but by Protestant rescuers. It is safe to say our young man will never think of leaving off the scapular again.

Woe to him who neglects prayer! His life shall be worthless as a tree destitute of sap, and his actions shall fall to the ground as withered, discolored leaves.—ST CHARLES.