

citizens in repairing and restoring the ancient church of our Lady of Victories, that standing monument of the tender devotion of our ancestors towards their august and powerful patroness. May the God of Mercies and source of every good gift who inspired them with the holy thought, reward a hundredfold the offerings of their piety given for the restoration and decoration of the temple, in which for so many years past, we have honoured his blessed Mother.

But the children of Mary, whose pious liberalities renewed and adorned her cherished Sanctuary, were anxious to enjoy the happiness of contemplating the mild and sweet image of their good mother, and it was in conformity with the desire of their filial affection, that the venerable Archbishop, on the 23rd October last, consented to bless, with solemn pomp, and to place on the throne prepared for the occasion, the statue of the merciful Virgin, at whose feet the poor in their misery, and the repentant sinner are ever sure to obtain protection, refuge, and succour.

Oh! how great was the joy of the pious and worthy prelate, seeing the dense crowd of the faithful thronging round the altar of Mary, during the imposing and affecting ceremony; how the paternal heart of the Pastor overflowed with consolation while thus beholding, in the midst of his dearly beloved flock, a spectacle of devotion towards the Most Holy Virgin worthy of the ages of faith, the happiest ages of the church! With what lively emotions did he not feel the full force and truth of the prophetic words which the humblest of the daughters of Israel uttered when having become the mother of God, she pronounced, under the influence of the extatic gratitude and love of her soul—*Eccce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes*. Behold henceforth all nations shall call me blessed, and shall bless me. *Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est*: Because the Most High has looked down on the humility of his handmaid.

Yes, she is justly entitled to all our blessings—to all our confidence, the humble and holy Virgin, whom God himself has blessed amongst all women, and whom he has raised above all angels, by choosing her to be the mother of his divine Son! What could he refuse to her, after having thus given to her, his only beloved Son? And could the divine Jesus reject the prayers of Mary, whom he loves as the mother who bore him in her womb, who suckled him with her milk, who watched over his cradle, who nursed his infancy, who followed him in the