

representatives who were always found to advance their interest.

In future it will be a very ordinary thing to see Catholics elected for the House of Assembly ; and we have no doubt but it will be an ordinary thing with the Government to appoint them to other branches of the Legislature, to the Magistracy, and other offices for which their good conduct and talents may fit them.—*St. John Liberator.*

LITERATURE.

A DISCOURSE

ON THE

SACRED HEART OF MARY:

ADDRESSED TO

THE RELIGIOUS OF THE VISITATION IN PARIS

BY THE

REV. PERE M'CARTHY, S. J.

[Translated from the French by a Religious of the Presentation.]

A DISCOURSE

ON

DEVOTION TO THE HEART OF MARY.

(Concluded.)

SECOND POINT.

I am obliged now, my dear sisters to rise above all human conceptions, and to enter into the region of the most sublime mysteries, since my subject leads me to speak to you of those incomprehensible relations which unite a simple creature in quality of daughter, spouse, and mother, to her God. It is useless here to seek elevated language which would only render more sensible our weakness, and the disproportion between our words and such exalted things. But I propose, my dear sisters, to nourish your piety, and aid you to comprehend, what should be the heart of her who has contracted such wonderful relations, such an intimate alliance with the Divinity itself. The Lord had decreed in his eternal councils, that the world should be saved by the incarnation of his Word, and that this ineffable mystery should be accomplished in the womb of a virgin, by the operation of the Holy Ghost. From that moment, it concerned the glory of the ever adorable Trinity, that nothing should be wanting to the perfection of a creature called to so high a destiny. The Father adopted, in a special manner, as his daughter, her who has to become the spouse of His Holy Spirit, and mother of his only Son. He preserved her from original sin ; sanctified not merely her

birth but even her conception, and prevented her from her mother's womb; with an effusion of graces without example and without measure, so that, before her birth she might be named full of grace as truly as Gabriel styled her so afterwards: *Grati plena*. Luke i. 28. It might be said that the Lord was already with her, loading her with his favours, ornamenting her with his rarest gifts and employing all his care to embellish her soul *Domine tecum*. Ib. iv. 7. We might add that she was then blessed amongst all the daughters of Adam, and that she surpassed them all in sanctity *Benedicta tu inter mulieres*. Ib. 42. At the first moment of her life, her God receives her into his arms, and soon he wishes that she would acknowledge no other Father than him. Long before the age when other children are enlightened by the first dawn of reason, she hears a tender and powerful voice in the secret of her heart which says to her: Listen, O my daughter, thou whom I have chosen amongst all creatures to give thee this name, listen and learn what are my designs upon thee: *Audi filia et ride*. Psalms xlv. 11. Forget thy country and thy people, thy father's house and the authors of thy existence: *Obliviscere populum tuum et domum patris tui*. Ib. For the King, thy God, he whom the universe adores, is taken with thy beauty ; he demands thy heart, he wishes to reign therein alone, and will be jealous of the least division of it: *Et concupiscet rex decorem tuum ; quoniam ipse est Dominus Deus tuus et adorabunt eum*. Ib. 12. Obedient to this secret voice, Mary bursts all the ties of nature ; scarcely left the cradle, she already confines herself within the temple, where a voluntary captive, chained by love to the foot of the altar, she has no commerce but with heaven. Whilst she consecrates herself by an irrevocable engagement to virginity, and spends in this sacred place her days and nights in prayer, the Lord raises within her another temple, still more holy, another sanctuary still more august, where the Divinity will one day corporally reside. It is there, it is in this heart that the sacred fire is never extinguished, and that there burns incessantly an incense of agreeable odour ; there is the true altar of holocausts where on a pure victim is immolated and consumed at every hour ; the true Holy of Holies, where the eternal delivers his oracles in secret ; and the living ark, of which that of the Hebrews was only a figure. Oh ! with what complacency does God regard this tabernacle invisible to the eyes of mortals ! how he loves to prepare so worthy a dwelling for his Son. It is there, also, it is in this virginal heart that is celebrated her ineffable union with the Holy Spirit: Descend, O divine Spirit, the spouse is ready : she is adorned with chastity, humility, love, with all the variety and magnifi-