

bore him, but to the immediate creative power of God. And yet we hesitate not to say that Victoria is the mother of the Prince since she is the mother of the person bearing that title. Mary is invariably called in Holy Writ the Mother of Jesus, the One who claimed and proved by His stupendous miracles that He was the Son of the living God ; and we know, from the same source, that Mary exercised the prerogatives of a mother during the mortal life of her Divine Son.

Mary is our Mother by adoption. In the person of the first Eve, the Almighty had condemned woman to bring forth in sorrow (Gen. iii, 16), and it was in sorrow, at the foot of the Cross, that Mary, the second Eve, became our mother and we her spiritual children. The Redeemer was about to die and was making his last will and testament which was sealed with his blood. The words of the Gospel, when He bequeathed to all Christians his own Mother, are of touching simplicity :

“ Now there stood by the cross of JESUS his mother and his mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas and Mary Magdalen. When JESUS therefore had seen His mother and the disciple standing, whom He loved, He saith to His mother : Woman, behold thy son. After that, He saith to the disciple : Behold thy mother. And from that hour the disciple took her to his own.”

Saint John here represented all the members of the great family of Christ's Church. At the death of JESUS, Mary lost her Son until the day when she was united again to Him in heaven. She lost that Son, Christ, who, we are told by the Apostle, was “ the first-born among many brethren ” (Rom. viii, 29) ; but in the person of John she beheld those numberless brothers of her Son, who, through all generations until the lapse of time, are to call her “ Blessed,” adding to that glorious appellation the sweet name of “ Mother.”

JESUS, during the three years of His preaching, had