

to comment on your admirable words. Conscious of his inability, he undertakes it purely for the purpose of enkindling within himself, and others, the bright flame of the love of that Jesus who reposed within your sacred womb when you spoke. His tongue shall be ever employed in the sweet task of proclaiming your glories. His pen will ever describe your virtues and your crowns; and his heart, in imitation of yours, shall always endeavour to beat in response to the heart of Jesus. Deign then to favour him with your patronage in the prosecution of his pleasing task.

The Evangelist records, that when the Mother of our Redeemer was informed by the heavenly messenger, Gabriel, that her relation Elizabeth, was in the sixth month of her pregnancy, she arose with haste, and proceeded to pay her a charitable visit. When she entered the house, and had saluted Elizabeth, the Baptist leaped in his mother's womb, with joy and exultation. Then it was that Elizabeth addressed her in these remarkable words: "Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb." This she exclaimed, (says the Evangelist,) with a loud voice, and filled with the Holy Ghost. And in raptures of astonishment at the sublime honor which she received in this visit, she continued with humility: "Whence is this to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? And blessed art thou, (said she to the Virgin,) that thou hast believed, because these things shall be accomplished, that were spoken to thee by the Lord!" Oh! what a happy meeting and salutation were these, between the Mother of the Baptist and the Mother of the Redeemer! The richest treasures of heaven and earth are met together. On the one side,

Mary, the fairest of the daughters of Eve, replenished with grace, and filled with the Author of all grace, the delight and joy of the archangel and seraph; and on the other, the pious and reverend Elizabeth, bearing within her, the greatest amongst the born of women, the prophet and more than a prophet; the forerunner of salvation, the herald of Jesus Christ, the trumpet of penance on the banks of the Jordan! What charity and profound humility are observable on both sides! Mary, though raised to the august dignity of Mother of God, no sooner hears that Elizabeth has conceived, through the interposition of heaven, than she is carried on the wings of charity to the hilly country of Judæa, and without waiting for Elizabeth to address her, makes herself the first salutation. Truly it was matter of astonishment to Elizabeth to find that the Mother of the world's Redeemer should come so long a journey to visit so obscure a person. But was she elevated or puffed up with pride at the honor which she received? By no means.—With a humility corresponding to that of the lowly handmaid of heaven, she exclaimed in admiration: Whence is this to me? Is it possible I am so highly favored? Whence is this to me? What have I done to deserve it? What in me pleased the Most High, that he should inspire the Mother of my Lord to visit me? "For as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in my ears, the infant leaped with exultation in my womb?"—See how the Baptist exulted with joy in his mother's womb, at the approach of the Saviour. And why should we be astonished that he was thus prevented with grace—that even in his embryo he breathed all the fragrance of a full-blown flower? Ought we not rather be amazed, that all crea-