

loved has come into His garden "to eat the fruit of His apple-trees," He will not condemn me :—

O Thou that dwelleth in the gardens, Thy friends hearken, make them hear Thy voice," The voice of Thy Precious Blood.

BY CARISSIMI.

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## THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

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O joyful day for the Mother of God and of men ! Exile over, sorrows past, the last hours of her earthly life were closing in. With what feelings of ecstatic longing did she welcome the summons to come, for the winter was over—the winter of her unequalled suffering and loneliness.

Happy day, too, for earth. After the tears of separation have been dried, Mary's children will direct their pleading glances to heaven, certain that their trustful gaze will draw upon them the pity and protection of their Mother who is now enthroned Queen of Heaven.

A spiritual writer (1) dwells lovingly on the mystery of the death and glorious assumption of the Blessed Virgin. He says : Mary was apprised of her approaching death by the ministry of an angel who informed her of the day and hour when she would leave this world. Of all the ties of kindred and affection, Saint John alone remained to the Virgin,—Saint John, the kind and loving disciple who had been bequeathed to her by her dying Son. The other apostles were sowing the good seed of the word over every part of the Roman world, the evangelical harvest was plentiful, and the laborers worked zealously in the sacred field. Mary considered that her mission on earth was accomplished. Like a tired workwoman who seeks rest and shelter during the heat of the day, she began to sigh after the cool shade of the tree of life which grows near the throne of God and for the living, sanctifying waters which flow beneath its branches.

We learn from tradition that the apostles were miraculously assembled to behold for the last time the daughter

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(1) Orsini.