

CHAPTER IX.

VISIONS OF ELIZABETH MORA.

COMPILED from the process of her beatification and from her *Life*, published in Italian, with the approbation of Monseigneur Villanova Castellani, Archbishop of Petra. This *Life* has been translated into the French language, and edited in Paris, 1869, by Sarlit.

Biographical Sketch.

Elizabeth Canori was born in Rome, from respectable parents, on the 21st of November, 1774, and in due time she was married to Christopher Mora, an advocate in the Roman Court, from whom she had several children. She had much to suffer from these, and more especially from her husband. But she made such good use of these trials that she rapidly advanced to the highest degree of Christian perfection. In the year 1820, Elizabeth joined the third order of the discalced or barefooted Trinitarians, and five years later, on the 5th of February, being fifty years of age, she died in Rome, in great odor of sanctity. Then, according to her prediction, her husband, Christopher Mora, was converted so entirely to God that he became a priest, and died a Minor Conventual Friar of St. Francis. From the process of the beatification of Elizabeth, introduced in Rome, we learn that this great servant of God wrought many miraculous cures, and that it was she who freed the young Count John Maria de Mastai Ferretti, the present Pope Pius IX, from epilepsy, which had so far prevented his admission into the ecclesiastical state. God had chosen Elizabeth as a victim of propitiation for his Church, capable of arresting the punishments of Divine justice, provoked by the iniquities of mankind. We give here an instance of the power of this voluntary expiation and intercession in behalf of sinners, which is very important to observe at the present time, when, more than ever, we are in great need of heroic devotion. On the 24th of January, 1819, this venerable servant of God was, during her prayer, warned by God to keep herself ready for a severe combat, which she should have soon to endure for the Church, for the Pope, and for sinners. God then permitted great numbers of demons to assail Elizabeth, and to torment her in a thousand horrible

ways. Her extreme sufferings deprived her of sight; she was unable to open her mouth; her palate was torn to pieces; her cheeks were burned; her head was nearly severed from the trunk; and her whole body was, as it were, penetrated by a kind of infernal fire: the anguish of her soul was inexpressible. She was reduced to terrible agony. God, however, did not cease to console her interiorly. He commanded an angel to bring her the Holy Communion every day, and our Lord appeared to her eyes under the figure of a consecrated Host. In this manner Elizabeth was more and more encouraged to offer herself, with generosity of soul, as a holocaust, in order to suspend the effects of God's justice against sinners. This heroic servant of God had an extreme want of these heavenly comforts; without them she should have died under these terrible attacks of the infernal spirits, who went so far as to nail her body to a cross, and pierced her heart with a lance. This made her fall into a swoon, which was supposed mortal by her attendants. During this agony our Blessed Lord appeared to his generous spouse, radiant with Divine light, detached her with his own hands from the cross, and instantly cured her of all her wounds. The most holy Virgin Mary also visited her; then St. Peter, St. Paul, and other saints. She found herself, as it were, swallowed up in an ocean of heavenly delights. On this occasion, among other things, our Blessed Lord said to Elizabeth: "Thy sacrifice has done violence to my irritated justice. I suspend the punishment, and give free scope to my mercy. Christians shall not be dispersed, nor shall Rome be deprived of her Pontiff. I will reform my people and my Church; I will send zealous priests, and my spirit shall renew the face of the Earth. I will restore fervor to religious Orders, and give to my Church a new pastor, filled with my spirit, who, through his zeal, shall sanctify my sheep." These are words and promises of high importance. We learn from them that holy souls, through their prayers and voluntary self-immolations, can appease the wrath of God, and turn away the calamities that our innumerable prevarications deserve, as our Lord revealed to Mary Lataste, in the following expressions: My daughter, it is enough sometimes for a soul to present herself before God with a holy fear and trembling, and to address her supplications to him, in order to arrest his indignant arm, already lifted up to chastise an entire nation.

We shall now give a symbolic prophecy, very threatening against the wicked, but, at the same time, most consoling for good Christians, because it announces the future triumph of the Church, after the fearful punishments of its enemies.

Prophetic Vision of Elizabeth Mora.

"On the Feast of St. Peter, 29th of June, 1820, whilst I was praying," our venerable Elizabeth says, "for the wants of the Church and the conversion of sinners, amongst whom I am the first, I was ravished in spirit, and drawn very near

to God. Through an infinite light I was so intimately united to him that I lost all sentiments of myself. The sweet impressions of the love of God replenished me with an inexpressible joy and satisfaction. My soul, however, remained calm in these tokens of Divine kindness. Then it seemed to me to behold the heavens opening, and St. Peter, prince of the Apostles, coming down, surrounded with great glory and by a numerous escort of heavenly spirits, singing canticles. St. Peter was dressed in his pontifical robes and held in his right hand the pastoral staff, with which he used to draw upon the Earth an immense cross; at the same time the angels sang these words of the Psalmist, *Constitues eos principes super omnem terram*, — you will constitute them princes over the whole Earth.

“After this the holy Apostle touched with his staff the four extremities of the cross, from which sprung up four beautiful trees loaded with blossoms and fruits. These mysterious trees had the form of a cross, and were surrounded by a splendid light. Then I comprehended in the depth of my soul that St. Peter had produced these four symbolic trees to the end that they may serve as a place of refuge to the little flocks of the faithful friends of Jesus Christ, and in order to preserve them from the fearful punishment which shall convulse the whole Earth. All good Christians shall then be protected under these trees, together with all those religious persons who shall have faithfully preserved in their hearts the spirit of their order. I say the same thing in relation to the secular clergy and to all other persons of every class who shall have kept in their heart the Catholic faith, — they shall all be protected. But woe, to those religious who do not observe their rule! thrice unhappy they! for they shall all be struck by that terrible punishment. I say the same to all secular clergy, and to all classes of people in the world who give themselves to a life of pleasure, and who follow the false maxims of modern ideas, which are opposed to the holy precepts of the gospel. These wretched people, who through their scandalous conduct deny the faith of Jesus Christ, shall perish under the weight of the indignant arm of God’s justice. Not one of them shall be able to escape the punishment.

“I beheld those good Christians, who had sought a refuge under those mysterious trees, in the form of beautiful lambs confided to the care and vigilance of St. Peter, their good shepherd, testifying to him the most humble and most respectful obedience. As soon as St. Peter, the prince of the Apostles, had gathered the flock of Jesus in a place of safety, he re-ascended into Heaven, accompanied by legions of angels. Scarcely had they disappeared, when the sky was covered with clouds so dense and dismal that it was impossible to look at them without dismay. On a sudden there burst out such a terrible and violent wind, that its noise seemed like the roars of furious lions. The sound of the dreadful hurricane was heard over the whole Earth. Fear and terror struck not only men, but the very beasts.

“All men shall rise one against the other, and they shall kill one another without pity. During this sanguinary conflict the avenging arm of God will strike the wicked, and in his mighty power he will punish their pride and presumption. God will employ the powers of Hell for the extermination of these impious and heretical persons who desire to overthrow the Church and destroy it to its very foundation. These presumptuous men in their mad impiety believe they can overthrow God from his throne; but the Lord will despise their artifices, and through an effect of his almighty hand he will punish these impious blasphemers by giving permission to the infernal spirits to come out from Hell. Innumerable legions of demons shall overrun the Earth, and shall execute the orders of Divine justice, by causing terrible calamities and disasters; they shall attack everything; they shall injure individual persons and entire families; they shall devastate property and alimentary productions, cities and villages. Nothing on Earth shall be spared. God will allow the demons to strike with death those impious men, because they gave themselves up to the infernal powers, and had formed with them a compact against the Catholic Church.

“Being desirous of more fully penetrating my spirit with a deeper sentiment of his divine justice, God showed to me the awful abyss; I saw in the bowels of the Earth a dark and frightful cavern, whence an infinite number of demons were issuing forth, who under the form of men and beasts came to ravage the world, leaving everywhere ruins and blood. Happy will be all true and good Catholics! They shall experience the powerful protection of the holy Apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul, who will watch over them lest they may be injured either in their persons or their property. Those evil spirits shall plunder every place where God has been outraged, despised, and blasphemed; the edifices they profaned will be pulled down and destroyed, and nothing but ruins shall remain of them.

“After this frightful punishment I saw the heavens opening, and St. Peter coming down again, upon Earth; he was vested in his pontifical robes, and surrounded by a great number of angels, who were chanting hymns in his honor, and they proclaimed him as sovereign of the Earth. I saw also St. Paul descending upon the Earth. By God’s command, he traversed the Earth and unchained the demons, whom he brought before St. Peter, who commanded them to return into Hell, whence they had come.

“Then a great light appeared upon the Earth, which was the sign of the reconciliation of God with man. The angels conducted before the throne of the prince of the Apostles the small flock that had remained faithful to Jesus Christ. These good and zealous Christians testified to him the most profound respect, praising God and thanking the Apostles for having delivered them from the common destruction, and for having protected the Church of Jesus Christ by not permitting her to be infected with the false maxims of the world. St. Peter then

chose the new pope. The Church was again organized; religious orders were re-established; the private families of ordinary Christians, through their great fervor and zeal for the glory of God, became like the most exemplary religious communities. Such is the glorious triumph reserved for the Catholic Church; she shall be praised, honored, and esteemed by all men. All men shall become Catholics, and shall acknowledge the Pope as Vicar of Jesus Christ. Amen.”