

**LIFE OF ST. LEONARD
OF PORT-MAURICE,
O.F.M. (1676-1751)**

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Life of St. Leonard of Port-Maurice, O.F.M. (1676-1751) by Fr. Dominic Devas

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FR. DOMINIC DEVAS

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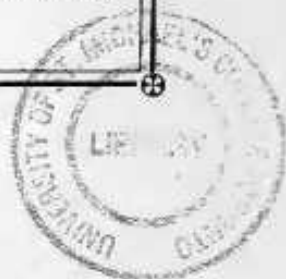
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AD
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INTRODUCTION

A HOPE was once expressed to a religious, desirous of publishing some documents on monastic history, that his work "might prove fruitful of good," the underlying intimation being that possibly it might not. The present writer has been constantly beset, whilst writing these pages, with a similar fear. What, it may well be asked, is the use of putting before us to-day the example of one who, though modern in the ranks of the Saints, was most certainly what is called—contemptuously, I fear—a mediævalist, a man who followed old-time ways and customs, and sought to perpetuate them? True, Leonard was beyond all question a great missionary, a prolific giver of Retreats, a popular preacher, and as such is not regarded without some condescending sympathy, as being, up to a certain point, intelligible to the modern spirit. But to think of him in that light only is, I venture to suggest, wrong, and the resulting picture a distorted one. Far better, so it seems to me, to relegate his memory to complete oblivion, rather than to resuscitate him only in part. We have no right to mutilate our subject, and then present a partial figure, on the plea that such is the only aspect of his life of any interest to-day. To put the question on no higher level, such a proceeding