

**THE MISSION OF ST.  
FRANCIS OF SALES  
IN THE CHABLAIS**

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The Mission of St. Francis of Sales in the Chablais by Mary Elizabeth Herbert

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**MARY ELIZABETH HERBERT**

**THE MISSION OF ST.  
FRANCIS OF SALES  
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THE MISSION OF  
ST. FRANCIS OF SALES

*IN THE CHABLAIS.*

BY

LADY HERBERT.



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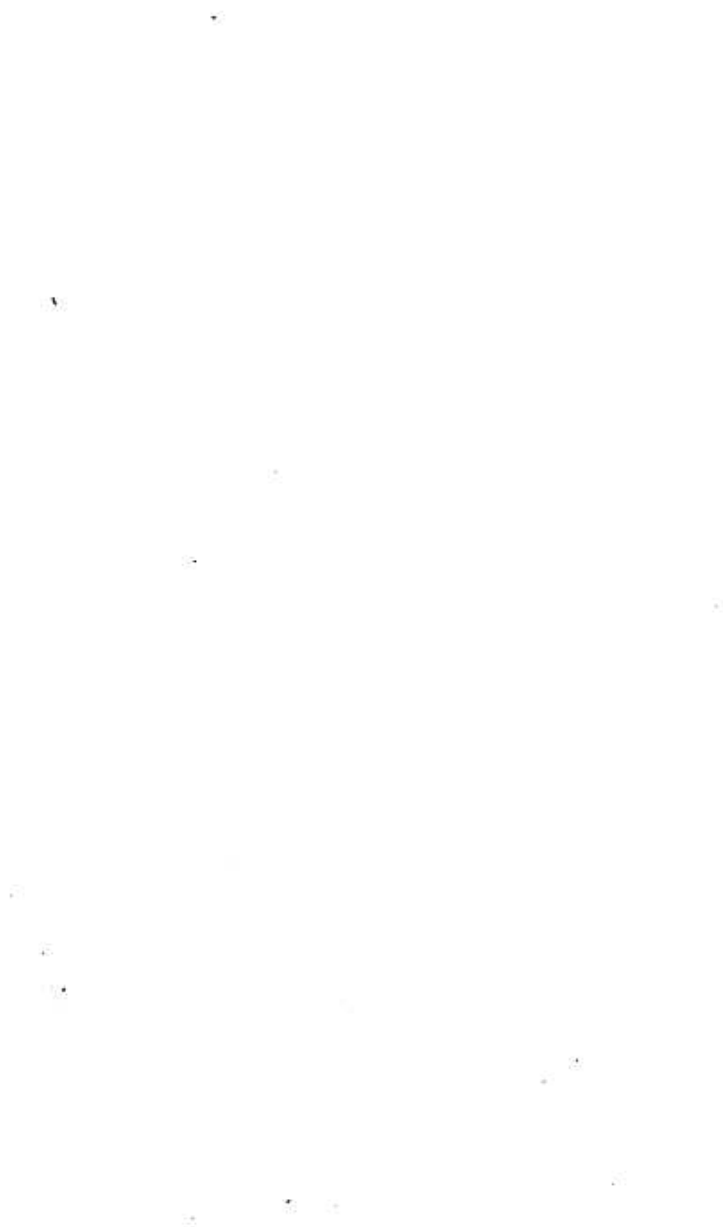
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TO

*THE REVEREND JOHN EDWARD BOWDEN,*

PRIEST OF THE LONDON ORATORY,

*These pages are humbly and affectionately inscribed.*





## *PREFACE.*

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THE writer of the following pages had two motives in view,—the one to make known more widely among English readers this episode in the life of that apostle of charity, St. Francis of Sales ; the other, to show the wonderful parallel between the spiritual condition of the Chablais and of England in the sixteenth century.

In both countries the iron heel of the civil power succeeded in crushing out the Catholic faith, and establishing heresy as the law of the land. And in both the sacred flame of truth

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was kept alive by the fidelity of a few faithful hearts, who, in spite of persecution and martyrdom and the loss of goods and lands and all that men hold most dear, maintained the good seed which was afterwards to spring up and bear fruit a hundredfold.

And now, as in the Chablais so in England, a brighter day has dawned; the age of penal laws and religious persecutions is wellnigh past. Once more on countless altars the Holy Sacrifice is daily offered; and that, not in secret hiding-place or in chapels behind carefully concealed panels, but in the centre of London and in open day.

Once more, noble bands of men and women are congregating in convent homes to teach the ignorant, to nurse the sick, to rescue the fallen, to train priests for the sanctuary, to lift up holy hands unceasingly for a blessing on our land.

And now, in this season of Lent, our venerable

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Archbishop, following in the footsteps of his predecessors, has again inaugurated the "Forty Hours" throughout his diocese; so that in each church as the tapers flicker and die out, "wasting with love like human souls" before the Tabernacle, their flame may be renewed in continual succession, and countless worshippers be brought to the feet of their Lord. Veiled in the Sacred Species, out of the very depths of His unfathomable humility, marvellous are the conquests of our King in the Blessed Sacrament, carrying by storm, as it were, the very hearts of men.

"I have greater faith in *that* than in all our toil," exclaimed St. Francis when the first "Exposition" was permitted at Annemasse.

And so let us take heart and labour each in our sphere, however humble, for this great end. True, the evil in England is more deeply rooted. For three hundred years the influence