SOCIETY OF JESUS; THE SPIRITUAL RETREAT

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Society of Jesus; The Spiritual Retreat by Father Colombière

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FATHER COLOMBIÈRE

SOCIETY OF JESUS; THE SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Trieste

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

THE

REV. FATHER COLOMBIERE,

Of the Society of Jesus.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

WITH PREFACE BY THE LIGHT REV. DR. MANNING.

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PREFACE.

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THE Spiritual Retreat of P. Colombière is one of those books in which the Spirit of God seems to speak in every word. The simplicity, intensity, and reality of its thoughts and language is like that of the New Testament; and no one can read it, without feeling himself to be admitted to hear, how God speaks to and through a soul entirely possessed by Himself. Short as it is, it would be enough to lead anyone who would take it as a rule, into the highest perfection. Few as the words are, like the filings of gold, they are all gold, and like sparks, they have the whole nature of fire.

PREFACE.

P. Colombière was born in 1641, and died in 1682. It is needless to enter here into the detail of his life; but two facts are too interesting to us to be passed over. The first, that he laboured in England for two years, in the reign of Charles II., and was confessor to the Princess Mary of Modena, wife of the Duke of York, afterwards James II.; the other, that God chose him to be the director and support of the Ven. Mother Margaret Mary Alacoque, so that he shares with her in the special glory and reward, of those who have taught us to honour and adore the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

H. E. M.

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ST. MART OF THE ANGELS, BATSWATER, Food of S. Ignatius, 1983.

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

In explanation of the title of this book, the reader must be informed that before their solemn profession, the Jesuits are accustomed to pass a third year in the exercises of the Noviciate. They make this second Noviciate at about the age of thirty, when they are fully capable of reflecting, maturely and solidly, upon all their engagements. And in order that they may be more deeply impressed with the indispensable obligation which they contract to sanctify their souls, and to become imbued with the spirit of the Society to which they have devoted themselves, St. Ignatius directed that they

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