

**SPIRITUAL WORKS
OF ST. FRANCES
BORGIA**

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Spiritual Works of St. Frances Borgia by Frances Borgia & Thomas Richardson

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FRANCES BORGIA & THOMAS RICHARDSON

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SAINT FRANCIS BORGIA.

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SPIRITUAL WORKS
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ST. FRANCIS BORGIA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.



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1875.

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PREFACE.

St. Francis Borgia was preparing himself to leave the world and join the Society of Jesus, when he composed, in his retreat at Gandia, the following little treatises. He wrote them for his own direction, not thinking that they would be beneficial to others besides himself. But God did not permit that the lights which He had communicated to His servant should be long hidden. The writings of the Duke of Gandia were published at Salamanca by the celebrated Dr. Michel de Torrès, who, later, became him-

self one of the lights of the Society of Jesus in Spain. From Salamanca, these writings spread in a very short time through all the towns of Spain. They were translated into different languages, and everywhere produced admirable fruits of grace. But that which ought to make us esteem them most, is that they have been the means by which God has been pleased to raise St. Francis Borgia to that eminent sanctity which makes him venerated throughout the world. In them can be clearly seen the character of his virtue, and that spirit of penitence and humility by which he was led, and which he preserved to the end of his life. These pages, written by a saint, have, in their simplicity, a divine

eloquence. Through them the Duke of Gandia confides to us his inmost thoughts. We hear the favourite of Charles the Fifth, at the highest point of fortune, proving in his own person, that all which is not eternal is nothing, and that there is no true greatness in the world but in serving God. These pages have not ceased, during three centuries, to elevate and fortify souls; they have detached them from time and prepared them for eternity. It is to perpetuate their apostleship that we offer them anew to the public.