

**THE SACRED HEART OR INCIDENTS
SHOWING HOW THOSE WHO HONOUR THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS ARE ASSISTED
AND HELPED BY ITS POWER AND LOVE,
TOGETHER WITH LIVES OF B. MARGARET
MARY AND VEN. P. DE LA COLOMBIÈRE**

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JOSEPH A. KELLER

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OR

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Sacred Heart of Jesus are Assisted and
Helped by its Power and Love

TOGETHER WITH

*LIVES OF B. MARGARET MARY AND VEN.
P. DE LA COLOMBIÈRE*

Selected from the German

OF

REV. JOSEPH A. KELLER, D.D.

BY

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AND 'ST. JOSEPH'S HELP'

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PREFACE.

FROM the earliest ages of Christianity itself there have been sceptical spirits who have endeavoured to blind their eyes to the existence of a God; depraved intellects who have refused to admit what they cannot perceive; and the Psalmist has given this class of minds a fitting appellation when he called them 'fools'; yet, as a matter of fact, the human race as a whole has acknowledged the existence of a God: this belief may have been weakened or distorted, but its very denial is a strong proof that the tradition of such an existence remained. Again, there have been others who have been forced from the rational law, which rules an intelligent being to acknowledge that 'God is,' but further they will not go; they let Him reign in heaven, but they will not admit, nor can they fathom, the tender care, the intense interest, He takes in every

individual soul; they ignore, as it were, those attributes which bring him so near to our earth and to us, more especially that particular attribute of His Providence which forms the fundamental teaching of the Catechism, that 'God is everywhere,' the very foundation of the calm reliance and quiet confidence which the faithful have in simply turning to Him in all their needs, and in sending up their petitions for the Divine assistance.

But these are restless days, and such confidence and peaceful assurance in an unseen protection casts a reflection on these two species of modern thought, so ever ready to rail against anything like supernatural interference, or, as they put it, 'superstitious practices.' Yet not altogether modern, for is it not the very evil that Venerable Bede complains of in the Scribes and Pharisees (in his Homily for the Third Sunday of Lent), when he says that 'they denied facts when they could, and when they were not able twisted them by evil interpretation, asking for signs and wonders; but when these were granted, explained them away by some natural cause'? Well might we exclaim with him, 'O thou who stubbornly deniest that which thine eye seeth, thine hand holdeth, and thy sense perceiveth, what wilt thou say to a sign from heaven?'

And now I ask, how have these idealists been treated? God might, had he wished, have destroyed them in a forcible and striking manner, but He has preferred to use gentler means with such misguided souls, and in His own patient way tried to win them to Himself. He has come to the assistance of His Spouse, the Church, weighed down perhaps now more than ever by these intellectual theorists, and has, therefore, in our own day raised up powerful agencies to assist in the spread of the knowledge of His truth and His love. He has reiterated again and again His complaints of the ingratitude of His people, and by visible signs, both at home and abroad, He has repeatedly manifested the accomplishment of the promises He made to all those 'who should practise devotion to His Sacred Heart.'

Yes, the worshippers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are still pleading with Peter amidst the turbulent waters, 'Lord, save us, or we perish,' and everywhere they are endeavouring by prayers and good works to develop that spirit of Faith and Union, so opposed to the now prevailing spirit of the world.

Peter has spoken again by the mouth of Leo XIII. 'Devote yourselves, dear children,' he says, 'with love and fervour in spreading the

Spirit of Jesus Christ ; do good without ostentation ; aid the poor, do not shrink from visiting them, and while devoting yourselves in relieving temporal wants, forget not to use your efforts for the consolation and salvation of souls. The poor and the working-classes are being seduced at this time by a spirit of turbulent discontent, men without true principles are agitating the world, terrible evils threaten society, never were so many temptations spread before us as now—temptations against the faith, against purity, against the love of the Catholic Church ; they abound at every step.' Is not this an echo of that complaint which was heard in the seventeenth century by Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque in the quiet sanctuary at Paray-le-Monial ?

It is therefore with the object of reanimating the confidence in the love and mercy of the Sacred Heart that we venture to offer to the public this collection of little stories gleaned from all parts of the world—instances of the interposition of Divine Providence taken from the most reliable sources, many of which have been granted within the last few years.

And as our Divine Lord promised His especial Benediction on all works undertaken in honour of His Sacred Heart, we trust that the propaga-