ST. THOMAS MANUAL: OR, DEVOTION OF THE SIX SUNDAYS IN HONOR OF THE ANGEL OF THE SCHOOLS, ST. THOMAS OF AQUIN

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St. Thomas Manual: Or, Devotion of the Six Sundays in Honor of the Angel of the Schools, St. Thomas of Aquin by Henry Joseph Pflugbeil

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HENRY JOSEPH PFLUGBEIL

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S. Thomas Acuinas

ST. THOMAS MANUAL:

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Devotion of the Six Sundays in Honor

ANGEL OF THE SCHOOLS,

ST. THOMAS OF AQUIN.

From the German of

FATHER HENRY JOSECH PPLUGBEIL, O. Pr.

Bx 216.

"Behold, I will send my angel, who shall go before thee." Y441

Exactus, XXIII. 20, 188-



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PREFACE.

"Non est inventus similis illi !"—If, as some writer has said, "Unrest is the characteristic of our age," is it less true to affirm that our craving after knowledge is not confined exclusively to the profane sciences? In the domain of literature we find many turning from the vague, insipid writings of the day to the more solid intellectual food of medieval times. And nowhere is this more apparent than in our devotions. The old and familiar "Six Sundays" of the youthful Aloysius, the June devotion of all Catholic schools and colleges, are now to be yearly preceded by those of the "Angel of the Schools."

As St. Thomas Aquinas is held to be par excellence the great theologian of the Catholic Church, nay, even the Doctor by whom her later Doctors were guided in their writings, we are safe in yielding to the impulse to choose him for our special patron of science and study. And could we better show our carnestness as clients than by meditating on his life, his virtues, his own mode of study, and the motives that actuated every thought of his vast mind, every movement of his noble heart?

The precious little volume before us is destined to do a big work in its English costume. It has been translated for all that wish to warm their heart in the rays of this great, theological sun; for all that desire to enjoy the special protection and intercession of the saint; for all that would find a practical aid in their devotion.

The "Six Sundays" of St. Thomas, properly made, cannot fail, in colleges especially, to recruit the army of the Lord. Our youth will be inspirited by the example of so valiant a champion to follow in his footsteps and make piety the foundation of learning.

Who, upon reading the story of St. Thomas's investiture with the Holy Girdle, would not ambition enrolment in the "Angelie Militia," of which he is the noble leader? Who would not aspire to gird themselves with his Cord to which are annexed so many powerful auxiliaries for the combat, so many rewards for the victory?

The Hymns and Prayers of the Angelic Doctor, the Daily Devotions of Father von Cochem at the end of the little book, are treasures of piety well calculated to stir up devotion in the coldest heart and quicken the fervor of the most devout. May this gem of Manuals find a place in every school and college and household of our broad, fair land, and may saints be multiplied by its use!

DEDICATION.

He whom thou didst so purely and religiously serve,

O marvellous Angel of the Schools,

ST. THOMAS OF AQUIN,

did not despise the widow's mite, because He "considers the heart and not the gift." And do thou accept this token from one that has nothing better to offer, but whose grateful soul must make some return for the protection thou hast ever accorded him. O that, in accordance with the wish of our Holy Father, Leo XIII., who has appointed thee the special patron of Catholic students, and in the sentiments of all the Popes that have recommended thee to veneration as the protector of innocence, I could place numbers under thy trusty guidance through the struggles of youth and the dangers that menace its innocence! There would then be many to express their gratitude better than I. many to undertake greater things for thy honor: but may no one surpass me, thy poor client, in grateful sentiments and faithful love!

INTRODUCTION.

OUR Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII., gloriously reigning, following the example of so many of his illustrious predecessors, has repeatedly proclaimed the praises of St. Thomas of Aquin and enthustastically recommended his veneration. If Pope John XXII., on the occasion of the saint's canonization, expressed himself thus; "He has wrought as many miracles as he has written articles:" if Innocent VI. has said: "No one that holds to his teaching, can ever wander from the path of truth; but he that attacks him has always been suspected of error;" if other successors of the Prince of the Apostles declare of the Angelic Doctor: "His writings are without error, and he himself is the most glorious champion of the Catholic faith,"-Pope Leo XIII, has repeated the eulogiums of his predecessors and added to them.

In his Encyclical of August 4, 1879, to the Bishops of the Catholic world upon the revival of Christian Philosophy in Catholic schools according to the spirit of the Angelic Teacher, Thomas of Aquin, he says: "Among scholastic teachers, ranks above all as prince and master Thomas of Aquin, who honored in the highest degree the saintly teachers of the early Church whose spirit he had imbibed. Thomas gathered together