THE HOLY WOMEN OF THE GOSPEL: BEING A SERIES OF SEVEN LECTURES, DELIVERED IN S. PAUL'S KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LENT

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The Holy Women of the Gospel: Being a Series of Seven Lectures, Delivered in S. Paul's Knightsbridge, Lent by George Nugée

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GEORGE NUGÉE

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LECTURE L

INTRODUCTORY.

S. MATT. XXVII, 55, 56,

"AND MANY WOMEN WERE THERE BEHOLDING APAR OFF, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto Him: among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebergee's children."

OF the holy women whose praises are in the Gospel, those bleased few whom we know by name out of the many others unknown to us who followed CHEIST,—of these the three Marys are the chief. It would seem that they, but especially His holy mother, were nearly always with Him. They followed, ministering to Him from Galilee. They followed Him up the hill of Calvary, mingling their tears with His blood. They stood at the foot of the Cross gazing on His last sufferings. They went at the rising of the sun to the sepulchre to anoint as they thought His lifeless body. Such was the love and devotion of those holy women.

SECOND SERIES.]

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LECTURE I.

And what of those others whose names are associated with the early history of CHEIST? What if Elisabeth and Anna were not followers of our LORD in His life of suffering? still did they minister to His infant sorrows, showing, the former by the grace of her lowly character at the salutation of Mary, the latter by her devout waiting for CHEIST in the Temple, that they are worthy to form part of that blessed company who follow the Lamb in heaven.

Hence it is that I have chosen this general text for my Introductory Lecture to-day; for to follow CHRIST up the hill of Calvary, to minister to Him in His poor and penitent ones, to lament His sorrows on the Cross, this is not the work of the three Marys only, but the work of all holy women in all ages of the Church.

Take your stand then, with me on this mystical hill of sorrows:-beneath you, as it were, at different intervals you see the train of CHBIST's toiling followers. Widows like Anna, ever praying, ever fasting, ever watching for CHBIST. Mothers like the Virgin Mary and Elisabeth, sweet models of that lowliness which marks the pure handmaid of the LOBD. Sisters, like Martha and Mary, showing by their combined characters how we may serve in the world and yet sit at JESUS' feet. And lastly, penitents, like Mary Magdalene, whose love was only equalled by the greatness of her absolution.

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And if anything were still wanted to prove that

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