



The Juggler And Mary.

Now above the altar was carved the statue of Madame St. Mary, and this minstrel did come before this image right humbly.

"Sweet Lady," said he, "scorn not the thing I know, for with the help of God I will essay to serve you in good faith, even as I may. I cannot read your hours, nor chant your praise, but at the least I can set before you what art I have."

Then commenced this minstrel his merry play, leaping low and small, tall and high, over and under. Then he knelt upon his knees before the statue, and meekly bowed his head. "Most gracious Queen," said he, "of your pity and charity scorn not this my service."

Again he leaped and played, and for holiday and festival made the somersault of Metz. Afterwards he did the Spanish vault, springing and bounding, then the vaults they love in Brittany, and all of these feats he did as best he was able. Then he walked on his two hands, with his feet in the air, and his head near the ground.

Thus long did this minstrel leap and play, till at last, nigh fainting with weariness, he could stand no longer on his feet, but fell to his knees.

"Lady," said he, "I worship you with heart, with body, feet and hands, for this I can neither add to nor take away. Now I am your minstrel."

Then he smote upon his breast, he sighed and wept, since he knew no better prayer than tears, nor no better worship than his art.....

The story of the juggler was told in the first issue of the Notre Dame "Juggler." It is worth repeating, because it shows clearly that, besides prayer, our work, done as best we can do it, gives praise to Our Lady, and can be offered for our intentions.

Begin this month of May by rededicating yourself and your work, play and suffering to Mary. Cut out the following consecration and say it every day.

My Queen, My Mother, I give myself entirely to thee. And to show my devotion to thee, I consecrate to thee this day my eyes, my ears, my heart, my lips, my whole being without reserve. Wherefore, good Mother, as I am thine own, keep me, guard me, as thy property and possession.