

lights to pour forth without limit all the treasures of His grace. Nor did the reputation of her sanctity remain long confined within this enclosure of her monastery, the whole colony was imbued with it. There took place in regard to her, indeed, wonderful things, which the innocence of her life, an heroic fervor, that, notwithstanding her almost continual sickness, accompanied with the most acute pain, sought whatever was most painful in the peculiar exercises of her vocation; her profound humility, her obedience to the least sign of her Superiors, and her docility in following the advice of the Directors of her conscience, prevented from being regarded as illusions of a mind deceived.¹ The holy Bishop of Petræa, who examined her with the most scrupulous attention, and who had himself a practical science of the most sublime ways, and Father Ragueneau, who was long invested with her direction, a man eminent for his apostolic labors, and his experience as a director, approved her in all things, and unhesitatingly regarded her as one of the favorite spouses who compose the most precious part of the fold of Christ. Still, her life, written by the same Father Ragueneau, did not meet with universal approbation.² The reason is, that in God's conduct with regard to souls, to whom he imparts his most intimate communications, there are hidden mysteries, which it is useless, and sometimes dangerous, to unveil to the public eye. Moreover, few persons are capable of understanding them, and it is not in books, but in the school of the Holy Ghost, that they can be learned. Hence they often become stumbling-blocks to those to whom the Almighty has not given a comprehension of them. Man cannot, as the holy guide of Tobias declared, proclaim too highly the works by which the Almighty vouchsafes to manifest to the world his power and goodness; but there are certain secrets which he reveals, rarely

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¹ Ragueneau, *Vie de la Merè Cathérine*, passim.

Foi, p. 541) assails it, in his onslaught upon the series of Jesuit

² *Le Clercq* (*Etablissement de la* publications.