

## LIFE LESSONS FROM BLESSED JOAN OF ARC.

"We'll set thy statue in some holy place  
And have thee revered like a blessed saint.  
Employ thee, then, sweet virgin, for our good."

King Henry VI, Act III, Scene 3.

The National Council of Nurses, many of whose members hold Blessed Joan of Arc in deep reverence, will wish whilst in France to pay homage to her memory. How this may be done will be announced later.

In 1910 Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., addressed a little volume to "The Daughters of Erin" who because so pure, so brave, so true, must beyond all others find fulfilment in Blessed Joan of Arc.

This work "Life Lessons from Blessed Joan of Arc" now out of print, is beautifully illustrated by Gaston Bussière, and also contains exquisite engravings of bronze statuettes and medallions by the Bromsgrove Guild of Artists, one of which we have been permitted to reproduce, by the courtesy of Messrs. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street, W.C.1.

The "Lessons" are emphasised from chapters touching on Her Childhood and Call to Arms, Her Campaign, Her Capture, and Her Triumph.

We are told that "In the story of Joan of Arc's childhood and call to arms there is for each one of us a lesson of vital importance to learn." "The lesson I refer to is perhaps brought home to us more clearly and definitely by her than by any other heroine in all history . . . Yes, she is more wonderful than Agnes or a Cecilia, an Aloysius or a Stanislaus. In fact, there is no one in story, profane or sacred, who is her counterpart. She is unique and she teaches us, as no one else does or can, what is the meaning of being a creature. Her life tells us that it means being in the hands of God, as clay in the hands of the potter . . . the clay must yield to the pressure of his hand. In other words, we too must try to realise, as did the peasant girl of Domremy, that each of us has a mission in this world to fill, for God's glory and the weal of souls. It may be our vocation to fight and conquer some external foe, but certainly each one of us is called to fight and conquer

self . . . Our first duty as intelligent beings, after realising that we belong materially to God, is to find out what it is He does reveal to us through our conscience . . . What God wants of each one of us is what each can give—an upright, brave, disinterested, generous, chivalrous character. . . . Like the mind, then, let us set about building up a character prepared to undertake any work for God. God's Will is the end of life, not alone for Joan of Arc, but also for you and for me—God's Will is a sovereign command . . . Under God, Joan of Arc routed her foes, saved her fatherland, crowned her King, she herself remaining to the last what she was—at the beginning, a maiden pure as she was brave, simple as she was great—La Vierge Lorraine, La Pucelle de Dieu." . . .

"To-day we cannot do better than study the portrait of the Maid, who by the contrast offered between her own life and ours brings home to us our own shortcomings both as patriots and as Christians. What the nations most of all need to-day is true religion and true patriotism. The world is trying to make politics a substitute for both. They can take the place of neither. Like the Blessed Maid we must set life strongly rooted in religion, and we must make it clear to ourselves that we shall only put forth the blossoms of true patriotism, in a measure in which life has been watered and nourished with fervent prayer . . .

"Let us then copy into our lives her sweet and simple piety, her stainless purity, her dauntless energy, and her matchless bravery. Like hers, let our zeal never flag, our loyalty never change, our chivalry never falter. . . . O matchless Maid! vitalise us with thy spirit, and inspire us with thy enthusiasm, that both in life and in death, with our forefathers, we may be true to our time-honoured motto: *Pro Deo, Rege, et Patria.*"



BLESSED JOAN OF ARC.

"FOR GOD, KING, AND COUNTRY."

*From a silver medallion by the Bromsgrove Guild of Artists.*

COLLECT OF THE MASS  
OF  
BLESSED JOAN OF ARC.

O God, who didst raise up the Blessed Maiden Joan to defend faith and fatherland, grant to us, we beseech Thee, by her intercession, that Thy Church, overcoming the snares of the enemy, may rejoice in a perpetual peace. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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