

## **OF HOLINESS . . . . .**

TRUE HOLINESS does not depend upon the extraordinary acts of virtue, but upon the observance of life's ordinary living. Holiness is an attitude of the mind and heart, and not a list of holy achievements and countless prayers. The common mistake is always to judge a man's action by its success or failure, by whether or not the man has carried out what he set himself to do. Success is taken to mean to be the result of God's pleasure, where failure is taken to be the result of God's displeasure. God goes deeper than this and judges by the motive, the fidelity with which the desire has been kept up, and the degree of the soul's dependence upon His grace.

When one reads the life of a saint one is probably *more* impressed by the mortifications, the fasts, the penances, the sacrifices, etc. than the **MOTIVES** behind the acts of penance; one is more impressed by the great performance of mortification than by the perseverance, or by the sensation caused than by the **SUBMISSION** given. If this is what one thinks, one has got it all wrong. The qualities to look for in any saint's life are the *not-very-obvious* ones, or at any rate *not-very-popular* ones, such as the virtues of humility, patience, charity and obedience. Exciting penances are fine (so long as God wants them)— *but they are hardly ever the reason why a person becomes a saint!*



*Part of the Monastery Enclosed Gardens*