



An interesting view of some of the chapels in the Abbey Church.



OF CHRISTIAN HOLINESS

The way of Christian holiness is, in any case, hard and austere. A quick check on the conversation between God and Adam after that unfortunate incident in the Garden of Paradise, will show clearly that man's way of life had changed radically! As a result, we must fast and pray. We must embrace hardship and sacrifice. We must experience suffering for the love of Christ, and in order to improve the condition of man on earth. We may not merely enjoy the good things of life ourselves, occasionally "purifying our good intention" to make sure that we are doing it all "for God". Such purely abstract and mental operations are only a pitiful excuse for mediocrity. They do not justify us in the sight of God. It is not enough to make pious gestures. It is not enough to recite a book full of prayers or do without food. Our love of God and of man cannot be merely symbolic, it has to be completely real. It is not just a mental operation, but the gift and commitment of our inmost self.

Obviously, this means going a little further than the dull and boring preachments which have led some people to believe that a "religious revival" is taking place among us. Let us not be too sure of that! The mere fact that men are frightened and insecure, that they grasp at optimistic slogans, that they chase after every cause that modern society can conjure up, that they seek to pacify their troubled souls by cheerful and humanitarian words of wisdom, is surely no indication that the society of the times of the millennium is becoming more "religious".