

commit the Benedictine Monk to any specific type of work at all, only that what he performs takes place in the monastery. As for the asceticism of the Benedictine Monk, the RULE certainly assumes it, but it also seeks a moderation that would prevent all extravagance and singularity.

The most accurate application of the observance of the RULE according to the mind of St. Benedict, seems to have taken place in both England and the Germanies, while in France, the reforms brought about by the great St. Bernard, and later by the interesting and unusual Abbe Armand Jean de Bouthillier de Rance, affected the observance of the original Benedictine mode significantly. In 1664, when he was nearly forty, de Rance proceeded to overhaul his Cistercians with a very high and heavy hand. Whereas he worked with the Cistercians, his reforms had a definite influence on the French Benedictines. As time went on, the innovations of the Abbe de Rance were taken to be true and accurate Benedictinisms by some of the French Abbeys. But a careful look at the full text of the Rule of St. Benedict will quickly indicate that the de Rance observance has no comfortable place in a truly Benedictine atmosphere. The goodness of the de Rance regulations is not in question here, but good as they might have been, they were not truly Benedictine, and they tended to place too great an importance on externals, a thing that St. Benedict does not permit. St. Benedict was concerned only with conversion of the interior man:
CONVERSIO.

The traditions of the Germanic and the English Benedictine Houses have been stronger in America than have the traditions of the French Benedictines. Besides, the German Benedictines worked harder to establish monasteries in America than did the French. The French success in America was primarily the founding of the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani, in Kentucky. The only French Benedictines to establish a foundation in America was the Abbey of St. Mary of La Pierre-qui-Vire, which in 1875 founded the former Abbey of Sacred Heart in Oklahoma. However, on January 8th, 1924, Sacred Heart Abbey was transferred from the Congregation of the Primitive Observance to the American Cassinese Congregation. And on May 28, 1928, by an act of the Holy See, Abbot Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B. — of St. John's