heights; but the words of truth that there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over the ninety-nine just have at all times been as valid as on the day when Mary Magdalen washed the feet of her Lord with her tears. But the way from sin to the heights of the spiritual life, how can it be found? Blessed Angela gives the answer of all the mystics: 'I believe that a soul cannot find this divine light more quickly nor more easily than by devout and true and humble and continuous and ardent prayer'. Prayer, this invisible activity of the soul and in the soul, prayer, this mysterious relation between God and man that can be as full of bliss as it can be full of pain, prayer, then, is the way that leads into the Kingdom of Heaven, and that leads there infallibly, whether we start from our baptismal innocence or from a life that has been immersed in sin. But it is a hard way, for, as the life of Blessed Angela shows so clearly, once a soul has started on it she is compelled to divest herself of one attachment after the other. For the God of the mystic is the same as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, he is a jealous God. But he takes away all only in order to give all, changing the emptiness of sin into the fulness of grace that is a beginning of eternal life in this sinful world.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

In the article which appears in the current number of THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT on St Nicholas von der Flüe, as we must now call him, the writer gives the traditional account of what happened at the Council of Stans. But the life of the holy man which was written and published in Lucerne, in connection with the public celebration of his fifth centenary, stated that this was incorrect. Very careful investigations had shown that he did not abandon his hermitage to go to Stans. What he did was much more remarkable. Perhaps he recalled the case of Eliseus and Naaman. He delivered a message to be carried to the Council, and that message produced a speedy agreement and the eventual establishment of the Swiss Confederation. Being specially interested in St Nicholas, I sent to Switzerland for the book, but unfortunately I have not kept it. A fact which throws light on the attitude of his family towards his retirement from the world is that they belonged to the 'Friends of God', like so many of the most pious Catholics of their time in central and north-west Europe.

Yours faithfully,

NORAH LEESON, T.O.S.D.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0269359300024083 Published online by Cambridge University Press