Life of the Spirit

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THE ILLUSTRATION

THE picture which is here reproduced appears to portray St Dominic or some Dominican saint. It would seem also to have been painted in seventeenth-century Spain. But at the moment both its origin and its subject matter are unknown to the possessor, who has appealed to the Editor of the LIFE OF THE SPIRIT to help in the task of identification. It is two and a half by three and a half feet in size, and has been in the owner's possession for some thirty years. Previous to that time it is said to have been at Alton Towers, the home of the Earl of Shrewsbury, or alternatively in the possession of Lord Portarlington. But nothing certain is as yet established.

We reproduce it here not only in the hope that some reader may be able to assist in the identification of what it surely a picture of some beauty, but also because of its undoubted worth in conveying an idea of a spiritual experience common in the lives of so many saints. It has been said that the medieval artist used spiritual inspiration in order to convey to others the *idea* of a saint or of a gospel mystery, and that the modern, or even renaissance, artist often used or uses the same inspiration in order to build up *his own art*. This picture at least proves an exception to such a generalisation for the artist is unknown and while his skill and technique are admirable he has succeeded in conveying a spiritual idea without fixing the attention of the beholder merely on the artist's personal achievement.

EDITOR.

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