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PREFACE

In the preparation of this biography, the author's aim has been to make a great Saint more widely known among English-speaking Catholics; a Saint who is popularly venerated in the Church at large and especially in Italy, France, and Austria-Hungary, the scenes of his labours and triumphs.

That St. John Capistran is not held in such general regard among ourselves is due, no doubt, to the fact that no book hitherto has been written in English upon the subject of his life, although several works embodying a collection of lives of the Saints contain biographies longer or shorter, notably "The Lives of the Saints and Blessed of the Three Orders of St. Francis," translated from the "Auréole Séraphique" of Père Léon, O.F.M. Yet he deservedly ranks among the holiest men, the most apostolic preachers, and the noblest heroes whose lives adorn the annals of the Church.

A man of strong personality, of large ideas,