

## VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross

NOTRE DAME, Indiana, Nov. 11, 1871.

## REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN CHRIST:

Only a few weeks since I requested your prayers for one of our oldest missionaries in France, Rev. Father Day. This evening one of our first professed, BROTHER JEROME, expired, after a short sickness of three days, strengthened by the Sacraments of the Church, and what is even more consoling, by a long, meritorious, and edifying religious observance of all his duties for more than a quarter of a century.

That his precious soul may soon enjoy the rest of the just, I lose no time to notify the Congregation of his demise; and, in return for his constant and unfeigned devotedness, I earnestly beg of all our associates promptly and fervently to offer the pious suffrages he has so well earned.

When a Religious has for so many years served a Congregation with an unexceptionable zeal, and remained true to its interests through the innumerable trials unavoidable at the origin of a foundation, he deserves the well of his confrères.

Such is our dear BROTHER JEROME's claim upon our gratitude, or rather upon our sense of common justice. As an evidence of his love of solitude and retirement,—which many of us might study with profit,—BRO. JEROME never left the premises since he first arrived here in 1844; neither can I remember that he ever expressed a desire of the sort.

I notice it here, because it is a characteristic feature of good Religious, as, *per contra*, the love of journeys and visits to relatives, friends, etc., is an unmistakable proof of a worldly disposition, growing more dangerous from indulgence. Thus, many a Religious has lost the spirit of his vocation, and brought back in exchange the spirit of the world. "The desire of sensuality draws thee abroad; but when the hour is past, what dost thou bring home but a weight upon thy conscience? A joyful going abroad often brings for thee a sorrowful coming home; and a merry evening makes a sad morning. So all carnal joy enters pleasant, but in the end brings remorse and death. What can you see elsewhere which thou seest not here? Leave vain things to vain people; but mind thou what God commands thee."

While we pray for BRO. JEROME, let us all endeavor to profit by this new warning and keep ourselves ready.

E. SORIN.

P. S.—The Rev. Father Mariné, lately arrived at Notre Dame with a little colony of four Brothers from France, is here at present in virtue of a special obedience which he received from myself at our last General Retreat on the 15th of August, viz., to visit the principal Houses of the Congregation, and to prepare for the General Chapter next August a statistic of all the lands and buildings now belonging to us, with a view to report conscientiously, impartially, and correctly on the material state of the Congregation as a whole. None will fail to realize the importance of such a document before the General Assembly; and therefore I invite all the members, whose assistance Father Mariné may need, to assist him, not alone with the best will, but, above all, with the most truthful figures. Such a report on the material standing of the Congregation requires a close examination, not only into the extent and nature of lands, grounds, and houses, but in whatever pertains to scientific culture of soils, grains; to implements, outbuildings; then stock and feed; then dwelling houses with their apparatus for heating, cooking, washing, and all the expenses they cost or come to for every inmate per year. Visibly, a close study of expenses is here meant and open. Every elevated mind in the Community will hail with delight the progress of such an investigation. The General Chapter must know what the Congregation owns, and who are its best managers and administrators, and what advantages can be expected from men and things. This important task has been entrusted to one whose fitness for it will be acknowledged by all. I scarcely deem it necessary to commend him to the kind attention of every House he shall visit.

E. S.