

OF THE

VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

NOTRE DAME, INDIANA, April 5, 1873.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

God alone knows how painful I feel the duty I have to fulfil in announcing to you the death of our dear BROTHER LAURENCE. Last night, at the close of the Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Dolors, as the College clock struck nine, he gave up his soul to his Creator, fortified by all the helps of our Holy Church, and surrounded by a number of his fellow Religious, Priests and Brothers, who continued to pray around his bed until he had breathed his last. He had been unwell and then sick, for nearly three months, until at last he sank under the weight of his incessant labors, rather from an exhausted nature than from any clearly defined disease. He was in the fifty-seventh year of his age, and in the thirty-second year of his profession.

BROTHER LAURENCE was one of the six companions I first brought with me from France, in 1841. Three of this little band have long since gone to their reward; but of the other three, still remaining, none had inspired me with more confidence than the subject of this notice, that he was likely to survive us all; for, more than any of the rest, he possessed a robust constitution, which had naturally given us the hope that after we should have disappeared he might be spared yet awhile to keep his watchful eyes upon the field we had so long cultivated together. God in His inscrutable designs has ordered it differently; we resignedly submit to His infinite wisdom.

After a long career of nearly thirty-two years, which I may call one of constant, uninterrupted devotedness and self-sacrifice, our dear departed Brother has been removed from our midst—not unprepared, we trust—rather for his own good and gain; but leaving us, we fear, not a little embarrassed as to the means of replacing such a companion, always so ready, so willing, and so reliable, whatever the emergency or trouble.

BRO. LAURENCE carries with him the deep and unfeigned sentiments of esteem and respect, not alone of his entire Congregation, but, I believe, of all with whom he came in contact, either as a Religious or as the Agent or Steward of the Institution. For more than thirty years he spent here, he was always, as every one knows, foremost among those who sought honestly and earnestly to promote the interests of the Community; and if any one is to be named as having contributed more than others by earnest and persevering exertions, both of mind and body, to the development and prosperity of Notre Dame, if I did not do it here, the public voice would declare it, and name BRO. LAURENCE. No Religious in our family ever possessed and retained more constantly the confidence of his Superiors and of the Community at large.

Uneducated and unpolished, and with all the appearance of a common man, he was undoubtedly possessed of an uncommon mind, of which he frequently gave evidence in

the weekly councils of administration, and even in the General Chapters of the Congregation, to which he was three times deputed, and where his voice was always listened to with marked attention.

BROTHER LAURENCE never separated in his mind the success of the Congregation from its strict adherence to the Rules. Hence his own regularity in attending all exercises, unless visibly prevented; and when I saw him last night die so quietly at the very hour the Rule calls us all to rest, I could not help recognizing in the incident, a special favor from our Blessed Mother, closing his last day on earth at the regular hour he had so many times closed his labors in obedience to God's holy will.

In the death of BROTHER LAURENCE we sustain a serious loss, which none can better appreciate or more keenly feel than myself, however much his memory may be held in gratitude and love among those who knew him best, or whom he assisted most by advice and example, or in pecuniary transactions. It was myself who brought him to the Community, thirty-three years ago; and although I have seen, more than many other men of my age, Religious of undoubted fidelity, of great zeal, and admirable devotedness, I can remember none whom I would place above our dear departed one on those various points. He leaves behind him not only a long but also a stainless record, such indeed as would honor the memory of the most ambitious among us. Not only will you not perceive in the *ensemble* of his Religious life none of those blemishes that paralyze the effect of the best qualities—not only was he remarkable by a clean negative of serious defects, but he was really prominent by the strength of his mind, the freshness and often the originality of his inventions and resources in general, of which he always had some in reserve. Directly or indirectly, he has benefited persons and things here more than any one of us. May all whom he leaves in justice obligated to him, acknowledge it now by the fervor of their supplications in his behalf!

The Community loses in BROTHER LAURENCE one of its first pillars; but his spirit will not die away with him, or disappear: his virtues and examples shall live for ever on the spot where his name is identified with every acre now cleared, and every building erected with his personal assistance. The neighborhood itself loses one of its hardiest pioneers, and one of its most efficient and honest citizens.

As to myself personally, I lose a friend who never refused me any sacrifice, who for thirty-two long years kept himself, without a moment excepted, ever ready and willing for any call of obedience. Never can I forget his devotedness.

His funeral service will take place to-morrow at three P.M.
May he now rest in peace from his labors!

E. SORIN, C.S.C.

Transcriptum de la Circulaire N^o 39.

Notre R. P. Geoffrion du collège S^t Joseph de Memramcook nous informe aujourd'hui sous la date du 10 courant, qu'au moment où il allait envoyer à la station du chemin de fer le corps du P. Dupier pour le faire passer au Canada sur l'ordre de l'Assistance Provinciale, les paroissiens de Memramcook ont furtivement enlevé le corps; en à l'époque de sa lettre il n'avait pu découvrir encore où les bons Acadiens l'avaient caché. Qui peut mieux nous révéler la vénération qu'inspire la vertu en le profond attachement qu'elle crée sitôt dans les âmes droites! Le P. Dupier n'avait séjourné à Memramcook que dix mois, sur lesquels il avait fait une absence de deux mois pour accompagner M^r l'Evêque de Chatham dans la visite de sa mission.

Je n'ai pu taire cet incident, qui confirme si bien tous mes pressentiments.

E. Sorin.