

## VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

## Congregation of the Holy Cross.

Neully-sur-Seine, July 23, 1873.

## REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

Rev. Father Gastineau, Assistant Provincial in Canada, wrote from La-Côte-des-Neiges, near Montreal, to his Provincial here, on the 4th inst., that he had just learned by telegraph from Memramcook, New Brunswick, of the decease of the dear and venerated Father Hupier, who died the same day at our College of St. Joseph.

How precious and edifying was the death, as was the whole life, of this excellent Father, no one in the Congregation can for a moment doubt. We all mourn this unexpected loss, but we are consoled especially by the certitude of the gain which this model *par excellence* of a Religious has found. For myself, I who knew him wellnigh thirty-seven years, and have never seen in him other than the man of God, living in the churches more than anywhere else, perfecting himself each day, never stopping as he pursued the road of sanctification of himself and his neighbor, I preserve such a remembrance of the well-beloved deceased that his memory shall never grow dim in my mind, and all who have known him will say with me all their life: *Defunctus adhuc loquitur*.\* Would to God that each of us when dying may leave the subjects of edification which are left to us to-day by the dear Father Hupier.

What a beautiful and rich memory! What a precious heritage of faith, of piety, of humility and obedience he has left us, after having given to the Very Rev. Father Founder, thirty-three years ago, all his possessions which he could dispose of, for the purchase of the Solitude *du Sauveur*. One of our Fathers, who made a part of his novitiate under his direction, has just told me that at half-past four in the morning Father Hupier was before the Blessed Sacrament, and at half-past seven he was there still, and always on his knees,—it was his custom. Who does not remember having seen him in the angelic attitude, his eyes fixed upon the tabernacle? And who can forget the impression made upon him by this personification of faith and fervor? As everybody knows, I do not here speak of passing fits of fervor, but of permanent habits which never failed nor varied; hence a perfection of sacerdotal life which we all admired, and which we should more seriously study in order to reproduce it more faithfully in ourselves, above all at this moment, when we see in a manner present the recompense with which he is crowned, for he has found rest from his labor. Ah! if the eternal repose promised to the just be not yet begun for this dear soul, the hour cannot be far distant. Let us hasten to offer up for him the suffrages prescribed by the Rule. When could we offer them with greater confidence!

I have just said, to the praise of the dear deceased, that he had given his notable pecuniary resources to the House of Mans. I will not add that the act was so much the more worthy of eulogy for having been made spontaneously. In his eyes it was an act altogether natural, and he would not allow it to be spoken of otherwise. And thus it was that this dear Father was never seen to figure among those who claimed reimbursement.

I may be allowed to add here, that I am happy in announcing the final liquidation of our debt; to state that all our Rev. Fathers and dear Brothers who have lent money to the Congregation have generously given up their right to repayment, and it is only on the strength of this that I call our liquidation final and integral. Only one has not yet told us his final decision, but I am confident he is waiting to tell me at the General Retreat, some weeks hence.

In the absence of all details of dear Father Hupier's last moments, I consider it my duty to insert here the last letter he wrote me, and which I received in Rome a fortnight ago. The dear Father is there depicted before us a last time for our edification.

MEMRAMCOOK, June 6, 1873.

"VERY REV. FATHER: After having received your good letter, in which you express your desire to see me at Notre Dame du Lac to evangelize the French Canadian congregations there, of which you have charge, I have seen in your desire the will of the good God. I will accomplish it with all my heart, as soon as I am able; for I told you in my letter that the good God had afflicted me with an illness, which I received from His bounty as a great grace. 'God afflicts those whom He loves,' says the Holy Scripture. I told you that after several days' indisposition, I was obliged to take to my bed on the eve of the Feast of St. Joseph, our well-beloved Father. I have kept it ever since, to the moment I now write to you. However, feeling better, thanks to the goodness of the Heart of Jesus, to the mediation of Mary and Joseph, I had the happiness of celebrating Holy Mass on the Feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross; I was able to celebrate it several days, then I ceased, because Doctor Bolsey did not judge it proper for me to go out in the cold and wet weather. Up to the present it has been cold in the morning. Besides the weather, I have had bronchitis several days, which made me cough and spit a great deal, so that I have not been able to celebrate Holy Mass. It is a great privation, but the good God so wills it. May His holy and amiable will be done!

"The doctor, thinking the climate of Memramcook does not agree with me, wants me to go to La-Côte-des-Neiges, to recover more promptly in the general hospital of Montreal, where Monseigneur has gone himself.

"When I was in France, I read the *Semaine du Fidèle*, founded and edited by the good and excellent M. l'Abbé Lochet, so full of zeal and of charity, who has written things so admirable and so proper to procure the glory of God, the sanctification and salvation of souls. He had had the kindness to get the proprietor of the paper to send it to me gratis; but after a long enough time they wanted payment of subscription—then, I ceased reading that paper.

"My Very Reverend Father, you remember I wrote to you that one of my relatives had announced to me a little inheritance: I received it a few weeks ago. Desiring, for the greater glory of God, to employ that money in good works, I asked of Rev. Father Geoffron, who replaces the Superior, to be so kind as to permit me to procure for the poor of Memramcook the help which was absolutely necessary for them. There are some who do not go to Mass on Sundays and who fail to fulfil their Easter duties because they have neither clothes nor shoes suitable. By procuring them these things they will be

\* Though dead he still speaks.

able to fulfil their religious duties. You will not disapprove of what I have done, without doubt. On my arrival at Notre Dame du Lac I will remit to you whatever may be left.

"My Very Reverend Father, may the Sacred Heart of Jesus heap benedictions upon you; may the holy and Immaculate Virgin, our tender Mother, and blessed St. Joseph, our well-beloved father, protect you always and obtain for you the light and grace which are necessary to you to procure the glory of God and the good of our dear Congregation!

"May your good angel accompany and bring you back safe and sound to Notre Dame!

"Ah! may we at the great day of the general judgment be all favorably judged, and ascend together to heaven to be eternally happy!

"As soon as I recover I will write you to announce my departure from La-Côte-des-Neiges.

"My Very Rev. Father, I am most cordially and with the most profound respect,

"Your very unworthy son in J. C.,

"J. H. HUPIER, S.S.C."

"Be so kind as to remember me to our well-beloved Fathers and Brothers of Neuilly, and also to Rev. F. Lefebvre."

REV. FATHER HUPIER (Julien Narcisse), born the 13th of March, 1810, at Fresmay (Sarthe), made his profession the 15th of August, 1843.

I renew, my Rev. Fathers and dear Brothers, the assurance of my affectionate devotedness.

E. SORIN, C.S.C., Superior General.