

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 62,

OF THE

VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

TO THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

16 July

NOTRE DAME, Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Whatever restriction may be placed on travelling, some of us shall yet be found sometimes on public thoroughfares. The less, however, undoubtedly the better. But if Religious are naturally and commonly expected to live under some restrictions everywhere—or else disappoint or even scandalize by worldly habits, under a religious name—they are not dispensed with the same attention to their vows even when travelling or mixing with persons of the world. Hence the prohibition by our Rules of all gold appendages, and whatever reveals a worldly spirit. It is generally expected from Religious that they should prove economical in every personal expense.

After these preliminary remarks, you will readily understand why—although for other reasons also—I now absolutely forbid the use of sleeping and palace cars, unless in case of actual sickness and necessity. They never were intended for Religious; we would be, there, out of place, any way we consider it.

I must add here also that no Daily Papers should be read without proper permission. Do you not see that the spirit of the world invades us from all directions? Unless we stoutly resist its incessant inroads, we shall have nothing left but a shadow of appearance, without any real invigorating Religious spirit. When travelling, Religious are not at liberty to dress as they please; all must strictly conform to what is prescribed, and feel that they are everywhere known as Religious.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior General.