

eradicate! Tell me, dear Father, cannot Notre Dame de Sainte-Croix do something for Notre Dame du Lac? . . . At least, send a good supply of winter clothing with the dear colony, whose arrival we so impatiently expect, but for whom we have not a cent to spare for a long time to come.

E. SORIN.

No. II.

NOTRE DAME DU LAC, Oct. 13, 1845.

REV. FATHERS, DEAR BROTHERS, AND SISTERS:

Scarcely do I need to repeat that your generous and affectionate feelings towards me most surely meet in my bosom with a faithful echo. It is particularly on such occasions that I feel, with the Apostle, my heart open and enlarged for you. Truly and sincerely may I address you, in answer to your pious and fervent wishes for my happiness, in the words of the same Apostle: "My dearly-beloved brethren and most desired, my joy and my crown, grace be to you and peace! I give thanks to God always for you all; making a remembrance of you in my prayers without ceasing, being mindful of the work of your faith and labor and charity." Be glad; I repeat to you; rejoice in the Lord, who blessed you with a holy call. With great difficulty could I find expressions to convey you the abundant consolations of my soul during these short days of retirement in meditating on the wonderful blessings with which our humble ministry has been attended among you. Yes, my dear friends, we are comforted in you in all our necessity and tribulation; now we live, if you stand in the Lord; for what thanks can we return to God for you, in all the joy wherewith we rejoice for you before our God? Oh! may the Lord multiply you and make you abound in charity towards one another and towards all men, as we do also towards you!

The more Divine Providence is pleased to bless and to increase our little flock, and, at the same time, to perfect your good will and dispositions, the more also do I feel the weight of my responsibilities and the pressing necessity of sanctifying myself, lest I should be a stumbling-block to you, or an obstacle to the diffusion of God's graces upon your unceasing exertions. Could affection alone qualify me for all your wants, I should not feel unequal to the task. But when I consider, in the presence of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, the immense good which may be done, the multitude of souls that may be saved from eternal destruction if we are faithful to our holy call, while it fills my heart with an unspeakable admiration and gratitude, I cannot help trembling through all the faculties of my being, and then would I cry to you with St. Paul to the Romans: "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, through our Lord Jesus Christ

and by the charity of the Holy Ghost, that you assist me in your prayers for me to God." Indeed, if these first blessings, numerous and abundant as they are, may be considered as the beginning of the dispensation of those boundless mercies which have been prepared for us from all eternity, who will not fear never to be able sufficiently to answer such an infinite liberality? Which of us would have even thought, a few years ago, of what Providence has done since before our eyes? Who can tell the additional blessings which Almighty God has resolved to pour down on His work during the three ensuing years, if we be faithful to our holy vocation? Whoever will seriously consider what the merciful hand of God has worked amongst us will readily confess, with the Psalmist: "This hath been done by the Lord; it is admirable in our eyes." As for us, my dearly-beloved friends, we would only add: "Confirm, O Lord, what Thou hast begun with us." Let it be well understood, this is but the beginning of God's endless mercies. We, also, I trust, have seriously begun to offer and to consecrate ourselves to do the will of Him who has sent us. But we ought not to stop here; an immense race is before us ere we can say that we have run our course and fought the good battle. Thanks be to the Almighty, we are still young, and full of strength and vigor; while we have time, we will do good; and because our undertaking is great and the success thereof far above human efforts, we will humble our souls and trust in the Lord. Such must be, indeed, our confidence in Divine protection as not to be shaken by any adversity or trial whatever. Being now convinced, as we must be, that God is with us, whom shall we fear? Nor is it always better to be freed here below from all trouble: for patience is perfected through trial, and trial worketh hope, and hope confoundeth not; wherefore, my dear friends, should Heaven again try our infant mission with new afflictions and sorrows; should again some other painful sacrifices be required, we belong to God and must humbly submit to His holy will, bearing in mind that "to them that love God, all things work together unto good"; and also that we can enter into heaven but through many tribulations. Then so, in compliance with the Divine will—whereby we shall, beyond any doubt, procure the glory of our Creator and the salvation of many, together with our own sanctification,—"I beseech you, dearly-beloved brethren, by the mercy of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Be not conformed to this world, but be ye reformed in the newness of your mind; that you may prove what is the good, the acceptable and perfect will of God." If we have to labor and to suffer (and would to God that our labors and sufferings were multiplied and prolonged!), let us remember that the sufferings of this life bear no comparison with the eternal weight of glory they work for us in heaven. Oh! then, let every one of us labor as a good soldier!

Let every one faithfully correspond with divine grace by a constant and most perfect compliance with the holy rules of the Institution. "Do this, and you shall live."

N. B.—I am glad to inform you that the Constitutions of the Brothers and those of the Sisters will soon be ready; until they appear, I invite, I beseech you all in the name of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, to conform perfectly to what you know to be the foundation of a religious life—the spirit of obedience, of poverty, of chastity; and, above all, that of charity.

Peace be to you and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; grace with all that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

E. SORIN.

No. III.

NOTRE DAME DU LAC, 1849.

DEAR FATHERS, BROTHERS, AND SISTERS:

"They shall make Me a Sanctuary, and I will dwell in the midst of them."
—EXOD., xxv, 3

Who could have imagined, a few years ago, that these sacred and consoling words would ever find their proper application among us? Which of us would have indulged so soon in the hope of this extraordinary gratification? As you perceive, I intend to speak of the consecration of our new church. Undoubtedly the character of sacredness which this ceremony will confer on our humble chapel will make it, in the estimation of our faith, an object of the deepest veneration and of the warmest affections of our hearts.

When the temple of Jerusalem was dedicated, a fire came down from heaven and consumed the holocausts and the victims of the majesty of the Lord, because the majesty of the Lord had filled the temple of the Lord. Moreover, all the children of Israel saw the fire coming down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house; and, falling down with their faces to the ground, upon the stone pavement, they adored and praised the Lord. And the Lord appeared to Solomon, and said: "I have heard thy prayer, and I have chosen this place to Myself for a house of sacrifice. My eyes shall be open, and My ears attentive to the prayer of him that shall pray in this place. For I have chosen and I have sanctified this place, that My name may be there forever, and my eyes and My heart may remain there perpetually."

Such were the promises of God concerning the first temple. We know how dearly the children of Israel loved it, and how cheerfully they repaired to its hallowed precincts, three times a year, from the remotest parts of Judea. For many years, the temple of Jerusalem was the only place in the universe in which