

No. XLVII.

NOTRE DAME, January 14, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Last night, towards 1 o'clock, our dear Brother Paul the Hermit (John O'Connell) died suddenly in our infirmary, where he had retired, suffering a little, yesterday afternoon. A few moments before his last, he rose and spoke to Brother James, whose bed was next to his, and manifested no sign of additional pain; and when, ten minutes later, Brother James called him, no answer was returned; he was dead. Brother Paul was in his 49th year, and a Professed since August 26, 1866.

He was a good, humble and devoted Religious, well deserving of the Community.

This new visit of Divine Providence, so sudden and unlooked-for, will strike us all as a serious warning that we must be ready at any time to be summoned and give an account of our stewardship. May we all profit by it, and pray earnestly for our departed Brother, thus gone to the Sovereign Judge without a moment's notice.

His burial will take place to-morrow at 9 a. m.

Requiescat in pace.

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

No. XLVIII.

NOTRE DAME, February 6, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I cannot change, even if I would, the prescriptions of the Church; therefore the fast and abstinence of the penitential season remain in full force for our Religious as for other Catholics at large. In principle, anyone having reached twenty-one years of age is bound by the laws of the Church. While I am convinced that some of our Religious have brought on themselves not only sickness but even death by undue strict adherence to the fast of Lent, I have reason to fear that others fail, every year, in fulfilling their real obligations in regard to the same duty. In general, I am safe, I believe, in recommending abstinence from every lunch in Lent and fasting days through the Ecclesiastical year. Still, even there some exceptions may be found, on which the heads of Houses may and must decide. Next come doubtful cases, which must be treated religiously and kindly by the same authority: delicate constitutions may require a half meal at breakfast and supper, and no more. None but immediate Superiors can be judges in such cases, and they are hereby authorized to regulate, in prudence and charity, the mortifications of their subjects.

Whereas in almost every House of the Congregation of the Holy Cross there will be numerous exceptions to the general rule, I deem it my duty to prescribe the daily recital of the Litany of All Saints, as a substitute for the many deficiencies in the strict observance of the Lenten regulations.

The fast of Lent is instituted for the wisest purpose—to check vices and raise the soul above the concupiscences of the body; to mortify and afflict, but not to disable and incapacitate anyone from duty. While, then, every House in the Congregation should present before God a mortified and penitential family, whose members may not all be able to fast strictly, yet all are able to show greater respect for their Rules and their Superiors.

Let all bear in mind that Lent is a season of mortification, to which we must pay serious attention; and in proportion as we feel unable to observe the bodily penances and afflictions our holy Mother the Church has ever intended for the benefit of her children as a fit preparation for Easter, let us try to make up for the same, by whatever means are left in our power—by an exemplary fidelity to our Rules, whether for the day, the week, or the month; an increased devotedness to personal duty; a closer union with God; an earnest resolution to overcome evil dispositions; a faithful preparation for death with our Blessed Lord on Good Friday, with a grounded hope to rise with Him to a new life on Easter Sunday.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

No. XLIX.

NOTRE DAME, April 1, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

This morning, at nine o'clock, our excellent Brother Alpheus (Patrick Owens) died here in the infirmary, fortified by the Sacraments and Indulgences of the Church. For a few days he had been ailing, without inspiring any apprehension for his life, until scarcely two hours before he rendered his pure soul to God.

I well remember the day when, shortly after burying his pious wife, he presented himself to be received with his two interesting young children. This was in 1855. Since then, both of them, docile to the counsels of their good father, have become members of our Religious family, and for many years have been among the worthiest.

Brother Alpheus was in the 65th year of his age, and the 12th of his Profession. Let us all pray for this dear, aged and faithful Religious, whose loss will be long felt here, where everybody loved him. May his precious soul rest in peace!

The burial will take place at half-past nine to-morrow forenoon.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

No. L.

NOTRE DAME, April 5, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

By this morning's mail I received the following sad communication, published in Paris on the 21st ult.—Palm Sunday:

"The Superior and the Religious of Our Lady of Holy Cross, at Neuilly, humbly commend to your prayers the soul of Rev. Father Victor Drouelle, late Prefect Apostolic in Guadeloupe, afterwards Procurator of the Congregation at Rome and recently Provincial in France, who died at the Mother-House, in Neuilly, on the 21st of March (Palm Sunday), in his 63d year, fortified by the Sacraments of the Church.

"The burial service will be held on Monday, at 10 a. m., in the Chapel of the College, whence the mortal remains of the venerable Father will be taken to the cemetery of Neuilly."

It is scarcely three weeks since I heard of this old and venerable *confrère's* sickness. Ever since I was trying to hasten my return to Paris, hoping to find him yet living. God has willed it otherwise; I must submit.

In Father Drouelle's death I lose my oldest and first companion in our ecclesiastical ranks. We met at college in 1830; and ever since that time we remained intimate friends. He was the last of that period. In my recent visit to France he rendered me, or rather the Congregation, eminent services, for which alone we should never forget him. In simple justice, we owe him an immense debt of gratitude, and therefore I hereby prescribe that his memory be honored by the suffrages due to Provincials. When I shall have visited his tomb and collected the particulars of his last illness, I may more fully return to this precious memory. Meanwhile, let us all pray fervently for the rest of his dear soul.

Requiescat in pace.

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

No. LI.

NOTRE DAME, April 21, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Our dear Father Provincial lies extremely ill since last night. Pray for him.

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

No. LII.

NOTRE DAME, FEAST OF THE VISITATION, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Before starting for the East, I feel it a duty to commend to your earnest prayers some very serious interests, viz., the preservation of our crops, both here and at St. Joseph's. I learn that our

hay and clover will be lost in a few days, unless there is a change in the weather. In a short time the wheat will be similarly exposed. Let us commence, this festival day, after night prayer, a Novena consisting of the Litany of Loreto and five Our Fathers and Hail Marys, with Glory be to the Father, etc., in order to obtain favorable weather.

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

No. LIII.

NOTRE DAME,
FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Whatever restriction may be placed on travelling, some of us will still be found sometimes on public thoroughfares. The less, however, undoubtedly the better. But if Religious are naturally and ordinarily 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 out of place in them however 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 the shadow 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.

No. LIV.

NOTRE DAME, July 28, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

This morning, at 5.30 o'clock, one of our best Ecclesiastical

Novices, Maximus Bastarache, aged 22, breathed his last in our infirmary here, strengthened with the Sacraments and all the blessings in which our holy state is so rich. It is consoling to hear from every one who knew him well that we have another beautiful soul in heaven. May it be so; but, nevertheless, let us try to secure for him that happiness by the most fervent prayers, and thus leave nothing undone of what we ourselves would wish to be done when our turn comes. The burial-service will take place tomorrow, at 6 o'clock a. m. *Requiescat in pace.*

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

No. LV.

NOTRE DAME, August 25, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

With deep regret I hasten to inform you of the almost sudden death last night of our dear Brother James, late Director of the Apprentices here. For some time past he had been confined to the infirmary, apparently threatened with disease of the lungs. But for about a month past he had regained strength and health to such a degree that a change of climate had been deemed by the recent Provincial Chapter a sufficient means, to restore his constitution. He was delighted with his appointment to Texas, and expected to start on Monday. But men only propose, and God disposes as He pleases. When the clock struck twelve last night he was yet speaking freely, and no one around him apprehended any immediate danger; and yet, three minutes later he breathed his last, probably before the priest could reach him and give him absolution and Extreme Unction.

Will this new and striking warning serve us all? Ah! let us all be ready, for death may again visit us as a thief in the dead of night.

Brother James (John Dorsey) was 28 years old, and a professed member of the Congregation since September 14th, 1873. He was beloved by all who knew him.

The funeral will take place in the new church, at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning. *Requiescat in pace.*

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

No. LVI.

NOTRE DAME, September 13, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I have just heard, through Brother Gregory, of the death of our

dear Brother Patrick (Thomas Brière), who breathed his last on August 4th, at Nourray, at the age of 65 years and 4 months, in his 37th year of Profession.

This is a sad loss for the Congregation in France, and especially for the important establishment to which he had so efficiently devoted the last efforts of a life of energetic activity and good example.

Brother Patrick was one of the first pillars on which the Mother-House seemed to rest when I entered it myself in 1839. I always found him the same—a most amiable, intelligent and religious member, esteemed and loved by all. By his death I lose a sincere friend (the same, no doubt, has already been said by everyone who knew him), and the Congregation loses one of its most worthy pioneers. May his dear soul soon rest in peace!

When we left France, thirty-four years ago, Brother Patrick was the one I regretted most not to be able to muster into our little band, and now, on the anniversary of our arrival on the American shore, when the memories of the distant past are so vividly refreshed in my mind, I love to think of his rare merits and virtues, and I entreat you the more earnestly to pray for him, for if anyone has well deserved of us all, it is our dear deceased Brother Patrick.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.

No. LVII.

NOTRE DAME, October 4, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

This evening, a little after six, our excellent Brother Mark (in the world, Joseph Arnold) expired here in our infirmary, after a long sickness borne with admirable patience, and strengthened with the Sacraments and all the helps of Divine Faith. He was in the 46th year of his age, and in the 18th of his Profession. Naturally quiet and simple in his disposition, he always showed himself regular, obedient and devoted to his duties. May his dear soul soon rest in peace! The burial-service will take place to-morrow, at 5 p. m.

As I am pleading for the dead, let me ask a Mass or a Communion for the soul of one of my most venerated friends, the pious and worthy Bishop Aug. M. Martin, of Natchitoches, whose death on Saturday has just been made known to us by telegraph.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

Superior-General.

No. LVIII.

NOTRE DAME, October 19, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

From the following letters just received you will learn that the Congregation has again suffered a serious loss in the death of a valuable member. I knew him well, and esteemed him very highly. Fortunately, most of our departing associates bring to us by their edifying death the consolation always attached to a sweet conviction that they will soon be our powerful advocates in heaven. May our last moments be similar to theirs!

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

"NOTRE DAME, CÔTE-DES-NEIGES, October 8, 1875.

"TO THE VERY REV. SUPERIOR-GENERAL, C. S. C.:

"VERY REV. FATHER:—I inclose the letter of Rev. Father Gastineau announcing the demise of our good Brother Gregory, whose death leaves a void in our Province. This good Brother was always a model of religious devotedness, and his great knowledge rendered him doubly precious. God gave him to us, and He has now judged it well to take him from us. May His holy will be done!

"With devotedness and respect, your servant in our Lord,

"C. LEFEBVRE, C. S. C., *Provincial.*"

"REV. DEAR FATHER:—Our dear Brother Gregory, for five years a professed member of the Congregation, died at nine o'clock on Wednesday, the 6th inst., without agony. It was one of the sweetest and calmest deaths that I have ever seen. He had received the last Sacraments on the previous day. The dear deceased saw death approaching without experiencing the least trouble; he was perfectly resigned.

"I am, with the profoundest regard, yours devotedly in Christ,

"J. GASTINEAU, C. S. C."

Requiescat in pace.

No. LIX.

NOTRE DAME, IND., November 4, 1875.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I cannot think of starting again for Europe without addressing you a few parting words. First of all, let me thank you for the good wishes with which you recently greeted me on the 13th ult. I will not forget the kind expression of your filial sentiments on that occasion; and were it any way compatible with duty I would never dream of again placing the ocean between us, especially at a time when my presence among you might be some assurance of security against the dangers of the times. But there are occasions when sacrifices must be offered. The interests of the Congregation imperatively require now my return to France and to Rome. I have just come back from a brief visit to the South, and must go, for at least a few days, to Canada, and thence to New York, where

I intend to take the boat on the morning of the 13th. I shall leave here on Sunday night. Until Friday, the 12th, all letters for me should be directed to Sweeney's Hotel, New York; after that to Notre Dame de Ste. Croix, Neuilly, Paris, France; and later on to Sta. Brigitta, Rome, Italy.

I need not commend my journey to your pious prayers, for I well know they will be freely and fervently offered until we meet again. I hope to make my Jubilee in the Eternal City, where, I may safely say, none of our dear American family will be forgotten.

For the fifteenth time I leave, on duty, our beloved America. I will not conceal from you that I never started out with a heavier heart. Times are trying! But I carry with me the soothing conviction that our dear Religious family is at this moment more than ever united, regular, devoted to duty, and therefore better prepared to withstand everything that may befall us here as in many parts of Europe. Let us all pray for our Infallible Guide and Father, whose precious blessing I am going to solicit as a sure pledge of new favors.

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

P. S.—Monthly reports are to be forwarded here as before. The Secretaries will send me the *resumé* of the same.

E. S.

No. LX.

ON BOARD THE "VILLE DE BREST," December 15, 1875.
REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:—

It is now a week since I could write anything, owing to the violence of the winds and the roughness of the sea. This morning, the Octave of the Immaculate Conception, the elements seem to be more quiet; the rays of the sun once in a while pierce through the clouds, and cheerfulness beams on every countenance as though we could almost see some long wished-for port in the East. May it soon be a blessed reality! But, at best, we cannot land before five or six days. Then you will know that we are safe; and well may I say that your relief will be a heavy burden removed from my poor mind, and still more from my aching heart. It might be wiser to wait a little longer, until we shall have reached the shore, before addressing you these few lines which for weeks yet may not be mailed to their destination. But I cannot withstand any more the longings of my soul: I must convey to you, without any further delay, the boundless gratitude I feel for the precious and unceasing prayers you have offered in my behalf; for I must tell you, with unfeigned sincerity, that the cruel pains I have caused you have actually formed the bitterest part of my chalice in our severe trial.

The tears that blind my eyes bear witness that I say the truth when I declare that I had never known before what love God has infused into my heart for those He has entrusted to my care..

The fervent and heartfelt pleadings of so many pious souls—to which, I freely confess, we owe our safety—which I fancied I could see ascending by day and by night to the throne of God, again and again revealed to me a Religious family whose worth and loveliness in the sight of Heaven I had never realized or truly appreciated; and as apprehensions grew stronger around me in proportion as clouds thickened over us and dangers multiplied, my confidence, on the contrary, took every day more clearly the shape of a deep conviction that in His own time and way our Blessed Lord would show that He was neither deaf nor insensible to such supplications. More than anything else, our Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament confirmed me in this unshaken confidence and trust.

On my part, these long weeks of affliction have not been, I hope, a waste of time. They may prove one of the richest portions of my life; for I had occasion, as never before, to meditate and pray. Since the 8th, especially, I have been in spirit before our Blessed Mother with my beloved children, presenting them one by one to her maternal Heart, as the most acceptable offering I could make; begging of her to bless them, to shield them, and save them; and that, if it were her Divine Son's will for us not to meet any more in this world, at least—oh! at least, we might all meet at her feet in eternal peace; and that I might say after Jesus Himself: "Of those Thou hast given me, I have lost none." Thus I have tried to make every day my little returns for all the blessings of which I *felt* I was the constant recipient.

When Divine Providence shall have been pleased to bring this severe ordeal to a close, we shall all acknowledge that this trial has been like a crucible in which our mutual sentiments have been purified and intensified, and that our souls, having learned from deep emotions how to commune in earnest with God, will continue to dwell on high, and there alone seek for comfort and relief.

But I owe you at least a brief sketch of our ever memorable voyage. We left New York on Saturday, Nov. 13, at 2 p. m., on the splendid steamer *Amérique*, with 153 passengers and a *personnel* of 170. The *Amérique*—originally known under the name of the *Impératrice Eugénie*—is unquestionably one of the best of the line. She measures 126 metres in length—415 feet, 6 inches. In comfort and strength she is scarcely second to any on the ocean. For seven days she stood the sea admirably, at an average speed of 14 miles *per* hour, notwithstanding a continued head wind from the South-east. At the same rate we were certain to reach Havre on Tuesday evening, or in ten days, a time which

only superior vessels can make. Although the sea was not smooth, still we were all cheerful, and congratulating ourselves on our pleasant voyage. But, alas! how sadly and suddenly we were to be disappointed!

Sunday morning, at 3.30, a terrible commotion shook the whole vessel for 20 seconds, as though she was riding over a series of rocky hills. In a few moments we were all on deck, inquiring into the cause of our general fright. Five minutes later the captain walked into the sitting-room and stated to five or six of us there present that the machinery was irreparably injured, the main piece or shaft reaching from the centre to the wheel being broken: that we were left to our sails, and any steamer we might meet.

The sad information spread in an instant, and at 4 o'clock nearly all the passengers had retired in fear to their respective quarters. At nine the same morning a steamer was sighted in the West, and signalled. She promptly returned the signals, and came directly to us. She was the *China*, of the Cunard Line, on her way to Liverpool. A small boat was immediately sent to her, and returned within one hour. Then our captain announced, in a few words, that anyone wishing to go on the English steamer might do so. At once twelve passengers, from various cabins declared themselves ready, and were transferred on board the *China*. But the operation—the passage from one boat to the other—was far from attractive, or even safe. We had among the passengers in the first cabin four old and experienced captains of the French and American Navies and the Chief Engineer of the United States Navy. None of them showed any disposition to move. Their example more than anything else fixed the rest in the same resolution.

At three p. m., the *China* moved off, and soon disappeared. Towards 5 the same evening the wind blew stronger from the South-east, and the next morning we learned, to our general dismay, that our ship was totally beyond control, and that we were literally left to the mercy of the winds and the waves, the sails being entirely too insignificant of themselves to direct, against the wind, such a huge mass to any given point. Meanwhile, the sea was increasing in roughness, and the vessel, hitherto so steady, was now rolling fearfully. The atmosphere was cloudy, dark and chilly; and the wind kept blowing almost a gale during the whole week. To the terrific noise of the elements outside was frequently added within the rolling of trunks and every piece of furniture, the breaking of lamps, of dishes and of plates, keeping poor, inexperienced travellers in a sort of continual agony of mind. Nor could we console ourselves by the thought that at least we were approaching our objective point; for on the following Sunday, when a temporary clearance permitted the usual maritime observations, it was ascertained that we had been carried 115 miles from our course, and

that much farther from Havre. A calm, however, came on, and lasted full five days. Nothing was gained by it but a temporary rest; but even this little relief was greatly appreciated, for it was much needed.

Meanwhile, we were all on a continual *qui vive*, looking day and night, and in every direction, for a vessel confidently expected from Havre. But this precious boon was to be denied us for a while longer, and purchased with more prayers. The following Wednesday, Dec. 1st, towards 6 o'clock p. m., we perceived a light directly ahead of us, but so far away that it was difficult to decide if it was the light of a steamer or a star. Three rockets brought an answer, and in less than an hour she was by our side. It was the *Moselle*, a Bremen vessel, bound to Southampton, and thence to some German port. She was promptly boarded, but could not assist us with any provisions or information. She had left New York only four days after we did. She took the captain's despatches for Paris, and moved away without any excessive demonstration of sympathy. The captain was not likely either in a very humorous mood. Thus our forlorn *Amérique* was left again completely in the dark as to when she could renew her communication with the exterior world. The weather continued propitious, and we went on increasing our prayers for the blessed sight of the coming help. The "1000 Hail Marys" devotion was started among half a dozen pious souls; and in proportion as every hope was reaching a lower ebb among the crowd, these few chosen ones, hoping against all human hope, plainly showed on their countenances they had laid their anchor deeper than the superficial multitude can ever do, and when it had become a common phrase that no boat had been sent from Havre, they persisted in their declarations that the expected steamer would soon be seen. And the event finally justified their expectations.

On Sunday night—2d of Advent—Dec. 5, at 11.30, a rocket was seen far away in the South-east. In a few moments the same signal was repeated from our side, and in less than thirty minutes both steamers were within speaking distance—it was the *Ville de Brest* sent after us, and searching for us since the 24th of November. On the broad ocean the largest vessel is but a speck. To describe the scene which followed the announcement of the arrival of the long looked-for help would be simply impossible. To me it appeared better calculated than anything I have ever seen to give us some idea of the unspeakable joy of a meeting in heaven. Then and there all past troubles were forgotten; no further danger was to attend us to the port. Thus in a few moments the darkest forebodings had been replaced by the brightest golden realizations. But few on that happy night retired to rest; who could have slept with such joy?

Early in the morning, the *Ville de Brest* sent us the provisions she had brought, and by 9 o'clock she tried to take us in tow with enormous cables and chains; but the sea was beginning to raise its waves, and the attempt resulted in a failure. The chain broke like wire. □ No new attempt could be made before the following Wednesday forenoon. But no better success attended the second effort; two large cables, 6 inches in diameter, tied together, broke like twine under the violence of the waves. The balance of the week reminded us of the worst days of our wanderings and tossings on the bosom of the angry ocean. Thus far, every Sunday had brought a change; the fifth one was no exception to the rule. Very early in the morning word was sent to every cabin that in a few moments the *Ville de Brest* would take on board all the passengers desirous of going. Ninety made ready, and at 11.30 all found themselves safely transported. The transfer was accomplished without accident, but certainly not without difficulty and danger. A side-boat, 26 feet in length, was in waiting alongside the large steamers towering 20 feet above. A perpendicular rope ladder was the only means for men and women to pass from the big ship to the little moving thing below, rising and falling 8 or 10 feet two or three times a minute.

At 2 o'clock p. m. chains and cables had been successfully made fast to the two steamers, at a distance of 600 feet from each other. Scarcely had we resumed course than the wind blew afresh, with strong breezes from the South-east. The two ships moved with great difficulty and very slowly. When we rose in the morning, we found that the cable had parted; it was promptly replaced by a second chain, and as the sea became gradually more quiet, we moved on more smoothly and rapidly.

Although we felt more secure on the *Ville de Brest*, our situation was far from being pleasant or comfortable. Everything in our new quarters was damp and chilly, and not one of us had a change on hand, our trunks having been left behind. Still, as we had made up our minds to feel better on the *Ville de Brest*, we bore bravely with these little shortcomings, and prayed only the more fervently for a final end of the same. Very few men or women know how much they can bear. May the love of duty give us all the same endurance which necessity sometimes imposes! There is a pleasure in remembering past trials that have tested and revealed the heart.

On the whole, I cannot regret this long and painful voyage with which Divine Providence was pleased to afflict us in its loving designs. Most undoubtedly some great good has already come out of the trial. May the holy and adorable will of God be praised forever!

One more remark, and I close. Much as I have travelled in my life, no journey has left on my mind such consoling impressions.

Since our accident I have dwelt at leisure on serious considerations; not only did I pray more, but I have actually felt, day after day, the sensible effects of the many prayers offered to Heaven in my behalf. Before I lose faith in prayer I should certainly lose my mind. It seems that I have commenced here to know and to love our Blessed Mother. The daily recital of the "1000 Hail Marys," accompanied with meditation on the invocations of her Litany, has proved to me a source of unspeakable consolation and joy. A sea-voyage begun on the Feast of her Patronage and possibly to end on that of the Expectation of her Delivery, including her Immaculate Conception, with its entire Octave, could not permit any forgetfulness on the part of the Star of the Sea. Not a day could pass without bringing us nearer to the Mother of the Saviour. My confidence in her was great before; now it is boundless. May her sweet name be forever on our lips and in our hearts! Once more I thank, with my whole soul, every one who has prayed for me; may the same mercy accompany me till I reach the port of eternity!

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

No. LXI.

ROME, February 6, 1876.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

After having spoken at such length of my trials and dangers on the ocean, I must now tell you of the happiness which I enjoy in the Eternal City.

I have always loved Rome, the city of the Sovereign Pontiffs;—and as such, what Catholic ought not to love her? But it appears to me that my affection for her increases with my years. These two ideas are so closely united in my case this morning as to constitute but one; and the reason is as follows. To-day I am entering on my sixty-third year, and I must acknowledge that the anniversary of my birth and baptism could not be accompanied with more consolation and happiness. I have celebrated Mass in the very room in which St. Bridget died, attended by her daughter St. Catharine.

There was an additional circumstance which I cannot lightly pass over. On the 1st of the month I had requested His Holiness to celebrate Mass on the next day with the chalice which he had presented to the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and though, in general, he has ceased to grant such favors, he was kind enough to listen to my request; and on the Feast of the Purification, which is a festival of obligation in Rome, he celebrated the Holy