

fearful evils, should find our greatest consolation and even our delight in spending ourselves in the glorious task of training up young and innocent souls for heaven. Let, then, God's holy remembrance permeate all our efforts and their efforts. Let the holy Angels be present to their minds, as protectors and models of purity, of prompt obedience, of reverence and love of God. Thus will you establish the reign of Jesus in those stainless hearts, whose Christian morals will soon form a striking contrast with the infidelity of the day, and an inexcusable evidence of the superiority of our schools over everything that is now done under the inspiration of the prince of this world.

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

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No. LXVIII.

NOTRE DAME, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

To reply personally to every letter addressed to me during the past week is fairly out of the question. I have read them all attentively and with pleasure; but all I can be expected to do in return is to present my numerous and kind correspondents with a general and heartfelt acknowledgment of their filial and most acceptable sentiments and assurances of prayer, for the accomplishment of which I join with them with my whole soul.

Indeed, for such expressions of regard I can scarcely find words to fitly express my feelings of gratitude. One should have a stony heart in his breast to remain unmoved while holding in his hands, or listening to, such beautiful and touching accents of affection and fervent wishes. May our bountiful God, in His Justice and Mercy, return an hundredfold to each one of my dear well-wishers all the blessings they have so piously solicited for me! If the care of such a large family can scarcely ever be free from solicitude and anxiety; there are moments and days of compensation and joy when we forget all troubles and sorrows, and readily indulge the hope that everyone, now so decidedly religious in dispositions and resolutions, will prove, in future, a real source of consolation to Superiors and a treasure to the Community. *A treasure to the Community!* Is there one child of the Holy Cross who would slight such an encomium, if truly merited, at the close of this new year? Oh! how delighted and consoled I would feel myself could I only deserve it before God, and find it to be the honest sentiment of all I shall have to answer for! Now, what is an extreme difficulty in my case, becomes comparatively an easy task for every other member of our beloved Congregation. Most assuredly, the greatest blessing Heaven could bestow this year on our Religious family would be

to create such an earnest desire in every soul, and a *will* to co-operate with God's grace and carry out the generous resolve. There is no need of making any exception; in one way or in another, with a good will, every one can be in truth *a real treasure in the Community*.

From the informations and documents actually in my possession there has been no time during the past eight years when I could indulge more fondly this precious hope than at the present. Hitherto it has been out of my power to visit our Houses as I would have wished; but I always made it a duty to inform myself of whatever concerns the interests of our Congregation wherever it is established; and if I read correctly the signs of the time, or rather if I am not egregiously mistaking the dispositions of our Religious, in both the Old and New Worlds, we are now nearer the hour than ever before when it may be said of many, and, truthfully, too, that *they are real treasures in their Community*.

Let us not fancy that such a qualification applies only to extraordinary talents and abilities or outward efficiency; if, to a sincere humility, we join a true spirit of obedience, devotedness and regularity, and, above all, of that piety of which it is written that it "is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Tim., iv., 8), we are even more worthy of the name. Great abilities, unless supported by these virtues, are a danger, and seldom prove a blessing in a community; whilst a Religious, truly possessed of the above dispositions, can never fail to make a lasting mark for the edification and the substantial advantage of the present and succeeding generations. Natural smartness may succeed in a temporal point of view; but what of that? History has recorded the names of many a rich Religious Order no longer in existence; but not one ever passed away until the spirit of their Rules had departed from its members. A Religious Congregation doing its duty and living up to the spirit of its constitutions has no occasion to apprehend ever dying from sheer want; do we not know from personal experience the truth of this declaration? Human means can inspire but temporary hopes. Number itself is no strength—quality alone giving it a value, in Communities, as in armies; nor does it afford cause for rejoicing. Isaiah says: "O Lord, Thou hast multiplied the nation, but hast not increased the joy." (Ch. ix., v. 3.) Let us rather bear in mind the wise old saying: *pauci, sed boni*—"few, but good." But, whether from among many or few, whoever in a Congregation has not the noble ambition to be there *a treasure* to the best of his ability is scarcely worth having. This was my conviction thirty-eight years ago, and I see now no reason to change it.

In fact, I feel so deeply convinced that our destinies rest on the

study, the love, and the daily practice of our Rules, that, more than ever, I deem it one of my chief duties to take every means to secure to the Congregation this most precious boon. Therefore I direct that in all Houses no other book but our *Constitutions* and *Rules* shall be used for meditation and spiritual reading, from Ash-Wednesday until Easter Sunday.

Next in importance to the creation and consolidation of proper interior dispositions comes the shaping of daily outward duties, each one of which, from the highest to the lowest, fully deserves our utmost attention and care; for, if we labor for God and look to Him for our reward, can we ever do too well even the least of our actions? Whether obedience calls us to the class-room or to the commonest manual labor department, it is God's holy will we obey; can it admit of any neglect? Should it not be done, on the contrary, so zealously, so devotedly and perfectly, that every one around could say: "This office, this class, this employment, leaves nothing to desire; it is perfect." One single year spent by all in these dispositions, actually proved by such corresponding acts, would double our efficiency, while increasing marvellously our merits and happiness. Will not the heads of our Establishments see to this earnestly?

On such a memorable day, when all hearts are turned to the East, I cannot take leave of my beloved friends without telling them that I, too, lovingly dwell in spirit to-day in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Oh! the hallowed and sacred spots! It has been my life-long desire to visit them; and when, a few months ago, I feared it was all over with this ardent and unfulfilled craving of my soul, what a sacrifice it appeared to me to die before I had seen the only places on earth I wished to see! But now, when life seems to be extended awhile, thanks to fervent prayers, my heart yearns more than ever towards the Holy Places, where I wish to carry the offerings of every soul of our dear family. If ever I can spare three months, and find the means to defray the expenses, I will invite as companions of the happy journey, before they grow too old, my worthy assistants, good Father Champeau and dear Brother Gregory: the former to represent the priests and the latter the Brothers of the Holy Cross; while I will help both, and remember there all I love in this world. Be this only a pious dream or prove some day an accomplished fact, the thought of it is a joy; and it may yet turn to be a great profit to us all. Meanwhile, wicked and frightful as the designs of the rulers of this world now appear, *fear ye not, neither be ye disturbed* (Isaias, xlv, 8). The secret-Herodian designers of our age, like all their predecessors, will deceive no one more than themselves.

*We have seen His star in the East* (none of us could have left his country, his friends and his all, unless a star had shone and moved

his heart to come to the Congregation) *and are come to adore Him* Matt., ii, 2). Let us leave the cruel plotters to their wicked designs and the cities to their agitation, and proceed in peace, as the star directs, to the eternal House of Bread. Indeed we have good reason to rejoice with exceeding great joy. But once entered into the house, having found the Child with Mary His Mother, and fallen down to adore Him, let us pause awhile in Their holy presence, forgetting the world with its vain noise and perfidies; and opening our only treasure—our hearts—let us make to Him our richest offering, viz., that of our whole being, that He may dispose of it as He pleases. He came from heaven for nothing else. "My son," He says to each of us, "give Me thy heart." Let us confess our Faith before all, fearlessly, especially by lovingly dwelling in spirit before the Crib of the Divine Infant, and generously offering our heart's best aspirations and supplications. The nearer we come to Him in dispositions and feelings the safer we are. The noise and threats of His enemies are nothing; when He pleases He will defeat all their plots, and save Himself and us with Him.

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

No. LXIX.

NOTRE DAME, Monday, March 5, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

A few days ago, I forwarded to our Mother-House in Paris the list of our Religious in America, to be completed by our fifty-seven Houses in France. It will be gratifying news for you all to learn that this full list, when presented in Rome, will number nearly 650 members, of whom 150 are Ecclesiastics, and 500 Brothers. There are, besides, 524 Sisters of the Holy Cross. All these names will receive the special blessing of His Holiness, and will be registered in the great Album prepared in the Vatican to record and, in a manner, to immortalize, every member of the countless family of the immortal Pio Nono who will take an active part in the glorious 50th anniversary of his Preconization and of his Consecration, from the 21st of May to the 3d of June next.

It is not enough, however, to present ourselves alone with this grand demonstration of filial love and respect, and for the precious Apostolic Blessing attached to it; we will not, we cannot, go alone to this great pageant of Christian devotion to the venerable Father of Christendom. Of course you all wish to take with you your 10,000 pious, precious and loving children, as an offering most pleasing to our Holy Father, whose priceless blessing must be secured and permanently rest upon each one of these beloved young souls.

With my whole heart I say "Amen" to your pious desire. Send me, then, immediately the full list of your respective schools, with every name elegantly written, on thin and large paper. Every scholar should present an offering, were it only one cent: the total may be enclosed to Brother Edward in a Post-Office order, on our Post-Office at Notre Dame, or in a bank draft. I hope to be able to send to our Very Rev. Procurator-General in Rome, for his Eminence the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, if I cannot carry it in person to His Holiness, as the general offering of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, of their pupils, and intimate friends, a little gem of a box worked at St. Mary's—in itself a marvel of artistic skill—containing at least 50 pieces of our 20-dollar American coins. I know from past experience that both the exterior and the interior of the gift will be welcome, and will rejoice the heart of the best of fathers.

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

*Superior-General.*

No. LXX.

NOTRE DAME, March 23, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

If, on one hand, Divine Providence multiplies vocations and enables us to make a choice among those who seek admission into our Novitiates; on the other hand, inexorable death visits our ranks often enough to remind us all that we entered Religion, above all, with the view to prepare ourselves to die a better death. Of this the following letter is a new proof, and a new warning:

"VERY REV. FATHER:—It is my painful duty to inform you of the demise of our dear Father St. Cyr, which happened this morning at 6.30. He had been sick for some months, and looked to approaching death without the least fear or terror. Nay, since a few weeks he seemed to take pleasure in repeating that he should die on St. Joseph's Feast. He earnestly solicited it as a special favor. And our august Patron, in his tenderness, has deigned to give a new proof that his true servants never pray to him in vain. Our dear departed Father died the death of the just, strengthened with all the helps the holy Church offers her children at the supreme hour when the gates of eternity are opening before them.

"With respect and submission, your devoted in Jesus Christ,

"C. LEFEBVRE, C. S. C."

Willingly we shall all join together to pray for the beloved deceased, who was professed since 1874; and, at the same time, to beseech our glorious Patron more than ever to extend his protection over the Congregation, whose providential development ostensibly reveals the greatness of his power, while it brings, I trust, in our souls an increase of gratitude and of filial confidence.

☐ *Requiescat in pace.*

E. SORIN, C. S. C.

No. LXXI.

NOTRE DAME, IND., April 9, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

Again I have to inform you of another death in our ranks. Our good Bro. Killian (in the world Owen Troy), professed since the 1st of March, 1870, and in the 58th year of his age, expired yesterday, at 5 o'clock p. m., at the Professed House here, after a short illness, and strengthened with all the aids and consolations of our holy Faith. He was a good, simple and humble Religious, esteemed by all the Community. His burial will take place this afternoon, at 5 o'clock. *Requiescat in pace.*

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

No. LXXII.

NOTRE DAME, FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

On this glorious Feast—the chief Patronal of our Congregation—my heart goes wholly with the following words of the Divine Office, with a burning desire that they may truly apply to this place and to every House of the Congregation: “I have chosen,” says the Lord, “and have sanctified this place, that My Name may be there forever, and my Eyes and My Heart may remain there perpetually.” (Par., ii, 7–16.) Oh! how fervently each of us should wish they should apply to our own hearts!

While exhorting you all to strive to honor the Sacred Heart of our Blessed Lord, and to make It your abiding place for time and eternity, I beg to present you with a few reflections, which I have withheld hitherto for fear of infringing on responsibilities which, on principle, I always respect wherever obedience has located them.

Before the close of this scholastic year, I deem it my duty to call your attention to a fact, which, although plain and self-evident, might not impress your minds as it ought, having come upon us, not suddenly but gradually, and, to some extent, somewhat imperceptibly. Nevertheless, it now stares us in the face; and we have to accept it and deal with it, not alone as an undeniable reality, but as a most dangerous crisis, actually calling forth our best energies, if we wish to avoid a ruin already met by so many others for twelve months past. During the thirty-six years that our Congregation has been established in this New World; it never passed through such times. It would be idle to conceal from you what most of you know as well as I do myself, viz., that the scarcity of money throughout the land has materially affected even our best and most

prosperous Institutions. Would to God that I might add that the prospect for the immediate future is more cheering. The future is known only to Heaven; but, as far as we can interpret present signs, they appear more threatening than consoling. Were it not for my boundless confidence in Divine Providence, I would feel myself alarmed. My object, however, in writing this is not to create alarm in our ranks, but to state to every member of our Religious family that the moment has arrived to test the devotedness of each and of all. Yes, to maintain our ground and reputation we need at this hour, as we never did before, to find in every heart a ready willingness to meet the present emergency at any personal sacrifice of ease and comfort, as well as of choice or preference in obediences. Until the horizon clears and brightens, our general motto must be, *to save all we can, and to procure resources more than ever!* We are all interested alike in bringing about a favorable solution of a difficulty which none of us has created, but in which we are none the less involved, no doubt for some wise purpose of an All-Merciful Providence.

Let all visits and journeys during vacation be abandoned, unless assurances can be honestly given to proper authority that, instead of an expense, they will prove a real profit to the Community. As much as practicable, let every head of a House remain at the post of obedience with the best help to prepare and secure a full reopening in September. In fact, all distant establishments would gain more by keeping their subjects, if suited and capable, than by paying a double fare on the road, however much we would like to welcome them home. On this point, Superiors may be consulted.

It is unnecessary to say that all accounts should be promptly forwarded to headquarters, with whatever funds can be made available. Let us understand clearly the exact status of each House. This year will prove the worth, not only of those who govern in the Congregation, but of many others who never did but obey. In a human point of view, every member of the Congregation must be, both in mind and, as far as possible, in effect, a canvasser for our common cause. Understand me: we must all be devoted to prayer, and next, to very active exertions. A general and supreme effort on our part may yet change our prospects next September; but nothing less will do it. I know our best members have understood me fully, and they will be only too happy to act accordingly. Meanwhile let us well understand that when we have done all in our power for our dear Congregation, we are still but *useless servants, whose labors are vain unless God blesses them*. Who knows if God does not permit these trying times to punish us for our lukewarm habits in His service? Surely, we have nothing to fear if we are true to our holy Profession.

The first merit of a House is to be free from debt, or to show

proofs that its debts will soon be liquidated. One may succeed a foolish predecessor, whose memory will only be kept as long as a cent of the previous administration's debt shall be due. It is a sad inheritance; but the first duty of the present incumbent is to pay what is due. Means to effect such a result are at first very scanty; but if there is anything like a superior mind in the head, and a real devotedness in the members, the debt will vanish away like a cloud or a dream. Means did not exist before, but under the influence of both a superior mind and general devotedness, they will be called into existence. Experience has taught us on this point; means were always at command at the bidding of a superior mind and virtue, while dull and sleepy beings, by contrast, ever proved the same.

There was a time when elements of success poured around our establishments; then a sound head and an ordinary devotedness were sufficient to secure prosperity. But nowadays you must either go after or create those elements; and the same prosperity absolutely requires an extraordinary activity, with a spirit of self-sacrifice ready to spend itself and be spent from 4 to 9 every day. I say to you in earnest: to expect success in any of our Houses, on any other ground, is now simple delusion and folly. Let us awake to the exigencies of the hour, and reorganize everything in such a manner that we may see everywhere at the head of our Houses all the guarantees above required, with the powerful example of regularity and attention to duty. Every pupil of our Institution should be, more than ever, an object of special attention; and in our Boarding Houses, parents and visitors should be received with such courteous care as to remember with delight the hours they spent with us.

Until further orders, to propitiate Heaven upon the Congregation, the Litany of Loreto shall be recited daily, with the three usual invocations to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Holy Hearts of Mary and Joseph.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the charity of God and the communication of the Holy Ghost be with you all! Amen."  
(St. Paul, i, Cor.)

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

*Superior-General.*

P. S.—The Custodian of the University Library here has just informed me of a number of books missing. Let all such volumes be returned without fail by those coming home this month or next.

E. S.

No. LXXIII.

NOTRE DAME, FEAST OF ST. RAPHAEL, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I have waited until the last feast letter had been received that



I might say, before answering them, that I had read them all; yes, every line, every word of them. I wish I could reply to each of my kind well-wishers individually; but the task is beyond my power, and yet I cannot permit even the least of my kind correspondents to question for a moment the gratitude with which I received and perused the beautiful expressions of filial sentiments contained in this little avalanche of epistles. May God return an hundredfold, to each and to all who have offered me their tokens of friendship on the occasion of my glorious Patron's Feast-day, all the blessings they have so fervently solicited for me! May they enjoy not only the reward promised to those who honor their Father on earth, but also, and above all, the eternal life of the children of God!

My gray hairs sufficiently warn me that I should not expect many returns of the same. My great and ever-growing ambition is now to finish the work I have commenced or continued; that, when I disappear, it may remain and go on increasing and developing itself for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

As the term is approaching when we must part, I feel the more keenly the want of your generous co-operation towards perfecting our common and beautiful task, that I may be cheered by the clear and daily more and more evident and consoling sight of virtues and religious habits which alone can give us a real assurance of permanent efficiency in the Church of God. Let me then once more entreat you all, and especially the heads of our Houses, to spare no pains in order to preserve in our little family the spirit and love, with the strict practice, of our Constitutions and Rules. Let us remember, in these critical times, the absolute necessity of economy, of retrenchments in our personal wants, and of devotedness to duty.

This forenoon, at a 11 o'clock, Sister M. Thomas (Anna Tighe), born in 1853, a Novice since the 15th of August, 1876, but who made her Profession on her death-bed a few days ago, breathed her last at St. Mary's Convent, near here, fortified by the Sacraments of the Church. We solicit your prayers for the repose of her soul.

The burial will take place to-morrow at 3 p. m.

*Requiescat in pace.*

E. SORIN, C. S. C.,

*Superior-General.*

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No. LXXIV.

NOTRE DAME, Nov. 5, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

The snow already covering the ground tells us winter is at hand: and with it what a chapter of miseries is opening to our eyes! If

we judge from present and unmistakable signs, unprecedented sufferings will soon encompass in our immediate vicinity a countless multitude of human beings. When such facts stare us in the face, it would ill behoove us, Religious, to dream of comfort and luxuries in our manner of living. This, however, is not all. In vain should we try to persuade ourselves that such hardships will not affect us; such an idea would be folly; experience shows that none feels more keenly than ourselves the immediate results of the general distress of the country. Hence a strict economy is not only a virtue but a matter of necessity for each and for all of us. You may find it strange to receive such a Circular, at a time you looked for none. But I purposely write it for the sole object of directing your attention to this point, exclusive of all others.

The repeated calls made upon the Administration here from our own establishments prove a sad drain instead of a resource; and this at a time our own receipts are materially reduced. I waive all explanation, as a waste of paper and ink; common sense will supply what I pass over, with its natural consequences. Our best Religious will take it for granted that my appeal to the Congregation must be well grounded and responded to with a will. Therefore I direct that every member who has the interests of the Community at heart consider it a duty to economize and to save in every way and everything possible. Personal requirements must be reduced to *the strictest necessity*: thousands of dollars will be readily saved as a result—and we need all we can save. Some of our best members are surprised we have not commenced sooner curtailing unnecessary expenditures. The retrenchments we deem perfectly feasible not only will not injure us, but will draw us nearer to the rules and habits of true Religious.

Our tables must be more frugal (in this I do not insinuate any reduction in the fare of our boarders): 1st, One meat dish at a meal; less sugar in coffee and tea; one-half of what is now used will answer us as well; 2d, No new article for personal vestuary to be asked, except in case of necessity and with the approval of the committee appointed to examine the same; 3d, No money expended for travelling, except on journeys duly recognized as unavoidable; 4th, No improvements, repairs, purchases, and laying out of funds, without the authorization of the Council of Administration; 5th, Let all take the best care of what is given them, and thus save renewals, always expensive and painful to Religious; 6th, In connection with the question of economy, I cannot help remarking here that if our own *personnel* were doing their duty, we might well dispense with a number of hired hands whose weekly wages amount to more than our own profits, at this season of the year particularly, when a day's work is scarcely any more than a fraction of a day. All such men should be let go. If the heads of

our Houses examine seriously the work done by each member of their family, they will find that some, everywhere, do *scarcely* anything. With a spirit of general devotedness we should hardly need any longer foreign help. The system of hired hands is doubly ruinous among us.

From the above, every one should draw the conclusion that in a Community no worldly habits should ever be countenanced; and that frugality, simplicity and cleanliness are virtues to be honored by all and neglected by none.

A special meeting should be held every first Sunday of the month to examine the expenses of food and clothing.

Now, please, each and all, to follow me honestly in a colloquy, by no means a draft of imagination, but a real and serious inquiry of a Christian conscience. Each time I listen to it I feel disturbed, frightened. Perhaps you can find consolation in what leaves me so sad. Here it is: Am I earning the bread I eat? Am I not, in simple truth, a burden to my Community? and, yet, among the first to complain, I am last at work. At work? Where is my work? What salary should they give me, in justice, at the end of each week, over and above my board and clothing? Ah! shame, shame upon me! in truth, I make neither the one nor the other. When I hear a Father de Ravigan—the most celebrated and saintly Jesuit of our age—reproaching himself with being a burden to his Community, and that, when he was on the point of entering into heaven, I declare a feeling of intolerable oppression overwhelms me. What can I do for my dear Community before I am laid up an invalid, a burden? I seek, I need a relief. Ah! from this moment no one, I trust, will ever again be scandalized at my idleness or indolence; devotedness will be my motto to the end. Devotedness and saving, or economy, are sisters, and ever go hand in hand.

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

No. LXXV.

NOTRE DAME, November 9. 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

It appears I made an omission in my last Circular, and I hasten to repair it, although I certainly thought it should be clearly understood, from the tenor of my remarks. I give textually the words of my informant, and fully endorse the same:

"Your Circular has arrived, and, I hope, will certainly do some good. I am surprised that in your list of economy you did not include *tobacco*. You must be aware that hundreds and hundreds of dollars are expended each year in all our Houses on that vile weed. Here we pay at least \$40 a year for it; and I

really believe that all, without exception, would be better without it. A Circular like the present was needed long ere this."

I must take the subject into consideration, and make sure to put a stop to such an unjustifiable expenditure. I forbid, absolutely, all sorts of cigars, cheap or costly. Those whose health requires smoking ordinary tobacco, must apply immediately to their Provincial, whose permission they will consider absolutely indispensable before they continue. In no case can they be permitted to do it more than three times a day, immediately after meals.

I am sincerely thankful for information of the above abuse, as I will be, also, for anything else of the kind.

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

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No. LXXVI.

NOTRE DAME, FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, 1877.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I have waited until the last moment to inform you that I deem it my plain duty to return immediately to France. My absence may not be long. That God's holy will may be done by all of us, must be our first reciprocal wish and prayer, especially at the beginning of a new year. Thus temporary separations ever bind more strictly Religious souls together in the Lord. I leave here on Sunday night.

May God bless you all more abundantly than ever!

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

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No. LXXVII.

ST. BRIGITTA, ROME, March 31, 1878.

REV. FATHERS AND BELOVED CHILDREN IN JESUS CHRIST:

I have been here over a month and a half; and although I have frequently written home since I arrived, many among you, I am sure, have scarcely heard anything of my movements these last three months, and I feel anxious to show them that, although absent in body from our dear American shores, I have not so soon forgotten and obliterated from my mind the interesting family I have left behind in the far West. Need I say it, to forget the New World, where I have spent more than thirty-six years of my life, and where Divine Providence has blessed me with so many devoted children, whose affections I reciprocate so deeply in my own heart,—to forget so many faces and precious souls would be an impossibility, even if I would try to do it. Nature has not endowed me with such a power of blotting out at will from my memory and