

## No. IV.

NOTRE DAME DE STE.-CROIX, December 1, 1860.

## MY DEAR DAUGHTERS:

This will reach you probably but a few days before Christmas, and it seems to me that I see the angels hovering over each little portion of our humble flock, repeating the holy tidings of the immortal night. Allow me to say to you, with them: "Glory be to God in the highest heavens, and peace to men of good will!" Oh! how much I wish you that peace, which the world cannot give!—that heavenly gift which our Divine Redeemer Himself, after His Resurrection, wishes for His Apostles; and the only thing He seemed to wish for them on that occasion: "Peace be with you!" as it seems to be also at His Birth: "Peace to men of good will."

I trust my absence from among you will not disturb your peace, if such be the case that I cannot enjoy with you the holidays of the season; for I have not as yet taken any final resolution, whether I shall spend Christmas at home or in Rome. If I must go to the Eternal City again, you may remain assured that, although a little farther from you in body, I will be nearer to each of you in mind and in heart; for there I will pray better for you all; there, I may say, you will follow me, or I will bring you with me to every holy shrine. Indeed I might almost say to you, as the Divine Master to His Apostles: "'Tis expedient for you that I should go"—*Expediit vobis*. Let not your hearts be troubled; my absence will be only of a short duration, a little while; when I come again, we will rejoice the more together. Until then, we must remain united more than ever in prayer, trusting in the kind Providence who separates us for a time that the momentary trials of this life will not be lost, but taken into account some day, to our greatest consolation. Which of you will not even now rejoice in her heart, if I may go and throw myself at the feet of our saintly Pontiff, to assure him of your devotedness and beg of him a blessing for our dear mission, and all the children of Holy Cross in the States? The blessing of a father to his child always draws from Heaven the blessing of God Himself. The admirable Pio Nono can nowadays scarcely give anything else but a blessing; but such a blessing I value for myself and each of you more than the treasures of this life.

If I remain absent a little longer than I had anticipated, it is for the good of our mission, and not for personal gratification. The moment I will see that the same reason calls me home, I will start immediately. But while at such distance from you, let me exhort you to try, by every possible effort, to enjoy the blessings of the season, and, above all, to draw more sensibly than ever the spirit of peace upon our Houses—that invaluable blessing, which is the fruit

and result of a close union with God, of a perfect regularity, and a complete fulfilment of duty. In vain would we expect any share in it unless our passions be in perfect subjection, and a lively faith animates all our life. We must be persons of good will, otherwise there will be no peace for us. And what is it to be persons of good will in a Community? It is to be persons of *devotedness*, accompanied with true *humility*, and a great *zeal* to progress in virtue. If you are possessed of these dispositions, doubtless you may apply to yourselves the declaration of the Saviour, on the mount: "Blessed are the peace-makers, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Would to God that these sacred words would find in each of you their full application! What an edification for the Community, and what a source of sweet consolation for all its members! But how can this blessed spirit of peace be obtained and maintained? The best means are: to keep silence whenever and wherever required by the Rule; to avoid contesting, quarrelling, carrying reports, and indulging in angry words; to work in God's holy presence, and to bear in mind that peaceful persons are usually noiseless persons, modest in their deportment, humble, charitable, and of uniform and amiable temper. Alas! when a Religious allows herself to be cheated of this precious boon, she scarcely permits others around her to enjoy it. May the peace of our Lord be with you forever!

The future is indeed gloomy, both in Europe and in our own dear land of adoption; more so here, I fear, than with you. But our trust is in God; there can be finally no deception. Let us pray, and remain undisturbed. The best men I have seen are looking, with our common Father, for miracles. While writing this, I receive your mail of the 15th ult., for which I am very thankful. I cannot say yet on what day I may start. Every day here is precious for me and for you.

His Reverence is quite well, and speaks often and most affectionately of you all. May God keep you, my dear Daughters, in His holy peace and love!

E. SORIN, S. S. C.

No. V.

ST. MARY'S OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,

October 22, 1861.

MY DEAR DAUGHTERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

Among the distressing features of the times, I am glad to convey you some consoling news; for, however much we deplore the distracted state of our country, we find a gratification in being able to assuage some of its sorrows. Indeed, simple as it is to us Religious, I hail it as an event which I chronicle with pleasure, knowing in advance that you will learn it with delight.