

Lansing Iowa Aug. 2, 1881.

Very Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C.

Dear Father:-

I herewith apply to the managers of the College of Notre Dame for admission to their institution in order to receive the necessary education for the Holy Priesthood gratis.

I attended St. Joseph's College Dubuque Ia. during one session and completed one year's Latin, which my testimonial shows. I managed to attend this college by teaching school a part of the winter, then taking the money I recd for my labor, I paid my way for the time above mentioned. But, as I am already 24 years old, and the course being so long, it will be impossible for me to finish my studies in this way.

I applied to the bishop of our diocese, but as his diocese is well supplied with priests, he would not receive me, at the same time he "would be very glad to have me attend his college if I could pay my way."

I proposed to the President of St. Joseph's College to sweep rooms, clean lamps and do other light work in the college for my board & tuition

but another student obtained that job before I applied.

The reason why I now apply at Notre Dame for admission is, because I imagine (like the Philosopher) that into the institution's immense flow of income the tiny leaf of some flower may be dropped and may swim on with the rest to its destination altogether unperceived.

Your college is, indeed, old and world renowned, and probably has never educated one student free of charge; therefore can you not receive just one student gratis? There are exceptions to all rules, and not only that, — if this remains a secret there will be no inquiries among the students. If I had the means I would gladly dispose of them according to God's holy will. I had a desire to study for the Holy Priesthood 10 years ago and have never deviated from that idea since, and if I can not get the necessary education free, I will be obliged to give up my vocation and cling to whatever objects present themselves while hurried onward in the tide of life. In conclusion I will say, that if this letter does not receive attention, I will take up the burden of teacher again and say — it was God's holy will that I should not be his minister; I have at least done all I could

to follow up the vocation I sincerely think
He has pointed out for me.

Hoping that this humble letter, (for humble it
is in the extreme) will receive your attention,
I Remain Your Obedient Servant,

Francis E. Rice
Lansing Iowa.
" " "

P.S.

The testimonial which I received at the
college two weeks ago, is one of the best
issued to any of the classics, and if you wish
to see it I will send it to you.
F.E.R.