

God on that day !

"Think of this, my dear daughters in Christ. Be firmly persuaded that you are absolutely bound to do all that care, diligence and prayer, and above all the example of a holy life can do to win for your Spouse the souls that He has redeemed with His Blood. Bear it constantly in mind. Oh! if it were possible that you should ever be so unhappy as to neglect it, I now pray with all my heart that our Heavenly Father may chastise you so severely as to compel you immediately to return with fervor to your divine and holy vocation."

Like the grain of mustard seed spoken of by Our Divine Saviour in the Gospel, which though being the smallest of all seeds grew to be a tree and spread its branches far and wide, so the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, grew from such a beginning to be a powerful means of salvation to thousands, not only in the town where first established but in almost every part of the known world. At the time of the French Revolution it had houses in the following towns in France, Caen, Rennes, Guingamp, Vannes, Tours, La Rochelle and Paris.

Like all communities in France, at this period, the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity suffered severe losses. "But in vain" says the illustrious M. de Montalambert, the spoilers constantly recommence the work to which revolutionary writers incite them; devoted charity is ever ready to begin its works anew." And in truth no sooner had these troublesome times ceased than the old houses were opened again and new foundations began to be made, and ever since the Order has continued its course and God alone knows the good that has been done by it, since the day when poor Madeleine Lamy began with Father Eudes to provide a suitable dwelling for the women whom he had rescued from degradation and misery. Among the later foundations may be mentioned Versailles, Nantes, Lyons, Valence, Toulouse, Le Mans, Blois, Montauban, Marseilles (two houses) Besançon, in France; Dublin Ireland; Buffalo, U. S. Ottawa,