



A few pages from a sainted Life.



IT was then while quite young that an event occurred which changed the whole course of his life. Canon Roland the confessor of De la Salle had undertaken the foundation of an order of Nuns, called the Sisters of the Holy Infancy, and now, lying on his death bed with his work not yet accomplished, he entrusted the care and completion of it to the young priest. Saint de la Salle dearly loved the dying man and out of kindness, it would seem more than out of interest in the institution itself, took direction of the Society in its early infancy and effected its secure establishment in the city of Rheims, and its recognition throughout the land.

He had just finished the task and was on the point of giving up the direction of it when one morning, on the steps of the mother house of this Sisterhood, he met him who was destined to be the indirect means of founding the Christian Brothers.

A wealthy lady engaged in schemes of charity, hearing of the success of Saint de la Salle in the good work he had just accomplished, sent a man by name Nyel, to ask and implore his assistance in the founding of a school for boys. It occurred to the holy man that the scheme was a worthy one and the school a necessity to the city. He promised his assistance and in that instant he had unknowingly accepted from God the institution of that Society of which he is the author and model.

In a few days the school was opened in the parish of St Maurice. Mr Nyel and a few associates became the masters.

Saint John Baptist de la Salle spent all his spare time in the school and spoke to the children of God, of the soul, of