

rule and to observe it; to have one mind, a common end and common interests; in a word, to form one family in which you may meet brothers, a father, hearts that love you, and in which you may be always sure to find support and aid. Then, were you obliged during many years to live alone you are not therefore a private individual, a man isolated and without prop or support; you are a member of a body corporate, you form one of a community.

Was not St. Francis Xavier even when alone in mid-ocean, in the solitudes of India, a member of a religious community; a common life then can evidently exist even amongst priests employed in the holy ministry, though the greater number be obliged to live more or less alone, dispersed in their several parishes."

CHAPTER IV.

THE APPROBATIONS GIVEN TO THE APOSTOLIC UNION.

10. The **apostolic Union** has received the precious encouragements recorded in three briefs of His Holiness, Pius IX, and in several episcopal documents addressed to the priests who have especially labored in our day to restore the common life among the secular clergy.