

be in the position in which I am to-day, and I do not know that I have ever done anything to deserve it. It is, however, the will of God ; and I am delighted to do His will at all times and in all things, to the best of my ability. If there has been any glory in the long years of my ministry, I wish that to go to God and to God alone. If there have been any humiliations in my ministry, I accept them for myself, in expiation. I have always lived in this parish. I am bound to it by the ties of the most sacred character. I was baptized in this parish, and made my early studies in the neighborhood of it. Whatever little learning I have, I owe to the Christian Brothers in this parish, and to the Sulpician Fathers. I have spent all the years that God has granted to me as a priest in this parish also. I know this parish well, I know you all well, and I esteem you most cordially. I fully appreciate all the good works that are being carried on in this parish. I feel that the task which has been assigned to me is by no means a light one. Still, I have undertaken it in confidence. When the illustrious Bishop of Tours, a relative of St. Patrick, was seriously ill, his brethren in the Lord prayed for his recovery. One of his own prayers was this : "O Lord, if my life is necessary for Thy purposes on earth I do not refuse to continue my labors." I humbly repeat the same prayer in my present position ; and I add to that prayer of my patron saint : "If I can do anything that is good to this parish I do not refuse to labor." I may perhaps take a little credit to myself. I have always done my duty to people of all nationalities, but particularly to the children of St. Patrick's. I intend to try to do much better in the future. I will henceforth have opportunities of doing more for the glory of God than I have had in the past. I rely upon God's grace, and, after God's grace, I rely upon the fervent prayers of your generous Irish hearts. This parish has ever been loyal to its priests. It is a good parish and a pure parish, and it has