

CHAPTER XXIV

THE END

AS we have seen, towards the end of the eighties the physical strength of Rev. Mother Teresa was a source of anxiety to the Religious who were nearest to her, but to those who were on the missions scarcely a word might be said on the subject which would not cause misgiving if not real alarm. There was scarcely any outward change except an increased zeal for souls and a more marked care for regularity and religious discipline. On the occasion of her last visit to Joliet a priest who had called on her on business regarding the parochial schools and was going away perfectly satisfied, remarked, "Well, it is a great pity, but I do not expect to see that lady again. However, I am glad I had this interview with her. It seems to have done me good." "Why, Father F.," a Nun replied, "she will be here next year again." "No," he replied, "she is visibly dying. You do not seem to notice her extreme pallor." When it was remarked to the Foundress that the priest expressed satisfaction regarding the object of his visit, she merely said, "Oh, the humility of that priest!" and so it was always with her. She scarcely ever failed to detect virtue, although by no means given to inordinate praise, and it was with Communities as with individuals. In one of her journeys from the West, she stayed at a very poor, small convent, and her assistant, Rev. M. Ignatia, observed to her how edifying the poverty of the Nuns