

rarely failed gaining their good will; and it is a great step towards their conversion, to induce them to esteem the Catholic priest.

In 1849, Father Duerinck was sent among the Indians. This was the accomplishment of that desire which had conducted him to America. He employed all his energy and all his talents, in this difficult work. The mission of the Potawatomes, of which he became the superior, owes to him, in great part, its actual prosperity. The greater number of the savages of this tribe had been converted for several years; hence it was necessary to consolidate the work of their conversion, by attaching them to the civilized life, and leading them to prefer agriculture, and the other useful arts, to the pleasures of the chase and the indolence so characteristic of the barbarous life. Already, previous to his arrival, the missionaries had persuaded them to cultivate some little fields, animating them by their example, and by motives of faith. It had been discovered, that when there was question of labor, the motives of religion were the only ones which had any empire over the hearts of the Indians, and they succeeded in inducing them to work in a spirit of penance. Profiting by this strong and simple faith, Father Duerinck endeavored to excite them to more extensive labors, and, by causing them to discover a certain plenty in the culture of their fields, he allured them into a forgetfulness of the dangerous life of the plains and forests. With the purpose of forming youth to an intelligent labor, schools of arts and trades had been established for the youth of the tribe. He made two journeys to Washington, to interest the government in this work, and to obtain assistance in it. These schools have obtained a permanent existence.

During these latter years, the mission of St. Mary's has been exposed to great danger of demoralization; first, in