

its members, their great numbers, their extraordinary austerities, their schools of learning, made this name glorious among the nations. When Christianity was preached by the apostles and disciples, they were the most zealous receivers and promoters of it. Then, as time rolled on, their numbers daily increasing, they spread themselves out among the entire East; and as persecutions rose against Christians, they suffered and died in such great numbers for the Faith that a writer says of them, "Count the stars and you may count the saints of the Carmelite Order." In every age when the Virgin's prerogatives and privileges were attacked or denied, they were always to the front to defend her, no matter what the consequence; not satisfied with this, they preached, taught, and spread devotion to her, through almost every portion of the Church. Every age of the Church's history has saints and holy men of this Order, as shall be seen; and as time rolled on and centuries died out, persecutions never relaxed, and still they were aggressive. Persecuted in the East, they fled to the West, where they still became more famous; and to compensate them for their zeal and devotion to the Mother of God, she obtained choice privileges and favors for them from her Divine Son. She gave the Scapular as a perpetual pledge of her protection, and that wonderful favor of the Sabbatine Bull. And behold the consequence: the greatest Kings and Queens and Emperors, Generals, and Statesmen, and men of letters, Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, and Priests, Religious of both sexes and of every Order and Congregation, vied with each other in procuring this badge, this "sign of salvation," that they might be under her protection and have a claim to her favours. Every rank, every country, no matter what their color or language, have a love and veneration for the Scapular, and nothing soothes the savage breast and assists the missionary in his labors of converting the heathen so much

as the bestowing of the Scapular of Mount Carmel; and justly so, for, how many miracles of every day occurrence and in all dangers have there not been wrought through its influence? Sinners converted, fires extinguished, shipwrecks averted, seas calmed, inundations prevented, diseases cured, temptations overcome, virtues practised, devils cast out; in a word, blessings temporal and spiritual bestowed on those who wear it during life, and even after death, a short purgatory.

IN MEMORIAM.

MOTHER M. MECHTHILD BOYD—*Died at Loretto Convent, Niagara Falls, Dec. 11th, 1892.*

"Come from Libanus and be crowned,
Oh! selfless soul Mechthild;"
So spake the Bridegroom in the hour
Which for her He hath willed.

To draw her, as with bands of love,
Unto His chaste embrace;
To lead her through the lilies fair,
To gaze upon His face.

Yes, lilies,—those the flowers He loves,
They woo Him—blossoms rare,
Those souls in gardens all enclosed
Who breathe His native air.

And such was she, this soul retired
In Mary's holy house;
All hidden in the fragrant bed
Of lilies for the Spouse.

And now amid the virgin train
She'll walk, and sing her song;
Her canticle, the Lamb to praise
For e'er, with Seraph's throng.

A trophy of the cross—secure,
A triumph of its power;
The Victor's spoil, Love's conquered one,
Loretto's daughter pure.

New York City.

—M. C.

IN beholding the present splendor of the winter scenery here at Niagara we cannot but repeat those words of the late Archbishop Lynch: "The trees and shrubs around are covered with ice," says His Grace, "and myriads of glassy pendants hang from the branches, reflecting in dazzling brightness the rays of the sun, and by night those of the moon. You will hear a crash. It is the branch of a tree that breaks down under the weight of icicles. Alas! how many souls break away from God, though highly favored with His special graces, and are never again engrafted on the vine that is Christ."