

Written for "The Voice of the Precious Blood."

# A SHORT TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF VERY REV. WILLIAM CORBY, C. S. C.

"Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Foot-prints in the sands of time."

Surrounded by devoted friends, Very Rev. Father Corby, Provincial of the Congregation of the Holy Cross in the United States, passed out of this life, at Notre Dame, on the evening of Dec. 28th, 1897. Although Father Corby was sixty-four years old he was in good health which circumstance, in connection with his genial, courteous manner and light heart, gave one the impression that he was much younger and would be spared for many years. His illness was very short, his death being caused by pneumonia. Many hearts are saddened by his loss, not only at Notre Dame where he was a leader and guide, but throughout the States and in Canada. He was a great man, and left "*foot-prints*," in the shape of colleges for education, churches for devotion, and heroic acts for history. All these things the world knows, but there are many acts of unselfish kindness, cheering words, and making "straight the crooked paths," which are known only to those who enjoyed the privilege of personal intercourse with this chosen soul.

Father Corby was born in Detroit, Michigan. In 1833 he came to Notre Dame to pursue his studies. After a year's residence in that Institution he decided to embrace a religious life, and in 1860 was ordained a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. At the beginning of the War Father Corby, with six other priests, was sent to the front as chaplain. He filled that position in the 88th Regiment, New York, and was also chaplain of the fighting Irish Brigade. One of the most touching incidents during the war, and one which has become historical was that of the "Absolution." It was at Gettysburg, the ranks were under fire when Father Corby, mounting a large stone, told the soldiers what he was about to do, begging them to