

tribunal of Penance that you should ask pardon. Rising, the Jesuit led Charles to the *prie-Dieu* and what there passed between them is a secret known to God alone.

The confession ended Charles remained kneeling and weeping tears of penitence till the Father made him rise from his knees and tenderly embraced him.

"Father," exclaimed the new convert, "I could never have believed that in the short space of an hour I could have experienced such sorrow and such joy. Has God indeed pardoned me?"

"To doubt it, my son, would be to doubt of His infinite goodness, to doubt His own word, to insult Him."

"And you, Father?"

"As for me, in my own name and that of the Company, I pardon you entirely, completely, absolutely. I thank God for having turned your guilty undertaking into a means for grace to triumph over your soul, and I also thank Him for having allowed me to be the instrument of His mercy. The past hour has been one of ineffable joy to you, whilst it has given me such happiness as I would willingly pay with my life. Leading back a soul to God is the only recompense, here below, that is asked for by a priest or religious."

"Father, I am confused and overwhelmed by your goodness, and dare scarcely raise my eyes to you, such shame and remorse fill my heart. When I came to you to avow what I had done, I expected to be ignominiously expelled, as I richly deserved, but instead of cursing me, you have blessed me—instead of hating me, you have given me every proof of affection."

"My son, strive to forget the past and look into the future, to see how best you can respond to the immense grace God has bestowed on you."

"The future. That word recalls an inmost thought, a longing which awoke in my soul when your hand was stretched over me in giving me absolution. I hardly dare make my request of you, Father, so unworthy do I feel."

"Have confidence in me and tell me fearlessly whatever you will, and I promise you that if it be in my power I will accede to your request."

"I have already told you, Father, that I entered the novitiate in order to do what harm I could to the Company. I now recognize my error, and humbly ask of you to allow me to devote myself entirely to your Society. Give me the lowest place; treat me as an unworthy and rebellious son, but do not send me away. Let me redeem my fault by consecrating my whole life to the Company's service."

"Your request fills my heart with joy since it proves to me the sincerity of your conversion; but the Rule does not permit of my allowing the realization of your wishes until I shall have consulted my superiors. Besides, you should be on your guard against mistaking a momentary enthusiasm for a mark of having a vocation to the religious life. There is one point, also, which you have not explained and which seems singularly at variance with your turn of mind, for thanks be to God, your natural qualities have not yet been vitiated. How could you ever have consented to undertaking a mission which must certainly have been repugnant to you? What motives decided you on undertaking it?"

When Charles had finished the recital of the events which had preceded his visit to St. Acheul the Father replied:

"If I understand you aright, your principal motive for accepting your mission here was the necessity in which you found yourself of providing for your young sister?"

"Certainly, only for her sake I should have refused the mission."

"My dear son, that same consideration for your sister is still incumbent on you, and I do not hesitate in saying that you ought not to think of entering the Company until your duty in that respect shall have been fulfilled. It is consequently difficult for you to decide what you had better do on leaving here; but you have two weapons you can employ in solving every difficulty: prayer and work. I will give you a letter of introduction to one of our Fathers, Father d'Aradon, who knows far better than I do what can be done in Paris by a young man in your position, as also what dangers are to be avoided. Follow his advice and all will go well. Strive to become a good Christian and that will be the best means of

eventually becoming a good religious should our dear Lord grant you the grace of a vocation."

"And what must I do about the minister who sent me here? Am I to say nothing to him?"

"By no means; you must give him an account of your mission. You have been commissioned to report on all that passes here, therefore tell him first what you have seen, neither more nor less. First of all see Father d'Aradon and do as he says."

"When must I leave?"

"This very day, my son; it is absolutely necessary."

(To be continued.)

MONTREAL GOSSIP.

The month of June ebbed out to-day in a wave of devotion to the Sacred Heart, for to-day was the Solemnity of the Feast. The Church of the Gesu, which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of our Lord, was especially beautiful in its decorations, and all the services held there to-day were deeply impressive. First, in the morning at the early masses came the dedication to the Sacred Heart of the families of the League, then after the 10.30 o'clock Mass, an Act of Consecration was read on behalf of the congregation. The music at this Mass was exquisite, and worthy of the reputation of Father Garceau's choir. After the Consecration there was a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament in the church. At the 8 o'clock Benediction the Fathers and Brothers of the Society of Jesus renewed their consecration to the Sacred Heart.

Throughout the entire month of June the evening devotions in the Gesu have been thronged by immense crowds of the Faithful, the attendance having been much more numerous than in former years.

The public consecration of families held to-day in the Gesu, took place in the middle of the month at the two great parish churches of Montreal. Those who assisted in these ceremonies say that the effect was touching in the extreme, both at St. Patrick's where the pastor, who for so many years has led his flock heavenward, solemnly voiced their sentiments of faith and love, and at the great parish church of Notre Dame, where over fourteen thousand heads of families placed the souls confided to their keeping under the special protection of the "Heart that has so much loved them."

The growth of the devotion to the Heart of our Lord in Canada seems to keep pace with the march of infidelity beyond the seas. Infidel France celebrates the centenary of the revolution—Catholic Canada celebrates the bi-centenary of Paray-le-Monial.

In connection with this devotion the League of Sacred the Heart has long done good work among the French portion of the Faithful, and the English-speaking branch of the same League, which was only established in our midst some eighteen months ago, displays a spirit of pious rivalry.

There are in this latter branch of the League some three thousand Associates, organized into bands of fifteen persons, each headed by its Captain or "Promotee," who distributes faithfully, before the first Friday of each month, the Rosary tickets and messages. Of two hundred Rosary sets received last month from Philadelphia, not one now remains upon the director's table. Eight hundred Messengers of the Sacred Heart circulate through the body of the League, carrying into Catholic families a powerful antidote against the poisonous literature of the day. The work of circulating these tickets and magazines would appear to be enormous, but the Rev. Director says it gives him very little trouble. At an appointed day one hundred and twenty lady promoters meet in the library under the Church of the Gesu, each takes away with her the tickets and magazine for her own circle as well as for those who have paid in advance the private subscriptions.

The men likewise have their regular meeting each month. The men's circle consists of five members only, and their aim is to promote the monthly communion. The good work of the Messengers is being supplemented by a free library, to the