

hers for Jesus Christ, have surrounded those who obtained the favor which she sought in vain.

When, in 1792, the Carmelites of Compiègne were expelled, fourteen of the number, with two tourières, remained in the city. They had prayed for their unfortunate country during a space of nearly two years, when they were accused of conspiracy, arrested, and transferred to Paris where they were imprisoned in the Conciergerie, and were finally condemned to death by the revolutionary tribunal.

On the day appointed for their execution these heroic nuns assembled and recited the *Office for the Dead*. They then entered the cart which was to drag them to the scene of execution. On the way, they said the *prayers for the dying*; and on reaching the Barrière du Trône, the triumphant strains of the *Te Deum* ascended from their lips and hearts.

At the foot of the guillotine, they were allowed to kneel and recite the *Veni Creator* which was followed by the Solemn Renovation of their Religious Vows. One of the Nuns then said aloud: "Grant, O my God, that the slight sacrifice of our lives may appease Thine anger and diminish the number of victims!"

Strange to say, the Reign of Terror ceased immediately after their death.

The prioress, like the mother of the Machabees, desired to encourage and sustain her daughters. She solicited and was granted the favor of being executed the last.

Sister Constance, a novice, was the first one called. She knelt before the prioress, asked for her blessing and permission to die. She then followed the executioner. The same impressive scene was enacted between each terrible stroke of the murderous guillotine. The fifteen new martyrs must have united in blessing the saintly Nun who had cheered and consoled them to the end, when she joyously laid her own head on the block.

This martyrdom forms the subject of a magnificent picture.

It is probable that all sixteen will yet be canonized, the process of beatification having been already commenced.

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