

heart, his sympathy and his love went out to those whom nature and fortune had not endowed so richly as him.

His parents were gratified to find developing in their first-born child disposition likely to bring him into prominence among his fellow men. But they little thought how fully their hopes would be realized in a vocation which they little thought about.

Days, months and years passed away, and the assiduity, learning and devotion of the young Saint increased as they went. The boyish notions of the school-room became more fixed, as the liking for the religious state, so manifest from his tenderest years, became a fixed vocation and the day came when he disclosed to his parents his intention of joining the priesthood.

His biographers speak highly of the piety and good sense of his mother and the deep-rooted faith of his father, though in custom and training he was a Soldier according to the time. Yet it would seem that the choice made by their son disappointed them. They had looked forward to a position of honor and trust at the Royal court, and hoped for even greater distinctions than had as yet been won by their ancient family. They were however too wise to interfere and John was allowed to pursue his calling. He immediately entered the Seminary and pursued his studies with such marked success that he early attracted the attention of the most learned among the ecclesiastical men of Rheims.

In 1667 while yet a student he became a member of the Chapter of Reims and soon became its model.

On completing his philosophy he determined to quit his native town and go to Paris in order the more surely to break away from family ties and associations that might prove a hindrance to his progress. He entered the Seminary of St. Sulpice and there set himself to prepare for the priesthood in a way, so quiet and unostentatious, yet so devout, so humble and so obedient that, much against his will, he attracted the attention of all about him, and edified them.

He was not long there when a very bitter sorrow came upon him. His father and mother died, one within a few