

by its overwhelming import. Only those who knew Father Soullier best can properly realize the mighty vacancy his death has wrought. Amongst the readers of THE OWL there are some who had the privilege of greeting him three years ago during his short visit to Ottawa. Little did they then imagine that his career of usefulness was so near its close. But who of us can raise the mystery-hiding curtain of obscurity and peep into that dark unknown? Who of us will dare gainsay the sovereign wisdom of the Most High? The Supreme Master calls to his eternal holiday his faithful servants when He sees their work is done, and then places upon their toil-stained brows the unfading laurels of a blessed immortality.

Concerning the minor details of Father Soullier's life we know but little. They are, in great part, hidden by that child-like simplicity and profound humility which were the salient characteristics of his great career. But, as on a bright calm day we may distinctly see, mirrored in the tranquil depths of some neighboring lake, even the loftiest mountain summit, so by the clear, steady light of faith, we are able to trace in this beloved missionary's humble spirit, and unyielding fidelity to the obligations of his vocation the heaven-pointing magnitude of an heroic mind. Many a time there were laid at his feet honors that would have brought him forth into the brilliant light of worldly fame, honors that would have given him, amongst his compatriots, an enviable celebrity, but as a true religious, as a man who loved retirement, he rejected them. Providence however held him other and scarcely less onerous dignities in store; dignities that were more in harmony with the

spirit of his vocation; dignities that were to be conferred upon him, not by strangers, but by the confidential unanimity of his brother Oblates.

Very Rev. John-Baptist Louis Soullier, third Superior General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, was born at Meymac, diocese of Tulle, France, on the twenty-sixth of March, 1826. At an early age he resolved to embrace the clerical state, and, with that intention, entered the seminary of his native diocese. A few years later, having almost completed his theological studies, he yielded to the dictates of a sweet interior voice that allured to a nobler and more arduous calling. The secular priesthood offered him a splendid sphere for the free play of his remarkable abilities; for him it was a sure road to preferment and renown; but the zealous seminarian, humble from the beginning, and thoroughly imbued with filial reverence for even the slightest indication of God's holy will, preferred that tranquil retirement and sweet security which are found only behind the strong old battlements of the religious life. At the age of twenty-two he turned away his eyes and heart from all the gairish prospects that were spread out so enticingly before him and entered the novitiate of the Oblate Fathers. One year later, on the seventeenth of February, 1849, by the perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and perseverance, he consecrated himself entirely and irrevocably to the service of a kind and ever generous Master. He was then sent to the Oblate scholasticate in Marseilles in order that he might make his final preparation for the holiest and sublimest of all dignities, God's sacred priesthood. Whilst at this quiet retreat of learning Rev. Brother Soullier reckoned among his