

model, which we must ever strive to imitate, but to which we can never attain, so great and so grand were your virtues! Adieu, then, once more; or rather, in my Christian faith I say to you, 'Au revoir!'"

* BONUS MILES CHRISTI. 2 *Tim.* ii. 3.

*This is the epitaph on the crypt at Loigny: "Die 22 Sept. 1887, in spem vite, hic depositus est, et requiescit, Miles Christi, Gaston de Sonts, General of division, born the 27th of August, 1825, died the 15th of August, 1887. Pray for him."

[THE END.]

Monthly Patrons.

BY ENFANT DE MARIE—ST. CLARE'S.

VEN. URSULA BENINCASA—*December 8th.*

ALTHOUGH earth is not always clothed in wintry garb of pure and snowy white, when we "go over to Bethlehem" and adore our Infant-Saviour, yet we have, even from earliest years, been accustomed to associate with His lowly crib, thoughts of snow-clad hills, and star-lit frosty skies, illumed with celestial brightness, resounding with angelic hymns. In the world of grace, however, the virgin whiteness of Mary ever appears in the novena and octave of her Immaculate Conception, and amongst all the sweet truths contained in that glorious prerogative, one of the most brilliant is, that it was bestowed in order to render her a "worthy habitation" of the Incarnate Word. We, too, are preparing our hearts for His coming; and by increasing in love for Mary's Immaculate Conception, and praying for special graces through it, we hope to be a little less unworthy of her Divine Son.

A fair lily of Holy Church attracts us this month—one consecrated to Mary Immaculate at her birth, and destined to honor her in a glorious manner.

Venerable Ursula Benincasa has not as yet been raised to the altars of God's Church, but, as declared worthy of veneration, we may look up to her

with confidence, implore her intercession, and imitate her example.

This flower of Naples, was left an orphan in early childhood, with her young brother and sister, and cared for them with the tenderness and patience of maturer years. Their life was one of poverty and labor, but one of prayer also, and of love for God and His Blessed Mother. Ursula placed before her loom a picture of the Madonna, and was at times rapt in ecstasy before it. At the death of her brother she retired to a little hermitage on Mt. Elmo, overlooking her native city, and caused a church to be erected on that mountain in Our Lady's honor.

Being supernaturally warned that chastisements from God were imminent, unless penance was done, she visited the reigning Pontiff, Gregory XIII., and manifested these communications. While at Rome, St. Philip Neri, by many trials tested her spirit, and at length formally approved of her sanctity. She returned to Naples, and was favored with a beautiful vision on the feast of the Purification. Our Lady appeared robed in blue and white, attended by maidens in similar dress. She held the Holy Child in her arms, and told Ursula to listen to His words. Jesus then spoke of the Order she was to found—in honor of Mary—