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VERY REV. J. B. L. SOULLIER, O.M.I.

Third Superior General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



CABLEGRAM received by Rev. Fr. Lauzon, vice-Provincial, announces the election, on Ascension Thursday, the 11th ult., of Very Rev. Father Jean Baptiste Louis

Soullier, as Superior General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Father Soullier succeeds Father Fabre, whose useful and edifying career was briefly sketched in our last November number. The new Superior General was elected, according to the constitutions of the Oblate Order, by a general chapter, composed of representatives from the different provinces and vicariates. The head of the Order is elected for life, and this is only the third time in the history of the congregation that such an election has taken place.

Nothing is more important for a religious order than the election of its first superior. It is his direction that pervades the whole body, and gives life and impulse to all the good and great works that are undertaken by its members. The eleventh of May, 1893, then, shall be registered as the date of a memorable event in the annals of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

The new Superior General is a native of the diocese of Tulle, département de la Corrèze, France. A few years ago he was proposed as first pastor of the diocese of Nantes, one of the most noted sees of France, but the rules of his Order prevented his acceptance. If this fact proves the great esteem, in which he was held by

the clergy of his country, the high offices frequently intrusted to him by his religious superiors, prove the great confidence they too had in him. As an official delegate he has visited all the different parts of the world where the Oblates have planted the banner of Mary Immaculate, from the vast plains of our Canadian North-West, to the gold fields of South Africa, and the shores of Ceylon, the emerald isle of the Indian Ocean.

Very Rev. Father Soullier, besides being the life-long friend of his immediate predecessor, personally knew the Venerable Founder and first Superior General of the Oblates, the late Right Rev. Eug. de Mazenod. This is a name which cannot be quite unknown to those of our readers who are attending the University at Ottawa, or who have been here; yet we fear that too few of us know what we might of the saintliness of life, and unremitting apostolic work of Mgr. de Mazenod, and of the claims he has on our grateful remembrance. Father Cooke's "Sketches of the Life of Mgr. de Mazenod," Père Lambert's "Vie de Mgr. de Mazenod," and Mgr. Ricard's "Mgr. de Mazenod" are volumes to be found in our library, and will amply repay in edification and instruction the time spent in perusing them. It would be difficult, perhaps, to find in the records of our century, a more striking example of unselfishness and devotedness to duty, than that given by the first Superior General of the Oblates. The last representative of an illustrious family, and possessed of extraordinary mental endowments, he renounced the brightest pros-