

Let no wreathes be laid upon my bier. Let no funeral oration be pronounced. Let them distribute among the poor the little money that may remain after paying my funeral expenses.

If, in accordance with military regulations, any service should be prescribed, I desire that it may not take place. A few prayers, free and spontaneous, from the hearts of our beloved soldiers, among whom I have the honor to count many friends, will be more profitable for me."

This will has made a profound impression at Bourges. Its clauses are worthy of the lofty character of the beloved Cardinal.

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*Madonna della Strada.*

A very remarkable fact is recorded of an Italian soldier, who served in the Abyssinian war. The day of his departure he came to the Gesù, in Rome, to make his confession, and put himself under the protection of our Lady of the Wayside (*Madonna della Strada*). The father who heard his confession gave him a medal of our Blessed Lady to wear around his neck. After the campaign, September 10, 1896, the young soldier returned to give thanks to our Lady of the Wayside, and told his own story as follows: "I am here safe by a miracle of Our Blessed Lady della Strada. I was in the terrible battle of Abba Carima, in General da Bormida's Brigade. I did my duty to the very last. The balls came like hail upon us; officers and soldiers were falling around me. I defended my piece of artillery, constantly invoking the Madonna. At four o'clock, surrounded on all sides, after all our mules had been killed, the signal to retreat was given. I obeyed, but hardly had I got beyond the reach of the guns when I perceived that the balls had torn my clothes and that my helmet was pierced in several places, while I myself was untouched, without a single wound. A miracle of the most holy Virgin! I said to myself. Soon I found myself again in a crowd of the enemy. I thought I was lost. But no; I again called on the Mother of God, and I passed in safety. I was alone, and wandered