

incurable. In 1894, the child was able to sit down, but keeping herself bent forwards, and supported on her elbows.

The poor little invalid was obliged to remain, continually in that painful position, having no other prospect than that of suffering, and of being infirm as it seemed, for her whole life.

With an intelligence more fully developed than other children of her age, Alfreda fully understood her unfortunate situation. At nine years old, she began to be anxious about her First Communion. She said tearfully to her parents: "I will never be able to go up to the railing, like other children." "I will carry you there, my daughter," answered the father; and encouraged by those words, the dear child took up with new ardor the study of her Catechism, under the direction of the Reverend Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame, at St. Catherine's Academy, where she was brought every day, in a little carriage, which served her as a seat, during the time, she remained in class.

One day, it was the 2nd of October, 1895, a person, who was touched by the pitiable state of the little invalid, said to her: "My child, I have known many people, who like you were unable to walk, cured by the intercession of the Mother Gamelin after a novena to Our Lady of the Seven Dolors. I am sure, that that Mother who had so much pity for the infirm, will cure you also." Alfreda, radiant with hope, went home and that very evening, the family gathered round the child, to begin the novena of prayers. The poor little one, did not content herself with the prayers said in common, but repeated them to herself several times, in the day. On the fifth day of the novena, the little sufferer felt a sensible improvement and was able to stand up. Her father had to go away that day, to work at Pointe aux Trembles.

"When you come back," said Alfreda to him, "I will go to meet you at the door."

That promise was verified. When he came back, the happy child went to meet her father; she could walk perfectly well.