

attempt to accomplish his Mission. It would seem from his own memoirs that, during these days spent in the solitude of the mountain looking into the past, his soul was buried in sorrow, for more strongly than ever before he was tempted to believe that he had been engaged in a vain and futile work unauthorized by Him who directs the destinies of men.

Time has since set aside all doubt ; the great work has gone on for centuries, the *Brothers* have dispersed far and wide to establish their schools ; the Church has long since given not only its sanction but its prayers for the progress of the great institution ; God the Father has spoken through His church and has declared to the world that a crown of richest merit, the reward of his noble life among men, is resting on the brow of De la Salle, at the throne of the most High ; and when ages have passed away and the day will have come, when the *Book of Ages* will be opened to the eyes of all men at General judgement, then and then only, will we understand and fully appreciate the great work accomplished by the faithful sons of Blessed de la Salle.

It may prove interesting and certainly should be a subject of edification for us to scan the pages of so zealous and so useful a life.

Saint John Baptist de la Salle was born on the 30th of April 1651. His mother's name was Nicole Moet and his father was Louis de la Salle, counsellor to the French Court.

Sprung from a noble and illustrious family he was educated in all the polish and refinement of a refined age. He was early sent to the parish School, and learned his letters on the same bench with many of the most illustrious men of France.

There was something even then in his behaviour that marked him from the rest. More gentle, more thoughtful, more charitable and more devout, the very workmen by the roadsides observed, and long remembered how kindly he took to his book.

The contrast in the conditions of men seems to have impressed him when yet very young, and while an ambition for something nobler and something better than the ordinary vocations of those about him, took possession of his childish