

signal favour or special grace. There the poor and the wretched seemed to have an easier access to her throne of mercy; there she seemed to hearken more attentively to their humble prayer, and to be more favourably disposed to exert her powerful influence in their behalf.

These facts were attested by the votive offerings still hanging on the walls at the commencement of this century; for all these *ex votos* were so many authentic monuments of signal favours, granted by God within the walls of the Chapel through the intercession of Mary.

On five different occasions, the Blessed Virgin protected and preserved her sanctuary in a miraculous manner, when conflagrations with the violence of a torrent burst over and around the sacred edifice, threatening its imminent and certain destruction. On each occasion when the fury of the devouring element had subsided, the Church of *Our Lady of Victories* reappeared, entire and uninjured, in the midst of the smoking and smouldering ruins, to the great astonishment as well as joy of the citizens, who had given up all hopes of saving it from total destruction.

We feel great pleasure, D. B. B., in recalling to your memory these facts, which are not only glorious to the Mother of God, but serve also to show us the zeal of our forefathers for the worship of the B. V. If, in these latter times, their remembrance seems to be somewhat obliterated from your minds, it is our duty to awake and call your attention to them, that your confidence in the sweet and merciful Virgin may be renewed, and that you may be induced to implore Her protection and assistance in the sanctuary which She seems to have chosen in the midst of us, to establish there the throne of Her mercies and to distribute Her favours.

Why would you not avail yourselves of the graces which She only wished to diffuse abroad among Her children? Why would you neglect so easy a means of paying honor to Her, and of securing Her powerful protection? Why would you entertain the slightest diffidence or doubt in her charity? If hitherto She has ever proved herself so favorable to the faithful who come hither to honor her, how could She refuse or neglect your requests?

It was with the view of rewarding the piety of your forefathers, and of glorifying and stimulating the courage of the zealous missionaries, who, before their de-