

# THE OWL.

Vol. XI.

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER, 1897.

No. 2.

*VERY REV. JOHN-BAPTIST LOUIS SOULLIER O.M.I.*

“Lo! this is he at God’s command  
who spurned  
The earth, and heaven’s high lore  
through suffering learned.  
Fortune, that, queen-like, glittered at  
his side,  
He fled, and Poverty embraced—his  
Bride.  
Good Deeds his chi’dren were ; Wisdom  
his crown ;  
His sceptre this, to rule one heart—  
his own.”

**O**N Sunday, the third of the present month, there was flashed far and wide across many a sea and land, a message that brought surprise and grief and mourning to the toiling members of a widely scattered family. It was an utterly unlooked-for word which, on that occasion, was carried so fast by the speeding electric fluid through heaving waters and over far extending plains and mighty mountains. It was a word that touched with acutest pain the hearts of those for whom it was intended. It was a keen, cruel word that conveyed to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in every clime, the sad intelligence that their father and venerable chief was dead.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints,” sings the Royal Songster of Israel. What a world of consolation these words convey to a bereaved heart that mourns in withering silence beside a hallowed tomb! The just man’s departure hence is but his entrance upon a happier life where his “sun shall go down no more,” and where his “moon shall not decrease.” It were a mark of selfishness then rather than a token of filial piety to grieve excessively over our present loss. The whole life of the illustrious missionary, whose eulogy we are trying to put in words, was one of unremitting labor and heroic sacrifice in the cause of justice; a veiling joy should hide from view our sorrow since, after so many years of tireless toil, he has entered upon a well merited and unending rest.

Although Father Soullier was well advanced in years, having passed his seventy-first birthday, still the news of his death came with a stunning suddenness. No one was expecting it; all his acquaintances in this country and especially his subjects, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, were momentarily dazed