## 18 , THE MESSENGER OF THE SACRED HEART

her unfailing stay; so when the order for removal came, she resigned her heart's desire to die amongst her dear Indians, and returned to live for ten years of prayer and suffering close to the Heart of her Lord and Master, the seeming failure of whose life-work she had so singularly been called upon the share.

By a strange dispensation of God's will, she was brought back to die at St. Charles, her first foundation in America. She ceased, we are told, to care for anything earthly. Her niece who had come from France to be near her and render her little services, describes her cell as the very sanctuary of poverty. Her prayer was continual, and kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament she forgot the things of time and sense. "How can one be tired who is with the Lord?" she would ask. Father de Smet, the Rocky Mountain missionary, openly expressed his opinion that she was a real saint, and regarded her as the great protectress of his wonderful missions.

It may be asked what the outcome has been of this valiant woman's life of self-sacrifice and devotion. Before her death sixteen houses of the religious of the Sacred Heart had been founded in America; in these schools both rich and poor learned to love and serve God. At the present day, in the two peninsulas, there are six vicariates or provinces, comprising forty seven establishments in which two thousand one hundred nuns educate some ten thousand children; five thousand five hundred belong to the poorer classes, and three hundred are of the negro race.

It was now time to sing her *Nunc dimittis*. At noon on the 18th of November, 1852, the angelic soul of this much tried woman went forth to meet her Divine Spouse whom she had served with such untiring devotion and love for eighty four years, thirty - four of which were spent in arduous labours upon American soil.

South America has given to Mother Church the great St. Rose of Lima. May God grant us yet to see beside her on our altars a St. Rose of Missouri.

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THERESA ANGELICA GETHIN.