

you observe a door, pass through it. You stand within the very room where Teresa first beheld the light. Adjoining it is the apartment used by her father as an office and study. This is all, I regret to say, that is left of the original house. A little door in the room where the saint was born will admit you to a flight of stairs, descending which, you will find yourself in the small yard where, in childhood's days, the saint of Avila amused herself constructing hermitages with her brother Rodrigo.

Retracing your steps, descend again the narrow street, and reflect as you go that once that ground was trodden by Teresa and her little brother, as flying from their paternal home, they left the city to seek martyrdom in Africa, though they knew not where Africa lay, for instead of traveling towards the south, they took the road off Salamanca, leading to the north. Pass through the Puerta del Puente. St. Teresa and Rodrigo, no doubt, passed through it on that day of childhood's illusion. You are now facing the river Adaja, across it lies the bridge over which the two children passed, and, beyond it, the road to Salamanca winds its way over the plains. At a short distance from where you stand the would-be martyrs were intercepted by their uncle. St. Teresa was destined for a longer and a more painful martyrdom.

Turn now to the right and walk along outside of the southern walls, and you will reach the *Puerta de Santa Teresa*, which stands opposite the monastery of the Carmelite Friars. Continue your walk along the spacious promenade, called *El Rastro*. The large edifice to the left is the Bishop's palace. It was in St. Teresa's time the college of the Jesuits. There lived Father Balthasar Alvarez, the confessor of the saint, there too sojourned St. Francis de Borja, or Borja. But there is another building still more worthy of your attention, it is the convent of the Augustinian nuns on your right. A year and a half of St. Teresa's girlhood were spent within its walls, and her memory is still green in its venerable cloisters. To-day these nuns no longer teach, as in St. Teresa's time, but they form a cloistered community, according to the decrees of the Council of Trent. The world owes much to the education which St. Teresa received in this asylum of virtue. Her heart had been gradually

weaned from the love of heavenly things and the love of vanity was beginning to enter within it and monopolize her affections, but the religious atmosphere of the Augustinian convent stifled the first germs of worldliness, and a heroic soul was gained for God.

In her life, written by herself, she speaks thus of her sojourn in this house: "All the religious were glad to be in my company; for in this respect our Lord gave me the particular favor of always pleasing persons wherever I might be, and thus I was much beloved, and though at that time I was quite opposed to my becoming a nun, yet I was glad to see in that house so many good religious, of great purity, and devotion and recollection."

How many, many years have passed since these words were written! The soul of Teresa has long since winged its flight to a better world, but the venerable walls of the Augustinian convent stand there still to remind us in this nineteenth century of the existence upon earth of one of those souls of whom, alas! the earth possesses too few.

(To be Continued.)

"Nearer to God."

Ursuline Academy, }
Pittsburgh, Pa., }
Dec. 10, 1893. }

DEAR FATHER:—Please insert the following in the Review for January:

"The Annual retreat at the Ursuline Academy, Pittsburgh, conducted by Rev. Anastasius J. Kreidt, O. C. C., was a great success. It opened on the 4th of December, and ended on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It was well attended by past and present pupils who all enjoyed the instructions so earnestly delivered, and had the happiness at the end of the exercises of feeling that they had been drawn "Nearer to God," which the Rev. Father had said was the aim of the Retreat."

SR. ST. G.

BE charitable and humble in your thoughts as well as in your words.—BLESSED MARGARET MARY.

HE who walks in the holy presence of God will never commit sin, but will preserve his innocence and become a great saint.