

like those which had spread the fame of Our Lady of Liesse throughout the world.

As the above mentioned statue is the very one now honoured in the church of the Gesù, we will, for the comfort of the faithful, relate two facts carefully reported in the official records.

Seraphine Varet, aged 23 years, had been stricken for four years with complete paralysis and insensibility of the lower left side. Her relatives had vainly exhausted all the resources of art. One day, in 1818, the invalid felt prompted to call upon Mary alone to cure her, and wished to be conveyed to Liesse. It was a rather long journey. While in the carriage with her father and sister, Séraphine prayed unceasingly with growing confidence. A secret voice said : "Go, thou shalt be healed".

On nearing the town, she asked if she would soon see the church steeple. "There it is ahead of you : " answered her father. At the same moment, a sharp pain shot through the side which had been insensible or rather dead for so many years and caused the patient to moan. The crisis grew more and more painful; Séraphine uttered a last cry : her leg was straightened and restored to life.

On reaching the Hôtel des Trois-Rois, the invalid's father, who did not know exactly what had happened, called for a chair and asked some one to help him to carry in his daughter. Meanwhile, the same interior voice bade Séraphine arise and get down alone. Obeying, she got down and, before her amazed travelling companions, with crutches in hand, she rushed to the church and prostrating herself before the image of the Mother of God, she thanked her with feelings of the deepest joy. Before withdrawing from the blessed Shrine, she offered her crutches as an ex-voto, together with a gold necklace, the only ornament she had.