

---

SISTER RITA.

It was with feelings of deep concern that the students of St. F. X. learned some two weeks ago that Sr. Mary Rita, last year the Superior of St. Martha's Convent, lay ill, even unto death in the Mother House at Halifax. Now they mourn her early death. But one short year ago and she moved among her associate Sisters in the vigor of health and life; now the silent tomb claims her earthly remains. The unsparing hand of death has touched this gentle Sister and she is removed forever from our midst. Her untimely death will be keenly felt by all who knew her; but there is consolation, nay, joy in the thought that if a life of self-abnegation and prayer is an assurance of an eternal reward then her portion is indeed blest.

The life of a Sister of Charity is one of the sublimest self-sacrifice. The world, with all its glamor, its allurements, and pleasures, is renounced,—the hidden life with its toil, its pain and privations, often its trials of the flesh, is assumed. Whether under the convent roof, where screened from the eyes of the world she labors with ceaseless care; whether confronting the cold world and enduring with meek submission its taunts and insults in the cause of God's poor and homeless, whether soothing with tender hand and words of sympathy the dying soldier in the hospital or on the field of battle while the deadly shells scream and scatter death around, the Sister of Charity is ever the servant of God and the friend of mankind.

Sister Rita was indeed worthy of such a noble organization, and the many tokens of kindness which she manifested toward the sick students while Superior of St. Martha's will be remembered gratefully by them while memory endures. Little did they dream that even while comforting them by her care and vigilance the Angel of Death was already hovering over herself.

We feel that the language of panegyric in reference to her may fittingly and deservedly be employed; we also feel how incapable we are of paying her the tribute we should wish to offer—one in some way expressive of our feelings and worthy of the departed. Nevertheless, we tender this humble offering to her memory while breathing the fervent hope that she whom God chose as his handmaid on earth to foster in others the love of virtue may have already attained to the full enjoyment of those "things that eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive."