

CHAPTER XXII

CONCLUSION

AFTER the death of Reverend Mother Sacred Heart, that they might preserve as long as possible her cherished memory, the Congregation of St. Joseph elected in her place the venerable Mother Marie Louise. She had been her Assistant, her faithful companion and constant friend in tribulation and sorrow, even more than in prosperity and joy. These hearts, so generous and sincere, were closely united. To use a Biblical figure, the soul of Mother Marie Louise clung to that of Mother Sacred Heart, as the soul of Jonathan to that of David, and faithfully offered her in time of trial the treasure of intimate and unwavering friendship, which the author of *The Imitation* exalts as of inestimable value, whilst at the same time he deprecates its rarity.

The election of Mother Marie Louise, which took place on May 16th, 1867, was not only an act of wisdom justified by her rare virtues and amiable qualities, but still more an act of gratitude, of filial piety, and of holy love on the part of the Congregation. In their new Superior the Congregation of St. Joseph hoped to see the living image of their departed Mother Sacred Heart.

Thus, the administration of Mother Marie Louise was but the continuation of the work of her friend, to complete which was her only endeavour. For this