

CARMELITE GENERALS.



RELIGIOUS Orders might be aptly compared to a well disciplined army under the command of a general, who in his turn owes obedience to a commander-in-chief. There are several such armies in the Catholic Church, United in essentials, they have their own peculiar mode of warfare in the great and endless fight for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Soldiers of every nation, they are strongly united, and ever until death, ready to obey him to whom they have sworn allegiance for God's sake. 'Tis true, a few deserters may appear on rare occasions, but recruits are never wanting. As one after another goes before the Lord of Armies to receive an imperishable badge of glory, the deserted ranks are speedily filled with valiant volunteers. The individuality of each combatant is lost when he enlists, and the vast army acts as one man under the generalship of a head-superior, who in turn is accountable to his chief superior—the Sovereign Pontiff. In an army, the whole body is again subdivided into regiments under its colonels, and these again under its captains into companies. So with an Order. It is divided into what are called Provinces, under a superior—the Father Provincial. Each province is again made up of different communities, or priories, each of which has its prior, or superior, who again can appoint subordinate officers. We speak at present only of the Order of Mt. Carmel and its past and present generals, under whose leadership are united to a man, the members of its vast army be they in far off India, at the Antipodes, in the Canadas, in the bustling American metropolis, or on the Western prairies.

Very Rev. Aloysius Maria Galli, whose portrait appears on page 77, is the present Prior-General of the Order. He was elected at the General Chapter of the Order in Rome on October 17, 1889, by the votes of the representatives of the Order from all parts of the globe. The United States and Canada were represented by Very Rev. Pius R. Mayer, O.C.C., Provincial of the Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Our Reverend Father-General was born at Poggio, in Umbria, Italy, on March 28, 1842, his 52nd birthday occurring on the 28th of last month. He is hence in his prime, and can hope to see many active days devoted to the services of the Order. Father Galli received the holy habit of the Order on June 12, 1859. The residence of the General is the beautiful convent of St. Maria Transpontina, in close proximity to the Vatican. The Italian Government has taken possession of nearly all of this monastery, and uses it as a barracks. There now is a chance of our Mother house being located elsewhere in the Eternal City.

Personally, our Very Reverend Father-General abundantly enjoys nature's gifts. He has a magnificent physique and robust constitution. His duties are naturally onerous, having the care of the whole Order on his shoulders. To lighten his burdens he has an assistant, who also acts as the secretary for English-speaking Carmelites. Father-General's devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and the welfare of her Order, knows no bounds. He is a man of great erudition, which was recognized by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII., who appointed him a Consultor of the Sacred Congregation of Rites. Although strongly attached to the traditions of his venerable Order, our Father-General is in touch with the needs of times and circumstances. He has visited most of our European monasteries, and in a very short time he is expected to visit the houses of the Order in this country.

Looking through the long list of predecessors of our present Father-General, we come to St. Berthold, the first general of the Carmelites. The Christian princes after having made themselves masters of the Holy Land under the command of Godfrey of Bologne, in the year 1099, St. Berthold, a native of France, and doctor of Paris, accompanied the army thither, for the purpose of visiting the holy places, and fixed his abode in Mt. Carmel among the hermits, who in the year 1141 assembled to hold their first Chapter, Aimericus, then patriarch of Antioch and the Pope's legate, was by the unanimous consent of all, chosen to preside over this meeting, in which St. Berthold was elected first general of the Latins or Europeans. Verner, a Carthusian, speaking of Aimericus, in his *Chronicles of the Church*, in the year 1141, says: "The