

have one, shall answer : " we are inundated by a deluge of philosophical and heterodox doctrines, surging up every where around us ; we feel the desire and the necessity of strengthening our faith against the multiplied assaults directed against us by the various systems of false science. Amongst our fellow-students, some are materialists, some saint-simoniens, and some fourieristes ; others again deists. When we Catholics, attempt to remind these erring brethren of the wonders effected by Christianity, they invariably reply : " You are right enough, if you speak of the past only, Christianity did wonders formerly ; but now Christianity is dead. And, in point of fact, what are you who boast of being Catholics, doing ? Where are the works that testify to your faith, and compel us to respect and acknowledge it ? " They are right, he continues, the reproach is but too well merited. To the work, then ! Let our acts be in keeping with our faith ! But what is our work ? How shall we prove ourselves true Catholics, but by doing what is most pleasing to God ? Let us devote ourselves to the relief of our neighbour, as Jesus Christ did, and place our faith under the safeguard of Charity ! (1)

Catholic Faith and Charity ! Such, beloved brethren, is the motto adopted by these young crusaders. To preserve, to nourish mid the corrupt atmosphere of a great city, despite the pride of science, and the seductions of the world, the sacred flame of faith, the faith of their infancy, the faith of their youth, the sheet anchor of their mothers' hopes ; to sustain that faith, not by words, not by ephemeral systems, but by works : by doing good to their unhappy brethren, to the " poor people, " to suffering humanity : such is their aim.

" But what do you hope to accomplish ? " exclaim their young companions. You are but eight poor youths ; and you undertake to relieve the swarming wretchedness of a city like Paris ! And even were you many times more numerous, you would accomplish but little after all ! Now, we are elaborating ideas and a system destined to reform the world, and rid it for ever of all suffering and misery, we shall perform in one instant for humanity, what you could not accomplish in many centuries. " (2)

(1) Ozanam. Discourse at conference of Florence.

(2) Idem.