

often as you do. Whereupon Eustelle answered : " I know well that I am very far from being good, but it is not self esteem which prompts me to receive Holy Communion ; it is because I am anxious to become better." And so we find the pious child anticipating the Decree of Pius X which teaches Christians that Communion is not a reward, but a food and a remedy.

Prayer became a delight and consolation to the ho'y girl. At first she devoted only a quarter of an hour to the exercise, but she soon extended the time to half an hour ; and this period eventually was not sufficient for her fervor as we find her spending her free hours in the evening before the Tabernacle. Ultimately she became such a lover of prayer that she was instrumental in leading others to the better knowledge and practice of this great help heavenwards. She has written admirable letters on prayer. The elegance of the diction contained in this treatise of hers is surprising from the pen of one of such lowly origin and scanty education, whilst it is edifying for its pious teaching and its aspirations of love.

Marie Eustelle led a very penitential life. She was obliged, owing to her poor circumstances, to work during the day, but her zeal for the beauty of God's altar was so ardent that she was willing to spend long hours at night working for poor churches. Her spirit of sacrifice was such that she was known to keep a letter unopened for a month, although she knew that it contained news interesting to her. She passed through the crucible of interior trials, temptations and dereliction, but in all her troubles she was resigned to the will of God and full of trust in Him. She wrote as follows to an acquaintance : I know what our dear Saviour is. I rely upon Him ; He will not disappoint my hopes. Dear friend, have the tenderest confidence in His goodness ; He refuses nothing to this good virtue coupled with humility — confidence in Jesus. O Crib ! O Cross ! O Sacrament ! O Love of Jesus ! these are the grounds of the Christian's hope ; these are the motives of my confidence and of yours. Take care not to wound the sweet and tender Heart of Jesus, by failing in a holy and loving confidence."

(*To be continued*)

Published with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal.