

annoying to her, and the Mother Superior at length consented to deny her attendance upon them, and permit her to retire to the seclusion she so ardently desired."

From the time of her profession, indeed, the influence of Sister Allen began to grow abroad. The calm face framed in the whiteness of the religious head-dress, shaded by the long, black veil, the unfamiliar garb, dwelt in the memory of many, who had witnessed the ceremony of her profession.

Apart from the fact that while tending the sick in the hospital wards, this our first American nun became soon remarkable for the number of conversions in which she was instrumental, four in one week as it happened on one occasion, her influence went much farther. It spread abroad towards that beautiful town, in her native Vermont, where the years of her girlhood had been passed. It stole in softly, like a shadow, such as hills cast at evening over the plain, or like the rising sun upon the summit of Mt. Mansfield. One of the first upon whom its effect was visible, was the Rev. Daniel Barber, the venerable clergyman, who had so short a time before baptized Sister Allen in the Presbyterian Church. He had since himself become an Episcopalian. But the lesson of Fanny Allen's life, the marvellous change wrought in her by the blessing of divine faith, was not lost upon him. A few months after her reception, he became a Catholic, his example being followed by his wife and children, of whom we may mention in special his son, the Rev. Virgil Horace Barber, like himself a minister. Their subsequent career was so remarkable, that we will digress here sufficiently to give some account of them. The Barber family were among the first important converts to the truth in New England, and as their conversion was the fruit, the actual outcome of that of Sister Allen, we are the more disposed to dwell upon it. They were old settlers, people of consequence in the State, enlightened and cultured, earnest in their own belief. Mr. Barber, the elder, as we have mentioned, was so affected by the spectacle of the