

already in a state of decomposition. We set to work quickly now. Clearing a small passage, we first carried out the dead bodies, and then after strewing the floor with straw, we replaced thereon, the living, who soon had to be removed in their turn. In the open space between the sheds, lay the inanimate forms of men, women and children, once the personification of health and beauty, with loving and ardent hearts, now destined to fill a nameless grave. More sick immigrants arriving from day to day, new sheds had to be erected, till at last 24 of these temporary hospitals stood side by side, each one containing about 180 common cots, or rather plank boxes, littered with straw, in which often three poor fever-stricken victims lay down to rise no more. Eleven hundred human beings tossed and writhed in agony at the same time, on these hard couches. The hearse could hardly suffice to carry off the dead. From eight Sisters the number increased till none save the principal officers, the superannuated and those absolutely necessary to maintain the good order of the Establishment, remained at the Grey Nunnery. The ardor of the sisterhood continued unabated and until the 24th of the month (June) no Sister had been absent from the muster roll. On this eventful morning, two young Sisters could no longer rise at the sound of the matin bell. The plague had chosen its first victims and shortly more were to follow, till 30 lay at the point of death. The professed Nuns of the Establishment amounting only to 40, could not suffice to superintend their Institution, tend their sick sisters, 30 of whom now had the fever, and assist at the sheds. There were at this time 25 Novices, who now ardently requested to be allowed to fill up the vacancies in the ranks. Their offer was accepted and side by side with the professed Sisters did they toil and triumph—for what else is death when it gives the martyr's crown? Fears were entertained for the safety of the Convent, which fears increased still more when eight Sisters were called to re-