

privileges were extended by later Pontiffs to all the faithful, and the indulgences themselves have been from time to time increased. Stations are of course, most usually to be found within a Church, but how much more devotional do they not become, and how much more vividly do they not recall the holy events which they seek to commemorate, when they are erected on a wild mountain side, with a steep climb between each station ! Little wonder, therefore, that one of the first duties of Oka's earliest Sulpician Missionaries, in their attempts to bring home to the minds of their rude converts the story of the Atonement, was to consecrate this wild and beautiful spot to God, and make of it a perpetual memorial of His Sacred Passion, by erecting on the steep and rugged mountain side the "Stations of the Cross." As they stood over two centuries and a half ago, so these Stations stand to-day, recalling to pious pilgrims, from age to age, the infinite love of God for His creatures.

About a mile outside the village, in the direction of the Mountain, and just at the edge of the wood which clothes it from base to summit, stands a large wooden cross, the rendez-vous of the pilgrims, and the starting point of the devotional exercises. A few hundred yards further on, through a natural avenue of tall maples, we reach the first Station, the Agony in the Garden. And Here let me say that, going back, as they do, to a period anterior to the remodelling of the devotion in its present form, the Oka Stations are not those with which we are all so familiar. They are seven, instead of fourteen in number, and respectively represent (1) the Agony in the Garden, (2) the Scourging at the Pillar, (3) the Crowning with Thorns, (4) Veronica wiping the Face of Jesus, (5) the Nailing to the Cross, (6) the Death on the Cross and (7) the taking down from the Cross. The first four are of similar character. The representations are of wood, carved in relief, and more or less highly colored. They are about six feet by four in size, and are let into and protected by whitewashed stone buildings of very substantial appearance. The pictures, or rather carvings, are shielded from the weather by wooden doors or shutters, which are, of course, kept closed when the Stations are not in use. These four Stations are placed at distance of from three to