

The six special favors promised by Christ in a vision to Our Holy Father shortly before his death, are as follows: First, that his order shall continue to exist to the end of time. Second, that the greater number of religious, the more God will bless them and provide for their wants. Third, that those who sincerely love the order, will obtain a happy death. Fourth, that he will deliver from Purgatory on his feast (October 4), the souls of the member of his three orders and of their benefactors. Fifth, that the enemies and persecutors of his order, unless they repent, shall not live long; and sixth, that any member living wickedly therein, shall not remain in his order.

Now, dear brethren, one to whom so many wonderful things have been promised, must be considered a great favorite of Heaven, and consequently, his intercession, his protection can be regarded as a great advantage, a great blessing, and much to be desired.

The second spiritual advantage enjoyed by the members of the arch-confraternity of the Cord is that they partake of all the good works that are wrought all over the world by the members of the three Orders of St. Francis, as we read in the Bulls of Sixtus V., Innocent XI. and Innocent XII. These good works consist in prayers, fasts, mortifications, Masses, divine services, preaching and almsgiving.

Moreover, they enjoy among themselves a communion of good works and merits. The very name of confraternity implies this, and better still, they have communion of the merits and intercession of the saints of the order who are already reigning with God in Heaven, and bear in mind, dear brethren, these are many; for of the Franciscan Order there are 90 canonized saints, 219 beatified, 1700 blessed martyrs, and more than 5,000 who died in order of sanctity; these we are sure of; but besides, how many thousands, nay perhaps millions, who have sanctified themselves under the rule and spirit of St. Francis, and are, with those I mentioned, now beholding the Beatified Mission. The fourth spiritual advantage of this confraternity is the facility of gaining so many indulgences granted to it by the Church. You know, dear brethren, that in the Church of God there is a spiritual treasure of the superabundant merits of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin, and the saints; and as this treasure is infinite the Church can dispense it in an unlimited manner for the good of the faithful by the way of indulgences.

And liberal has the Church been in her dispensation in favor of the archconfraternity, granting to it many plenary and partial indulgences and the Papal benediction, all of which you can find stated in your title book on the cord.

The cord itself has often been the medium of miraculous cures, as we read in the lives of St. Francis, St. Anthony, St. Clare, St. Joseph of Cupertino, St. Caleta, St. Felix and St. Peter of Alcantara. I will mention one instance related by St. Bonaventure in his life of St. Francis. It is that of a certain pious man of Pieve who had by him a cord which St. Francis had worn. A great multitude of men and women being sick in the city, he went from house to house, and dipping the cord in water, caused the sick to drink thereof by which a great many were healed.

This, and the many other favors obtained, proves how pleasing to God is this devotion of wearing a cord in memory of the cords by which the Saviour was thrice bound, as the Gospel tells us; first, when made prisoner in the garden; second, when tied to the pillar of flagellation; and third, when led bound through the streets of Jerusalem on his way to Calvary to lay down his life on the cross. Need I then exhort you, members of this Archconfraternity, to persevere in this devotion, or need I say more to induce new members to join it?

I do not pretend to claim equal advantages for the members of the Cord Confraternity with those enjoyed by the members of the Third Order. Nor would I incline any one to prefer membership in the former rather than in the latter. On the contrary, my brethren, it would be my delight to see every good man and every good woman in the parish of St. Anthony's enrolled in the Third Order, for then they would be the recognized members of the order (those of the Cord being only affiliated). They would be partakers of more spiritual favors

and would have the advantage of the general absolution so often given throughout the year.

But for such as are not disposed to become Tertiaries, what better can I recommend than membership in the archconfraternity of the Cord, in which they can participate in all the blessings and many advantages available therein, and which I have been endeavoring to lay before you this evening?

What better can I suggest to them than to take their place under that new banner of this Archconfraternity which is now about to be blessed?

And now, dear brethren, I must fulfil my promises to explain to you why that banner bears a representation of St. Benedict Joseph Labre, but this I must do very briefly, for already I have detained you long.

St. Benedict Joseph Labre is regarded as the special patron of the Archconfraternity of the Cord of St. Francis. He is given by the Franciscan Order, as an example for all who wear the cord. He was born in the village of Amette, France, in 1748, and died in Rome in the year 1783. He was beatified by Pope Pius the IX. in 1860, and canonized by the present Pontiff in 1881.

In his youth, his great desire was to become a Trappist Monk, and for this he prepared himself by study, prayer, and a spirit of recollection. But feeling himself irresistibly called by God, he resolved to imitate the life of St. Alexius—to become a poor mendicant. His life, thenceforth was, I may say, a continued pilgrimage, going from shrine to shrine in the neighborhood of Rome, the centre of Catholicity, and the nursery of all works of piety. He went about covered in poor ragged garments, and girded with the cord of St. Francis. He was generally known as the poor beggar of Christ, and so closely did he imitate the virtues of St. Francis, especially his profound humility and his tender compassion for the suffering Jesus, that he was often called the little St. Francis. One of his biographers says of him, that naught but the sacred stigma was lacking to make him another Francis. And all this is why the picture of this great saint is on that banner. Members of this Archconfraternity, recognize him as your patron, pray to him, try to imitate him as he did our glorious Father St. Francis. And, brethren, what I have now said to you, I hope will encourage perseverance in those already belonging to the Confraternity of the Cord, and in others a resolution to join it, to unite in holy fellowship for the cause of God and His Church, and sanctification of souls.

Bear in mind that though "antique" these Franciscan devotions may be, they are not out of date, and this is the opinion of the great and holy Pope now reigning. "No man can doubt that the Franciscan institutions would be specially beneficial in these, our days. For if they were in a flourishing condition, faith and piety, and every Christian virtue would easily flourish."

(Encyclical of His Holiness Leo XIII., Sept. 17, 1882.)

Persevere then in your appreciation of these holy institutions and devotions; avail yourselves of them, and continue in your united efforts to promote the Divine honor and the glory of the Church. In this the spirit of God will be with you to the end. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them."—*The American Catholic News*, 13th Feb., 1889.

FATHER DAWSON'S WILL.

A LOT OF INTERESTING REQUESTS BY THE LATE PRIEST.

The will of the late Vicar-General Dawson, probated last week, leaves thirty acres of land in Hintonburg, on which what is known as the Jok church stands, to the Catholic residents for a recreation ground for ever. The remainder of his small property, consisting mainly of books, papers and curios, is left to Ottawa College. Among the articles is a silver cup, inlaid with pieces of oak from the Royal George warship, the tower of London, of the 11th century, Admiral Nelson's flagship Victory, and the Imperial House of Commons destroyed by fire in the last century. Bequeathing some pictures to Ottawa College, the reverend Vicar-General, who was noted during his life for his quiet humor, mentioned one of them as, "a view of the first Catholic Church of any importance in Scotland, St. Andrews of Glasgow, built after the destructive knocks of Knox." The will is dated November 14, 1894, a few weeks before his death.

SENATOR TASSE DEAD.

His Prolonged Illness Ended on Thursday Last.

The prolonged illness from which Senator Tasse suffered ended at an early hour Thursday morning in the death that for many days his friends recognized was inevitable.

Mr. Tasse was born in Montreal on the 23rd October, 1848. His education was obtained at Bourget college, Rigaud. His inclinations were towards literature, and at the age of 19 he was editor of *Le Canada*, a tri-weekly paper published at Ottawa. Two years later he joined the staff of *La Minerve*, and held the post of associate editor till 1872, contributing also to *La Revue Canadienne*, a literary journal, in the direction of which he had a share. In 1873 he visited Europe, travelling in England, France, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy. His accounts of what he saw in his journeyings were cleverly and entertainingly written. He resigned his position of translator in Parliament and was elected to the House of Commons for Ottawa city in the memorable contest of 1878, he and his colleague, Mr. J. M. Currier, defeating Messrs. P. St. Jean and C. W. Bangs. He retained his seat for the Capital till 1887, when he retired. In 1891 he was appointed to the Senate for the DeSablery division of this province, comprising the counties of Beauharnois, Chateauguay and Huntingdon. While Mr. Tasse spoke frequently and well in Parliament and took his share of the campaign labor of his party, it was his work as a writer that took most of his attention. His articles in *La Minerve*, of which he has been for many years the editor-in-chief, evidenced a clear insight into the questions treated of, a wide study of current events and a spirit of broad tolerance too often absent from the columns of many of this province's papers. He did much to make the utterances of *La Minerve* respected and influential. His writings, outside of the daily press, were voluminous and gave evidence of hard study and patient industry. The latest, and most interesting, perhaps, was a volume of the speeches of Sir George Etienne Cartier, a statesman whose career he admired and emulated. "Le 38me Fauteuil" was a sketch of the occupants of his seat in the House of Commons and the public events in which they had taken part. They included Messrs. C. J. Coursol, Mr. Royal, Mr. Mousseau, Mr. D. Gironard and Mr. Masson, all of whom have special claims to distinction, which Mr. Tasse's association with their place in Parliament did no dishonor to. *Les Canadiens de l'Ouest* was another volume from his pen, an evidence at once of patriotism and painstaking. It was a history of the French-Canadians of Western Canada who have made themselves conspicuous in politics, commerce or in professions. *Le Chemin de Fer Canadien Pacifique* was the first comprehensive history of the great highway, which Mr. Tasse's influence in Parliament helped to create, to be printed in the French language. *Le Val de l'Outaouais*, *Le Tour de Monde* and *Philomen Wright*, ou *Colonization et Commerce du Bois*, were other pamphlets from Mr. Tasse's pen. He also published in 1879 *A Parallel of the Life of Sir John Macdonald* compared with Lord Beaconsfield. He was an officer of the French Canadian institute and of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, of Ottawa, and of the Quebec Press Association. He frequently lectured before some of these or other literary, political, or national societies, both in Canada and the United States. His latest public service outside of his duties as a member of Parliament, was as Canada's commissioner to the Columbian World's exhibition at Chicago, a post whose duties he fulfilled with general satisfaction. Mr. Tasse married, in 1870, Marie Alexandrine Victoire Georginna, daughter of Mr. J. P. Lecourt, who with three daughters, Madame de Beaujeu and two unmarried, survive him.

THE FUNERAL.

The remains of the late Hon. Joseph Tasse were removed from the residence, St. Hubert street, Friday afternoon at four o'clock, and taken to St. James' church, St. Denis street, where a *Libera* was sung, after which the procession reformed and proceeded to the Canadian Pacific depot, Dalhousie square, to await the removal of the body to Ottawa, the burial taking place in that city on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.

The attendance at the house of the late Senator for the de Salaberry division,

as well as at the church, was thoroughly representative. Montreal journalists did especial honor to the memory of their departed confrere, the fourth estate being largely represented. The floral offerings from the friends of the deceased were magnificent and were carried in an open carriage leading the imposing cortege. They were as follows:—The citizens of Beauharnois, a crown; Eusebe Senecal, a crown; C. A. M. Globensky, a star; La Minerve, a pedestal; Hon. A. and M. d. Nantel, an anchor; T. E. Lich'eubheim, an anchor; Dr. Lachapelle, M.P.; H. Laporte and Ludger Consineau, a broken pillar; Joseph Tasse, a cross; George de Beaujeu, a cross; Mr. and Mad. Arthur Lemieux, a cross; J. U. Dufresne and J. B. Mongenais, a cross; Hon. L. R. Masson, a crown; Judge Pagnuelo, a tribute of mosses; Mr. Honan, a cross.

Before the body, which reposed in a metallic casket, was taken from the house of mourning, the journalists and friends took a last look at the face of the man whose voice will no longer be heard in defence of his party and of his country, and whose pen has been laid aside forever.

The pallbearers were Hon. Judge Mathieu, Hon. Louis Beaudin, Hon. Alphonse Desjardins, Mr. J. G. H. Bergeron, M.P., and Mr. Bellemare. The immediate mourners were Messrs. Geo. de Beaujeu, Alfred Fortier, R. Lecourt, Hon. Mr. Nantel, Jos. Tasse, Emanuel Tasse, while Hon. Jos. Royal, D. Legault, Oliver Cote, Wilson, Major and other gentlemen connected with *La Minerve* closely followed. Amongst others present were Sir Alex. Lacoste, Hon. Mr. de Beauharnois, Hon. L. R. Masson, Hon. Mr. Laviolette, M.L.C.; Hon. P. E. Leblanc, Mayor Villeneuve, Seigneur Globensky, of St. Eustache; J. L. Rolland, Chevalier Brolet, J. M. Dufresne, J. B. Mongenais, R. Boivin, G. Boivin, Thos. Fox, John Hoolahan, W. Guibault, ex-M.P.; P. Leclaire, M.P.; Geo. Mathieu, L. E. Carufel, Dr. Brisson, L. N. Dupuis, Messrs. Augé and Martineau, M.L.A.; Lepine, M.P.; Henri Archambault, Judge Blanchet, J. L. Archambault, Q.C.; Capt. Bourassa, George Coutlee, L. Tache, S. St. Oage, Dr. Savard, Dr. Deroche, Dr. Rotot, J. A. Ouimet, C. Thérien, A. Lemieux, Thos. Gauthier, Austin Mosher, representing the Sir John A. Macdonald club; L. Surveyer, J. P. Coutlee, H. Tetu, Alex. Giroux, J. Israel Tarte, M.P. for L'Islet; Fred. Bonacina, Charles Maroill, Dr. Victor Perrault, Judge Desnoyers, L. W. Sicotte, F. Benoit, T. Berthiaume, P. J. Voyer Bisailon, Q.C., W. Pagnuelo, Col. Hughes, L. Forget, C. A. Vallee, Alex. McCoy, E. Montel, J. A. Dussault, Eusebe Senecal, Andre Senecal, Capt. Roy, R. Roy, Deputy Sheriff Franchère, Dr. Rodier, Emanuel St. Louis, Baby, Lesage and many others.

When the funeral cortege reached the church, which was appropriately draped, the *levee du corps* was performed by Rev. Abbe Colin, superior of the Seminary, assisted by Rev. Messrs. Bedard and Adam, the latter being a class-mate of the deceased. At each corner of the immense and imposing catafalque upon which the remains were placed while in the sacred edifice, was the letter T. indicative of the name of the senator for De Salaberry. The reverend superior of St. Sulpice also sang the *Libera*, while Rev. Messrs. Belanger and Lecourt were also present. His Grace the Archbishop of Montreal was represented by Rev. Canon Bruchesi, who was present at the World's fair with the late Senator Tasse.

At the conclusion of the religious ceremony nearly all of those who were present in church accompanied the remains to the depot. Mrs. and Misses Tasse, together with Messrs. Legault and Olivier, of *La Minerve*, proceeded to the Capital by the same train. Mrs. Tasse has received letters and telegrams of condolence from the following persons:—Hon. Judge Mathieu, G. E. Mathieu, Madame Bureau, Madame Beaudin, Hon. J. J. Ross, Sir Alex. and Lady Lacoste, Madame Stanger, the rev. gentlemen of Bourget college, Rigaud; T. Ouimet, Mr. and Mrs. Honan, A. Gobeil, L. Z. Joncas, M.P.; Sir A. P. Caron, V. Webb, Vicomte de Beaujeu, Captain Chartrand, Madame W. F. Valinocourte and others.

Last year the priests of the Foreign Missions, whose headquarters are in Paris, baptized 32,482 adult pagans and 176,643 children. They have 3,800 missionary stations and have charge of regions in which there are millions and millions of heathens.