

were eager to hear her expound her visions, especially one of the Trinity, which is strangely like Dante's in the final canto of his *Paradiso*:

Nella profonda e chiara sussistenza
Dell 'alto lume parvemi tre giri
Di tre colori e d'una continenza:

In that abyss
Of radiance, clear and lofty, seemed, methought,
Three orbs of triple hue, clipt in one bound;
And, from another, one reflected seemed,
As rainbow is from rainbow: and the third
Seemed fire, breathed equally from both.

She freely told all that she had seen beyond the veil of the flesh; and by her human aptitudes, no less than by her other-worldliness, she was soon in perfect harmony with the life around her.

The Ursulines were originally founded on St. Catherine's Day in 1537; two years after Jacques Cartier's discovery of Quebec; a time when the full flood-stream of Renaissance and Reformation was beating against every bulwark of the Roman faith and government. Ignatius Loyola and Angela of Merici hurried to the defence of the dangerous breach made in Catholic education, and set to work to rebuild it under fire. In 1540 Loyola drew up the constitution of the Jesuits, in which the education of boys stood first of all in relative importance. Four years later the Sovereign Pontiff approved the constitution of the Ursulines, in which the first place was given to the education of girls. "I have just given you some sisters," said Paul III. to St. Ignatius, after signing the document. How this Pope would have rejoiced to see his famous dictum so signally borne out a century later, in the distant mission field of Canada!

The novitiate over, La Mère Marie chose the conversion of St. Paul for her profession; and accordingly, on the 25th of January, 1633, she made her final vows. At the time, she seems to have chosen this day only because it reminded her of her own conversion, and not from any sense of missionary zeal. But two years later she dreamt of meeting a lady she had never seen before, and of taking her by the hand and going a long journey into a strange country, pointed out by an apostle who met them by the way. An idea that she was not to spend her life among the Ursulines of Tours kept on recurring; but it seemed so impious that she kept on as continually repulsing it. The other nuns began to notice her obsession; and one day she broached the subject to Father Dinet. This