

DISCOURSES
DELIVERED AT NOTRE-DAME DE QUÉBEC,
DURING THE TRIDUUM
of the Society de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul.

FIRST DISCOURSE.

Filioli mei, non diligamus verbo, neque
lingua, sed opere et veritate.

My little children, let us not love in
word, nor in tongue, but in deed and in
truth.

St John, I. Ep. chap. III. v. 18.

I.

My Lord,

Scarcely thirty years ago, eight young students of Paris, where they number thousands, met together for the first time, in an obscure newspaper office situated in the humblest street of that vast city. I can see them still, gathered round a little table, and seated on wooden benches. Everything in their appearance indicates intellectual culture and generosity of soul. But their brows, despite the gaiety natural to youth, bear unmistakable traces of deep reflection and anxiety. One of them holds a paper on which lines had been written, mechanically and, as it were, by chance, two or three words, apparently the expression of their common thought.

But what may that thought be? For we can combine for evil as well as for good. What idea brings together those young men, so ardent and so anxious? Their chief, for they