

understand the usefulness of these Brother's schools and several cities hastened to apply for new teachers. Paris, Rouen, Guise, Laon, soon had their Brothers' schools established by the Saint himself. The ardent founder multiplied himself ; 'he went from city to city opening schools and reviving the fervor of his disciples. He who, in his devotedness for the Holy Church and the Sovereign Pontiff always signed himself *roman priest*, had the joy of seeing his children established in Rome itself.

Thus was the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools founded. St Jean-Baptiste de la Salle became the head of an immense family ; the father of many children who were to carry to all the countries in the world, with the fire of divine charity, the ardor of an admirable devotedness to childhood and to youth. The holy founder could fall asleep in the Lord, for the nations blessed his work.

III. Let us hear what one of his panegyrists says of his virtues and happy death :

« De la Salle's piety was all ardor and flame ; his soul ascended to God in outbursts of perpetual prayer. When at Rheims he caused himself to be shut up once a week during the night from Friday to Saturday in the church of St Remi and there he poured out his soul near the tomb of the great bishop. The most tender devotion united him to St Joseph, the protector of Jesus in his childhood. The love of Christ burned in his heart. That love transfigured him at the altar and when the holy sacrifice was ended he was so absorbed, so ravished in God that he was unable for some time to lay down the sacred ornaments.

« His mania was for the Cross, the naked and bloody cross and with it all the humiliations, all the immolations of Gethsemane, of the pretorium and of Calvary.

« His family were ashamed of him and of his poverty ; his colleagues accused him of being a madman ; many of his disciples betrayed and abandoned him. Sickness was added to all these trials. Amidst the cruelest sufferings his soul remained valiant and free and he added voluntary mortifications to his infirmities. During his sleepless nights he cruelly scourged his body and more than once the floor of his poor cell showed the marks of his bloody discipline.