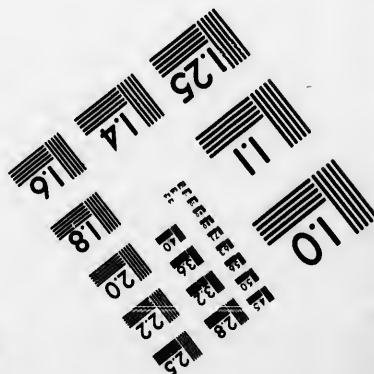
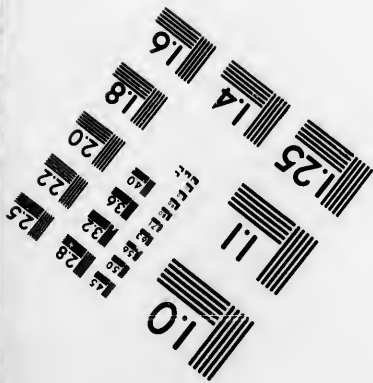
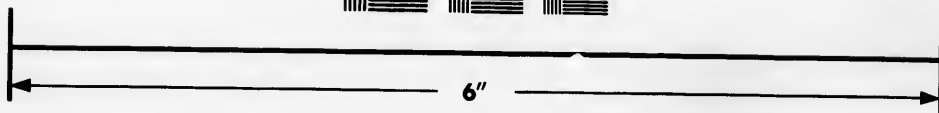
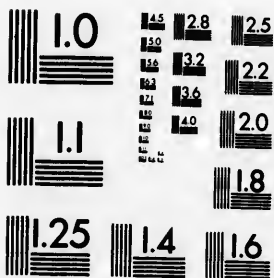


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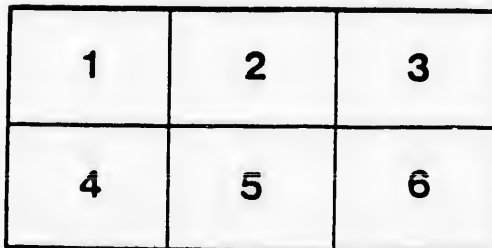
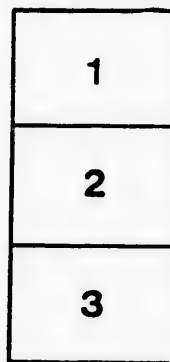
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PILGRIMAGE
TO
LOURDES AND ROME

BY

WILLIAM O'CONNOR, ESQ.

GUELPH:

J. H. HACKING, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.

P R E F A C E .

By the grace of Almighty God, it was my special privilege to be one of the American Pilgrims—the only one from this place—who sailed last spring from the shores of this Continent, to visit the shrine of our Lady of Lourdes and the Eternal City. Upon my return, after having performed the Holy Pilgrimage, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, of which I am a member, passed a resolution requesting me to relate some memoirs of my journey.

In obedience to the wish of the Society, I applied myself to the duty of complying with such resolution, bringing to the task naught but a good will deeply imbued with vivid recollections, and lasting impressions of what I had seen and heard.

My humble production having been deemed, by many good persons, worthy of publication; and feeling that its perusal might in some slight degree, add to the greater honor and glory of God and of His Holy Mother, I have decided to lay it before an indulgent public, not for the critics' inspection, but as a simple recital of facts founded upon personal observation, interspersed with quotations from the sublime language of His Holiness Pius IX. and some of the most celebrated prelates of the Catholic Church.

To the "St. Anne's Society," of Guelph—an Association yet in its infancy, formed for the purpose of aiding St. Joseph's Hospital—I dedicate this little sketch, earnestly hoping that its sale may afford some small revenue to this worthy Institution, which is conducted by the good Sisters of St. Joseph, who have with heroic virtue, for the love of God, renounced the world and devoted their whole lives to the care of the poor, the sick and the orphan. If it shall prove instrumental in relieving the wants of any poor inmate therein, and of inspiring any one of its readers with a greater love for God and for Mary Immaculate, then I shall feel that my Pilgrimage has not been made in vain; and when I shall have entered the portal through which all of us must one day pass, and be launched upon the ocean of eternity, let those who, while on the weary pilgrimage of life, may chance to take up this little pamphlet, not forget to offer one short prayer to the Throne of Grace and invoke the intercession of our dear Lady of Lourdes for the writer.

WILLIAM O'CONNOR.

INTRODUCTION.

The manuscript of the following memoirs having been donated by the writer to "St. Anne's Society," we the undersigned officers of the said society—while deeply grateful for the gift—take the liberty of prefixing for publication therewith, an address presented to the author by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and his reply thereto, on the eve of his pilgrimage. This we have been induced to do under the belief that the work would thereby be rendered more acceptable to its readers from the fact of its emanating from the pen of one so highly esteemed by his fellow workers in the cause of Charity—a character which his Christian modesty would fain conceal. We have confidence in recommending the work to the public on account of the acknowledged probity and truly Catholic piety of the author, as well as the sanction which his production has received from clergymen renowned for learning and sanctity. Those who may kindly purchase a copy of this little book will find therein much to edify and instruct, and will, at the same time, contribute towards the support of an institution well deserving of their charity.

MRS. E. O'CONNOR, President.

MISS MAYS, Vice-President.

MRS. GAUHAN, Treasurer.

MRS. J. P. MACMILLAN, Sec'y.

On Monday evening last was witnessed a most edifying proceeding, viz: the presentation to Mr. William O'Connor of an address, accompanied with a very handsome present, the gift of the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, of Guelph, to him, as a mark of their esteem and a token of their approval of his intended.

journey to Rome, to join in the ranks of thousands, who from all parts of the world perform holy pilgrimages to the Eternal City, and to the Miraculous Fountain of Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

The presentation, by request of the President, was made by the Secretary of the Society, John E. McElderry, Esq., who read the following

A D D R E S S .

To William O'Connor, Esq.:

DEAR SIR.—Having heard of your intended departure from among us to join the Holy Pilgrimage, which will leave the shores of this continent on the 15th instant, to visit the Sacred Shrine of Our Blessed Lady of Lourdes in France and those of the Eternal City,

We, the undersigned officers and members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Guelph, have the honor, on our own behalf, and on that of the Catholics of this parish, to discharge the duty incumbent on us, on this occasion, of expressing our admiration of the spirit which prompts you to undertake so arduous a journey. It is gratifying to know that Guelph will be worthily represented in this Holy Pilgrimage. The sacrifice you are about to make is another proof of that truly Catholic spirit of which your career has furnished so many striking examples. Your unostentatious piety, your devotion to the cause of Charity as a member and an officer of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and your many other charitable actions have been for us all a source of edification. Knowing all this, we are convinced that your only motive in entering on this pious Pilgrimage is to promote the glory of God, and the honor of His ever Blessed and Immaculate Mother. It is a gratifying reflection to the Catholic heart, that in this sordid and unbelieving age, the spirit of the olden time—of the ages of faith, still lives and burns brightly in many generous souls, inciting them to the imitation of the example of our forefathers in the faith. We congratulate you on the joy you will experience when you visit the Miraculous Grotto and Fountain of our Lady of Lourdes and the magnificent Temple which grateful piety has there erected in honor of the apparition, in that favored spot, of Heaven's Queen, and in testimony of the innumerable miracles wrought at the waters of the miraculous fountain she caused to gush forth from the solid rock. We congratulate you, also, on the great happiness of visiting Rome, the city of the soul, the centre of Catholic unity, where you will have the great privilege of prostrating in adoration at the sacred shrines of Sts. Peter and Paul and of the many saints and martyrs to be found in Rome, and of beholding our Holy Father, the glorious Pius IX, the worthy successor of St. Peter, the visible head of the one true Church and Vicar of our Divine Lord. You will have a share in the consolation which the band of Faithful Pilgrims from

Canada and the United States must bring to the heart of Pius IX. in his sufferings, with which we deeply sympathize. We beg you to do us the honor of accepting this crucifix, beads and prayer-book, as a slight token of friendship and fraternal affection, accompanied with the expression of our heartfelt wishes and ardent prayers for your prosperous voyage to the Eternal City, safe return to Guelph, and full participation in all the blessings our Holy Mother the Church bestows on the pious Pilgrim. We ask earnestly a remembrance in your prayers at the sacred shrines you are to visit.

Signed, on behalf of the members,

JOHN HARRIS, President,
Mayor of Guelph.

Mr. O'Connor replied in a very feeling and appropriate speech, as follows :—

MY DEAR FRIENDS.—I don't know how to thank you for this mark of kindness and friendship ; you could not have selected anything that would have been so acceptable to me, especially the cross, for what can be so dear to the heart of a christian as the cross, the sign of our salvation. As for your beautiful present, I feel that I am entirely undeserving of it, but I look at it as not merely done to myself, but as an expression of your faith, and approval of the Holy Pilgrimage which I am about to take part in, and your ardent love for the Holy Catholic Church, to which all of us here this evening have the happiness to belong. We go not for curiosity, or amusement, or show, but for the glory of God and the good of our souls, and I am sure, gentlemen, there is not one of you here this evening, but would gladly undertake the same journey for the same object, did circumstances permit it. We sail for Havre, in France, on the 16th of the present month. We proceed from thence to the shrine of our blessed Lady of Lourdes, where the Blessed Virgin appeared and ordered a church to be built in her honor on the spot where she stood and where she also caused a fountain of water to flow from the solid rock, where hundreds of people, who have been pronounced incurable by the best medical men in the land, are instantly restored to health by drinking from this miraculous fountain. There, can be seen crowds of pilgrims coming from all parts of Europe and other countries, to show their love and devotion to the Immaculate Mother of God, and receive in return through the intercession of this merciful and compassionate Virgin, health and grace for both soul and body. We then proceed to Rome, the centre of Christianity, every foot of which is rendered sacred by the blood of Martyrs, shed in defence and for the love of that holy faith which all of us here this evening have the happiness to possess. We will see the Holy Father, the glorious Pius IX, Christ's holy Vicar, that unflinching Christian hero who stands firm as a rock amidst all his trials and

persecutions, we will kneel at his feet and ask and receive his blessing. This, gentlemen, is a great privilege, and one which, I feel, I am entirely undeserving of. We will visit the sacred shrines of St. Peter and St. Paul, the Catacombs, and a great many other holy places, and I hope you will all remember me in your prayers while I am gone. Accept my sincere thanks, gentlemen, for the kindness and honor you have shown me, and for the beautiful present you have given me.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. O'Connor's speech he was warmly applauded. Mr. J. P. McMillan, Barrister, now arose and said it would be improper to allow the occasion to pass by without an expression by some of those present of the pleasure they felt in witnessing the pleasing ceremonial which had just taken place. He spoke of the good which was being accomplished by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, how it was calculated not only to relieve the poor and suffering, but also to fix in the minds and hearts of its members sound principles of virtue, and the ground-work of a good Christian life, and also to fit them for the important offices which some day they will be called upon to fill. He referred, in glowing terms, to the irreproachable life of Mr. Wm. O'Connor, eulogising his unostentatious piety and exemplary conduct, and concluded a brilliant and instructive speech amid loud applause. Mr. John E. McElderry, merchant, next spoke. He said he did not wish Mr. McMillan or any person else to leave with the impression that the members of the Society, modest though they were, had any intention of allowing the occasion to pass without giving expression to the esteem in which Mr. Wm. O'Connor was held by them. He spoke in the most earnest and enthusiastic manner of that gentleman's activity as a member of their Society, of his pious and exemplary life, and congratulated the Society upon the happiness they should feel to know that one of their number, and so worthy a representative, was about to visit the Shrine of Our Blessed Lady of Lourdes and kneel at the feet of our holy Pontiff Pius IX. At the conclusion of his able speech he was loudly applauded. Short and neat speeches were delivered by Messrs. Samuel and Wm. Heffernan, merchants. Dr. Nunan, E. O'Connor, Barrister, and M. J. Doran, merchant, all expressive of the satisfaction they felt at being present to witness the honor done to one of their members.

Guelph, May 12th, 1874.

PILGRIMAGE
TO
LOURDES AND ROME.

To the President and Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.

MY DEAR FRIENDS :

It is a great pleasure for me to meet you all again after an absence of several months, during which time I have travelled through the greater part of Italy and France. As it is your wish that I should give you an account of our Pilgrimage and describe our journey, I will, to the best of my ability, do so.

On the morning of the day we sailed from New York, we heard Mass and received Holy Communion, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, after which the Archbishop of New York, delivered a beautiful address, as follows :

ADDRESS OF THE ARCHBISHOP.

While I stand here on this Altar, and contemplate the spectacle which is now before me, I am impressed, almost painfully, with the consciousness of my inability to speak to you in such words as I would wish to speak, and in such words as probably you would naturally expect to hear. It is true that many a time before I have addressed assemblages within the venerable walls of this Cathedral, far more numerous than the one now present. Many a time I have taken part in ceremonies more solemn, more stately, more imposing, than any now performed within this Sanctuary ; but never before has there come an occasion so full of attractiveness, of an interest, of a beauty, of a peculiar charm distinguishing it from all others, and awakening, at the same time, a new order of emotions within the heart, for which I can find no adequate expression. For what do I here behold before me? A venerable Bishop, very reverend, and reverend priests, a multitude of devout and faithful people, come from variou

portions of this extended Union, and here gathered together before God's Holy Altar, led by one common impulse, animated all by one common sentiment, and thought, and feeling, inspired all by one generous and noble and holy resolve, and that is to undertake what has never been undertaken before—a pilgrimage from these American shores of ours, a pilgrimage to Rome, a pilgrimage to the tombs of the Apostles, a pilgrimage to the feet of the Holy Father, to the shrine of the ever Blessed Mother Immaculate, made eminent the world over by the many blessings that have flowed from it, and to the shrine made glorious and consecrated by the graces that have been bestowed in such ample measure through the sacred and loving and tender heart of Jesus. It will, then, be a band, not merely of excursionists that will go from the port of New York this evening; not a band of mere travellers or sightseers, going abroad to seek for relaxation, for pleasure or for health, still less for any temporal motive, or for any love of worldly interest or gain. It will be a band of Christian pilgrims, going forth in the spirit of Catholic faith, and in the spirit of Catholic piety, going forth inspired with zeal for the greater honor and glory of Almighty God, for the peace and welfare of His children, now afflicted in spirit in the person of His Vicar on earth, to beseech blessings for the suffering, and to call back to the true path those who have wandered away, and to make them return once more to His own dear home, and this through the Sacred Heart of the Divine Saviour Jesus, and through the intercession of His Immaculate Mother—Mother of the Divine Saviour, who, being born for us on earth, vouchsafed most wonderfully to take flesh of her flesh and bone of her bone and offer Himself upon the Cross of Calvary, for the redemption of a sinful and sinning world. Dear Pilgrims, then, one and all, I congratulate you on the privilege and blessing which is to become yours. You will carry with you our prayers for your safety, with our prayers that the blessings you pray for may be showered upon you an hundred-fold and that you may carry them back with you into the midst of your homes and your children. While we are praying for you, do you not fail while kneeling before the Vicar of Christ, to pray for all those in our dear country whom you will have left behind. Yours is, indeed, a holy mission. You go to Rome. Soon, very soon, your feet will press that soil the most sacred of all others on earth save one; save that once pressed by the feet, and sanctified and consecrated by the blood of the Saviour of the world. You will not kneel or pray at the

sepulchre of Christ, but at the tomb of his favored apostle, Peter, to whom he said: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." You will kneel at the tomb of Peter, first Vicar of Christ, and then you will go into the greatest temple of the world, (St. Peter's) up the steps of the Vatican, and be ushered into the presence, not of Peter, but into the presence of one in whom Peter still lives, and to whom have also been addressed the words: "Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it;" one who holds the same office as Peter held, who is now Vicar of Christ on earth, as Peter was. You will stand in the presence of the saintly, glorious Pontiff Pius IX. You will gaze upon his benign and beauteous countenance, and will hear his words cheering you. You will deliver to him the message you brought with you from this country, giving him assurance, not only in your own name, but in the name of all the Catholics of this land, of the loyalty and affection of his dear children here. He will give you his blessing. And before you return you will have knelt at the shrine of our Lady of Lourdes, and planted there the banner that is now before us, the offering of loving hearts, as a testimony of your love, as a testimony of your determination to be faithful children of Mary; and as a memorial of your pilgrimage to her shrine. And this spectacle we see here will be an assurance to the world of the faith and loyalty of the Catholics here to Peter's successor. It is a proof, a public and noble proof of our faith. Your pilgrimage will be an act of constant prayer, an evidence to the world that the words of Christ will be fulfilled, that heaven and earth may pass away, but that the words of Christ will never pass away. "Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." And the gates of hell are striving almost everywhere throughout the world, to prevail. What is the effect? They thought to separate us from our Holy Father, yet they have brought Catholics everywhere together, nearer and dearer to one another. They have sought to extinguish the fire of Catholic zeal, and faith in the hearts of the children of the Church. What is the result? They only intensify that faith, and give Catholics, in the hour of trial, the courage displayed by the martyrs and confessors of old. With these arms—the arms of prayer and penance, of faith and self-denial, of every Catholic virtue—there is no doubt on which side victory will declare. I have nothing more now to say

but to add the words of the benediction of the Church established by Christ Himself. She has a special blessing for those who go as pilgrims to the tombs of the saints. She will accord it to you in spreading over you the wings of her protection, and by praying that the Immaculate Heart of Mary will shield you everywhere and bring you back in safety. And finally when the long and weary pilgrimage of life is ended, it will lead you, not to the shrine on earth of the Apostles, but to the Altar of the Lamb of God, there in companionship of the saints in Heaven to reign with Christ forever and ever.

At the conclusion of this beautiful address the archbishop proceeded with the blessing of pilgrims setting forth to visit Sacred Shrines according to the Roman Ritual; and then, with mitre and crozier, gave his Episcopal Blessing. After this the blessed Sacrament was brought forth for adoration, and his Grace gave the benediction of the Most Holy. The scene in the Cathedral will never be forgotten by those who took part in it. Shortly after two o'clock, the pilgrims were gathered at the Metropolitan Hotel. It was still raining, but it was a singular fact, that the moment the signal was given to march to the steamer, the rain suddenly ceased. On arriving at the wharf of the French steamer, there were thousands of people, come to show their interest and devotion. The banner of our Lady of Lourdes was hung out on the stern deck of the "Pereire"—continually surrounded by an admiring throng. Promptly at four o'clock the "Pereire" began to cast off her fastenings to the wharf. Those who were to go down the bay, in accompanying steamers, sprang for their several vessels. As we moved out from the pier, cheer after cheer rose from the densely packed wharves, as friends and loved ones strained tearful eyes for a last fond glance at their dear departing friends. We were accompanied down the bay by seven or eight steamers, crowded with people, with bands of music, and the waving of kerchiefs as the noble "Pereire" proudly moved down the bay in an enterprise as yet unknown to the Western World. The music, cheers, and waving of kerchiefs seemed never to weary, until darkness began to creep over the moving waters, when, one by one, with a farewell cheer, fell to our stern, and we were alone upon the great Atlantic. The bell then rang for our evening meal. This was our first meal on board, so for many, for several days to come, it was the last. The Rt. Rev. Bishop is a most excellent man and,

really sincere christian, who seems to have been specially selected by Divine Providence to guide our pilgrim band in that holy spirit most pleasing to Almighty God. He was preserved from the very beginning from the least ill-health and has made strenuous efforts under the most adverse circumstances to have our order of spiritual exercises carried out, and seemed all consumed with zeal for the success of America's first Pilgrimage.

On Tuesday, 19th May, the first Holy Mass was offered by the Bishop, as on the two previous days the weather was unfavorable, but every day after we had the happiness of assisting at that holy sacrifice in the morning, at six o'clock. Temporary altars were erected in both forward and after cabins, so that all persons on board could enjoy this special privilege. Our order of exercises were as follows : 6 A. M., morning prayers and Holy Mass ; 11.30 A. M., Angelus and Conference by the Bishop ; 2 P.M., Rosary and Novena to our Lady of Lourdes ; 8.30 P.M., night prayers and instructions. At almost every Mass, some of the Pilgrims received Holy Communion and all seemed to vie with each other in attention and attendance at the religious exercises. We had over thirty priests aboard.

We reached Havre on the 27th May. Stopped there a few hours and started for Paris the same evening ; travelled all night, and arrived there next morning, where we remained for five days. The Archbishop celebrated Mass for us, at which we were all present ; he also addressed us in French and gave us his blessing. Paris is a very beautiful city, in fact the most beautiful in the world. The Catholics there are very devout ; the churches are crowded from five o'clock in the morning, even on week days. We all heard Mass and received Holy Communion in the church of Notre Dame des Victoires, which is celebrated for the number of miracles that have been performed there.

On the evening before leaving Paris for Lourdes and Rome, a number of Catholic Societies in Paris united in the hall of one of these Associations to give welcome and bid adieu to the American Pilgrims. A distinguished company was present. Among them Viscount De Damas, President of the French Committee on Pilgrimages ; Count De Ruti ; Count De Melun ; Viscount D'Origny ; Count La Ferd, Count De Deisbach, and several Deputies of the French National Assembly, with others, better known in France than here. Mgr. De Segur, well known to Catholics in America by his pious writing

presided, having as his *vis-a-vis* Bishop Dwenger, as Spiritual Head of the American Pilgrimage. When the dinner was over, Mgr. De Segur rose and offered the toast: The health of the Pope! "The sweetest, but the most formidable name on earth—Pius IX." The acclamations are to be imagined, not described. Then Mgr. De Segur went on to say :

America, young as it is, offers us to-day a grand spectacle. Here we have from that young country a united Pilgrimage, a company of men, laymen with Ecclesiastics, men of various distinguished positions in their country, passing through France, that still holds her title as Oldest Child of the Church, to offer their devotion and their homage to our Mother in common, the Immaculate Virgin, and to our common Father, the Pope, whose voice is gathering all his children, from all parts of the world, about him. As you go your way then through our France, Pilgrims to Our Lady of Lourdes, Pilgrims from America, carry with you our French hearts united with yours, and leave them all knit together at the feet of that Mother full of grace. Draw us after you, thence, to Rome, as you go, that united with you we may together salute the Grand Pontiff who in his prison-house guards the justice and the dignity that is left on earth. And on your return at Paray-le-Monial, plunge our hearts with yours into the wonderful abyss of the love of the Sacred Heart of our Lord, no more to be separated forever. Here, then, is to the American Pilgrimage; and especially to its spiritual head, the American Bishop, who leads it to the feet of the Bishop of Bishops, at Rome.

The fervor which this address called forth was singular. There were endless ejaculations to the one purpose: "France and America find themselves one in Rome." Sundry gentlemen, each representing one or other of the Catholic Societies represented in this banquet, delivered speeches of felicitation. These finished, it came to the turn of the American Pilgrimage to respond, which it did, briefly, and pointedly, and modestly, by Bishop Dwenger. He began by thanking the distinguished company for the earnestness of their welcome. The American Pilgrims had not come from so far to ask for or to enjoy the delights of fraternal sympathy from fellow Catholics. But, meeting it on their way, they were none the less touched by it. And what especially struck him, as a native of the far off United States of America, in this most cordial reception, in France, was the evidence

that there was still alive, and potent, in France, the spirit and the purpose, that had made France what it was; and what he hoped it might soon become again. It was that spirit of counting as part of itself, and as having a claim on it, whatever was Catholic—no matter in what part of the world. This ancient and true spirit of France was a gift to her from God, Who made her the "eldest daughter of the Church." The greatness of France had come from her chivalrous unity of purpose with the Apostolic See of Rome. Her misfortunes, from beginning to end, had come from those politicians that had led her to forget who made her, and why God cared for her! He was a native of that very young country of which Mgr. De Segur had so flatteringly spoken. It was a country, like others, jealous of its entire independence. It had its own policy dictated by its distance from the great European Nations, and taught by its greatest statesmen of past ages, that it was, too completely, aloof from Europe for it wisely to take any part in the quarrels of one European Power with another. But, while politically America holds itself aloof from Europe, by its wise traditions, the same Divine Faith was bestowed, and received, and learned, in America as in Europe. And when France shows herself the true France—the France that is great that she may do great things for God—that France lays hold of millions of hearts in America, that offer their prayers to God for her, because she takes up and vindicates the cause of God. Therefore, what he found especially admirable in France, was the disposition so strongly manifested by Catholics in her to draw closer and closer to the Vicar of Christ, and to count all those, all over the world, as her brethren, who stand with the Head of the Church. How, then, concluded Bishop Dwenger, can we visit Our Lady of Lourdes—on French soil; how can we visit Paray-le-Monial—on French soil; how can we go as Pilgrims to the feet of the Immortal Pius Ninth, and not carry in our hearts and not plead with the Sacred Heart, and with the Blessed Mother Immaculate, for blessings on France.

These ovations in Paris were very pleasant in their way. But it was not for any such things that the American Pilgrimage was undertaken. So soon as the way was clear to proceed to Lourdes we left Paris on June 1st and arrived at Lourdes on the 3rd.

The town of Lourdes is situated in the department of the Hautes Pyrenees at the embouchure of the seven valleys of the Lavedan, be-

tween the hills terminating the plain of Tarbes and the first abrupt face of high land with which the Grande Montagne commences. It is built at the foot of an enormous rock, entirely isolated, on the summit of which is erected a formidable castle. At the foot of this rock the river Gave flows swiftly along, and serves to turn the noisy wheels of three or four mills built on its banks. The castle of Lourdes, almost impregnable before the invention of artillery, was in former days the key of the Pyrenees. It has been handed down by tradition that Charlemagne, at war with the infidels, was long unable to take possession of it. Just as he was on the point of raising the siege, an eagle, winging his flight above the highest tower of the beleagured fortress, let fall upon it a splendid fish which it had just captured in a lake in the neighborhood. Whether it was that on this particular day the laws of the church prescribed abstinence, or that the fish was a christian symbol still popular at that time, one thing is certain, the Saracen chief, Mirat, who occupied the castle, regarded the occurrence in the light of a prodigy, and became a convert to the true faith. It needed nothing less than this miraculous conversion of Mirat, and his subsequent baptism, to re-incorporate this castle into the domains of Christendom. Further, the Saracen, as the chronicle informs us, expressly stipulated that "having become the champion of Our Lady, the Mother of God, he would have it understood, both in his own case and in that of his descendants, that his dignity of Count, free from all earthly fiefdom, was held from Her alone." The coat of arms of the town testify to this extraordinary fact of the eagle and the fish. The population of Lourdes is excellent. Few places could be cited in France where the schools are more numerous attended than at Lourdes. There is not a boy in the place who does not go for several years to some lay institution or to the school conducted by the Brothers; not a little girl who does not, in the same manner, attend the school of the Sisters, at Nevers, until she has completed the education adapted to her place in society. With more instruction than the working classes of most of our cities, the people of Lourdes have at the same time the simplicity of rural life. They are warm in their affections, upright in heart, and strictly moral. They are honest, devout and averse to innovations.

On arriving at Lourdes, the Pilgrims went in solemn procession to the holy Grotto, where the Blessed Virgin appeared to Bernadetta, and where she caused the miraculous spring to flow from the solid

rock. At the head of the line was the magnificent Banner of Lourdes carried by one of the Pilgrims; next came the ladies of the Pilgrimage, walking two by two, then the American flag, presented by the students of Georgetown College. The gentlemen of the Pilgrimage came behind the flag, and the procession was closed by the priests, and Rt. Rev. Bishop Dwenger. The "Magnificat" was sung, and the Holy Rosary recited by us on our way through the streets. Some time before reaching the church we were met by the clergy, who joined our party, and we entered the magnificent temple which far exceeded my expectations, the organ meanwhile pealing out a joyous march. Vespers were immediately commenced by Rt. Rev. Bishop Dwenger. After the "Magnificat," the Bishop delivered a touching address on devotion to the Blessed Mother of God. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament closed the service at the Church. We then marched down to the Grotto, reciting the Rosary, knelt and prayed for our Pilgrimage, and for those whom we left behind. Our prayers closed with one for the Holy Father.

There were seven different pilgrimages here. It is impossible for me to describe the devotion of this immense multitude of people to our blessed Lady of Lourdes. It is a sight which, once seen, can never be forgotten, to see them all kneeling on the ground, Bishops, priests, and people, reciting the Rosary and Litany aloud before a statue of our Blessed Lady in the very Grotto where she appeared to Bernadetta, to see them kissing the rock, touching it with their beads, medals, and prayer books, drinking from the fountain, and lighting candles in honor of our Blessed Lady, till the whole place was a blaze of light. An American lady, from Boston, who was completely paralyzed, was restored to health and joined us in the procession.

On the following morning, Bishop Dwenger celebrated Mass, at which we received Holy Communion, in the beautiful temple erected there at a cost of nearly two million of dollars. I had the happiness of drinking from the fountain and of seeing and speaking to the sister of Bernadetta.

On Thursday morning, then, June 4th, we left Lourdes for Marseilles, travelled all night, and arrived there about seven next morning, and as the steamer, "Rio Jerome," did not sail till nine in the evening, we visited several of the principal churches of the city. The church which was visited by the greater number of our party was

Notre Dame de la Garde, situated on an eminence, commanding a fine view of Marseilles and its harbor. This church is also a celebrated sanctuary of our Lady, and is visited by many pilgrims. They are building a magnificent cathedral there; when finished it will be one of the largest and finest in the world.

We left Marseilles at 9, for Civitta Vecchia, and our passage to the latter place was all that could have been desired. Our trip only occupied a day and two nights and the Mediterranean was very calm. On Sunday morning, between 7 and 8 o'clock, we reached Civitta Vecchia. Very Rev. Dr. Chatard, rector of the American college, at Rome, having learned of our being expected on Sunday, had made all necessary arrangements for our reception. A little boat soon set out from the shore, and we were welcomed to Civitta Vecchia, by Rev. Father Hostlot, of the American College. His Lordship, the Bishop of Civitta Vecchia, accompanied by all his seminarians, soon boarded our vessel, and welcomed us to his Episcopal City. We soon landed, and immediately went to the Cathedral, where Bishop Dwenger celebrated Mass. At the close of the Mass the Bishop of Civitta Vecchia invited all to his rooms, where refreshments were tendered us. We were advised from Rome to remain in Civitta Vecchia until Monday morning, and we accordingly made arrangements at one of the hotels. Monday morning we started for Rome, which we reached between ten and eleven the same morning. We were met at the depot by Mgr. Nardi and Very Rev. Dr. Chatard, and most of our party went to the Hotel de Rome and the Minerva, where accommodations had been made for our reception. The public reception of the Pilgrimage, by the Holy Father, was fixed for next morning at 11 o'clock, in the Sala of the Consistory. Tickets were issued, and each Pilgrim received one. Tuesday morning, then, shortly before 11 o'clock, the Pilgrims assembled in the Cortile of Saint Damasus, and wearing on our left breast the badge of the Pilgrimage, the Sacred Heart, we went into the Hall of Audience. The students of the American College, and the American young men studying at the Propaganda were present at our audience. The Holy Father entered shortly after 11 o'clock, accompanied by Cardinals Pannebianco, Borromeo, Guide and Guibert; Mgr. Hassoun, Patriarch of Constantinople; Mgr. Howard, Mgr. Merode, and many other Prelates of the Roman Court. As soon as the Holy Father was

seated, Mgr. Dwenger, as spiritual Head of the Pilgrimage, introduced to the Holy Father the Pilgrims, in the following Address :

Most Holy Father : You see prostrate at your feet, children that have come from afar, aye from the West; and in this time of your sorrow, who have not been hindered by terrors of the sea, nor of the dry land, nor by the vast distances of space; that in thee they might behold Holy Peter, Father of all the faithful, and Pontiff truly the greatest—greatest in labors and in persecutions; greatest in patience, in hope, and in confidence in God. Never child desired more to see his beloved father than we have desired to see thy Holiness; and distance has not lessened, but increased, our love. Abandoned by Princes of the world, and shut up in prison, we have not deserted thee, but lo! we have come from so far that we may profess, in face of all the world, our faith, our devotion, and our obedience, Pastor Infallible of the whole Church; Centre of the unity of our faith, and Rock on which the Church of God has been built. And this is because we seek that our faith may be confirmed and increased by Thee, worthy Successor of St. Peter. And, now, the day has come, so long time desired, in which we behold Thee, most dear Father, and receive Thy Apostolic Benediction, not for us only, but for all dear to us who cannot be here, but who, from afar off, pray to God for Thee, with tearful supplications, before God. And these, of one mind with us, and, as we, lovers of true freedom, utterly condemn the despotic persecution of God's Church, by those boasters of a false liberty, who propose to subject soul and conscience not to God Almighty but to whatever civil authorities. Grant, Most Holy Father, that, following me, one of the lay Pilgrims may, on his own account briefly express our devotion.

Thereupon the Hon. Paul E. Theard, ex-Judge of a Louisiana Court, ex-Colonel of the Confederate Army, Representative of the Arch-Diocese of New Orleans, so appointed by His Grace Archbishop Perche; and, consequent on this, made President of the Managing Committee accompanying the Pilgrimage, spoke as follows :

Most Holy Father : Behold here at your feet, some Pilgrims from America, from different Dioceses of the United States of America, and of Canada. We come from a free country—but from one happily, where freedom is rightly understood. For, we are not persecuted. We, on the contrary, enjoy a full liberty of conscience. We have

left our country, our homes, our families, our business, to throw ourselves at your feet, and offer you our hearts, our fortunes, and, if needed, our lives. We have desired to behold the glory that comes not from the princes or people of this world, but which is a reflection of God himself and of that Cross which shines around your head. Our voices cannot give expression to what our hearts would say, that in this moment beat with one same throb, all of submission, of respect, and of love, for your Holiness. The greater your affliction is the more we feel our love growing for you. And we find our consolation in knowing that you suffer the lot of all the just. For no one persecutes any but the just. But we pray God that your chains may fall, that your persecutors may open their eyes to the light, and seeing their error, may restore to you the States to which the Holy See has an incontestable right, by a title supported by the sword of Pepin and of Charlemagne. We whose country is especially dedicated to the Virgin of Immaculate Conception, have counted it proper to prepare for this visit to your Holiness by prostrating ourselves, first at Lourdes, at the Grotto of Her whose Immaculate Conception your Definition has rendered it of faith for all Catholics to believe. Our Blessed Mother Mary, in so revealing herself as she has done at Lourdes, has, at one and the same time confounded unbelievers, rendered open the truth of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, and proved to skeptics your Infallibility as Head of the Church, as it was your Proclamation that gave us, as part of our obligatory creed, this precious Dogma. In this Continent that has of late risen from the Ocean, in this Continent whence we come, the Catholic religion has been marvellously developed. Be not surprised at the love Americans have for you, the only Pope whose foot has touched the soil of their Continent. When, from all parts of the world, such protestations of obedience and of love come to you, we cannot but think that the hour is not far off when there will be but one sheepfold and one shepherd. For us, the first organized pilgrimage from America, we have come hither to offer you, not rich presents, but our sentiments of love and obedience—which are of greater price. For you, and for our holy religion, we are ready for any sacrifice. May God long keep you at the head of our Holy Church. You have seen the years of Peter; may God grant you to see the triumph of the Church. And now, Holy Father, at your feet, we ask your love

and your benediction, for our country, our families, and ourselves, and we beg of you to accept the little presents we lay at your feet.

The Holy Father was much pleased with these addresses; he was consoled and pleased with the Pilgrimage, and expressed himself in very gracious words. His reply, delivered in a clear, firm and sweet voice, was as follows :

ALLOCATION OF THE HOLY FATHER IN REPLY TO THE ADDRESSES.

In a moment in which the Church of Jesus Christ is assaulted by so many diverse enemies; in a moment when it is attempted to cover the Church with clouds of darkness; in this very same moment God, by a breath of His Omnipotence, clears the way of clouds and of darkness and shows to the whole world the watch-light that guides us Pilgrims on this earth, and shows us the road that leads us to the port. All the various enemies are at work in diverse manners, to obscure the Church. There are those that try to cloud it by dissimulations and hypocrisies; these are an impious sect, who strive to figure even within the Sanctuary, and show the presumption not only of regulating the rights and discipline, but, if possible, also the doctrines of the Spouse of Jesus Christ. There are those that adopt ridicule, caricature, and sarcasm, to bring into contempt what they know not, nor understand of the Church of God. There are those that, more bold, raise the armed hand, and become open persecutors of the Church of Jesus Christ. But this Church! No, she falls not, but stands firm, because built on the solid Rock, that cannot be shaken. And so it is to-day, that she is a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men. She is persecuted everywhere; persecuted in the person of her clergy, and persecuted among the people; but her steadfastness makes her very persecutors exclaim: "We did not believe we should find such faith in Israel!" Do I say other than the truth? You, yourselves, are a magnificent testimony of this truth. Oh, yes, I say, with the prophet: "Lift up thine eyes, round about, and see; all these are gathered, they have come to thee. Thy sons will come from afar off, and thy daughters will rise up from the side. These sons, and these daughters, will come from afar, bringing gold and incense, and declaring praise to the Lord"—*Isaias ix, 4 and 6*. Aye, you have not feared the inconveniences of the journey, nor the distance of the scope towards which you have directed your way, traversing the ocean to kneel at the feet of most blessed Mary in one of

her Sanctuaries in France, and thence have continued it to this Rome—set apart by God as the See of his Vicar; and on this very account, became the point of attack for the unbelieving, and befouled by a hundred obscenities. But this, notwithstanding, God, with His almighty right hand, manifests it still, at this moment, in its more noble part, as mistress of the truth and bulwark of His faith. May God bless you, dear souls, and may He, who is the Lord, set His regards over you, and over your country; a new land, a new, vigorous nation, wherein the products of nature and industry flourish marvelously, and where the Catholic religion enjoys an unlimited freedom. There, true believers have so multiplied, and so many conversions have rendered advisable the erection of so many new Dioceses. But, while we pray God that He will turn his regards on this new vineyard of His, equally do we pray that He will put out of it everything that belongs not to His vineyard. And, while Lutherans, Calvinists, Anglicans, Methodists, and so many other aggregations, are working over the immense surface of the United States, it may please the Lord to carry the truth to so many millions of souls, that they, also, may enjoy the fruit of the Divine Redemption. God, from the height of Heaven, confirm these few words, that His unworthy Vicar addresses to you. And you, who have for a little while left your country, to come to Europe, and to receive in Rome the Benediction of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, unite with me in praying and of obtaining of God the multiplication of laborers for the cultivation of so great harvest fields; that these sowing the good seed, even surrounded with difficulty, may gather in its time, the fruit, surrounded with benedictions. God reconduct you to your homes, in a spirit full of His charity; which, because it is so shed abroad, works so that your relatives, your friends, and your respective fellow-citizens, may be made partakers of it. May mothers be comforted in seeing their children growing up in the holy fear of God; fathers, in seeing the fruits of their honest traffic and commerce multiplied. May this benediction reach over the breadth of that grand continent, and render it ever more worthy of the favor of Heaven. Finally, may it go with you on your returning journey to your country, and during your journeys of this life, and be with you at the final moment of death, in which you are to give up your souls into the hand of God, that you may praise Him and bless Him for ever and ever.

As the Holy Father delivered this beautiful Allocution, his benign, beautiful, and saintly countenance radiated with peculiar brilliancy, giving a charm to his words as if they were dictated and uttered by Divine inspiration. Having concluded, he went around to each one of the Pilgrims, and gave us his blessing, and allowed us to kiss his hand and ring. After this, we had to visit the seven principal churches of Rome, and pray there, in order to complete our Pilgrimage. The Holy Father allowed us two days to perform this, as the churches are very far apart, and the weather was very warm. We finished on Wednesday evening, and on Thursday morning the Holy Father celebrated Mass for us, in his chapel in the Vatican, and gave us all Holy Communion with his own hand. The Holy Father looks well and strong, notwithstanding all his trials and afflictions. I hope and trust he will yet live to see the triumph of the Church.

We were then invited to dinner at the American College, where we had the privilege of dining with Cardinal Franchi. It was a grand affair; some beautiful addresses were delivered. The same evening, we were invited to a reception by Cardinal Borromeo, at which we were presented with medals, and made honorary members of the society for the protection of Catholic interests. It is composed of all the Catholic nobility of Rome. The Cardinal addressed us as follows:

I am reminded this evening, in seeing myself surrounded by this assembly, of the words spoken of old, by St. Augustin. This great saint and doctor wrote beautiful words of the combat existing between the City of God and the city of the world—a combat, which was for ever being waged, and one whose fierceness could be imagined when we saw the power arrayed against the City of our Lord. This war had been foretold by our divine Saviour Himself, and it was, in fact, a proof of the divinity of that Church which He established, that it should be persecuted and reviled. And I this evening recall the description of St. Augustine, when I see here before me a body of good men and pious women who have come from afar, encountering difficulties and dangers, and in the face of an unbelieving and scoffing world proclaiming their faith, and all this to kneel at the feet of the Vicar of Jesus Christ. You have come here to poor Rome to kneel at the tombs of the Apostles, to receive the blessing of our great Pontiff; and you see around you evidences of the sad time in

which we live, evidences of the persecutions to which the Church in our day is subjected. It may be that the Church has undergone more severe trials since her institution, but I doubt much if at any epoch there has been a more dangerous assault. Before, the world and its rulers were openly in arms against the spouse of our Lord. Then, men belonged to one of two parties; they were either oppressors of the Church, or her faithful children. But now, alas! we have a third party. We have those who would be styled liberal Catholics. Now they cling to the Church, and to-morrow they adhere to the world. I know not if you have such among you in America, and I trust there are none; for to them do we owe the many present evils which afflict the Church. This party has been in our day and time the greatest enemy against whom we have to contend. I experience, then, a great consolation in beholding you assembled here this evening. I am proud that I can offer you my poor rooms as a place for you to meet. I see in you a devoted band of true Catholics, who fear not the world, but who glory in the profession of Catholic faith. You have come to bring comfort and consolation to our Holy Father. In our days, the true means to be employed is union. Let people and priests and bishops be united as one man, and we cannot fear the result. Let all cling to the Rock on which the Church is built. I again thank you for coming here to-night.

On Sunday morning, at seven o'clock, His Eminence Cardinal Franchi celebrated Mass in the newly discovered basilica of Flavin Domitilla. This remarkable discovery was made by that illustrious and apparently indefatigable archæologist, the Cavaliere de Rossi, to whom all lovers of ecclesiastical history, and even the science of theology, owe so much, for the many convincing evidences of the practices of the early Christians which he has brought to light. Mgr. De Merodi, at whose expense the excavations were being carried on, was present, and had everything nicely arranged for the Pilgrims. This basilica is entirely under ground. It was covered on the occasion with a large canvas awning, to protect the Pilgrims from the rays of the sun. It was a moving spectacle there, where so many Christians had come in pious pilgrimage to venerate the relics of the martyrs, to find again those of the same faith kneeling and assisting at the same sacrifice. At seven o'clock all the Pilgrims and the other guests were assembled at these venerated ruins.

Beside the Altar, upon a massive stone, ornamented with flowers, stood a large alabaster basin, found in the excavations, filled likewise with flowers and lighted lamps. The basin itself was also one of these lamps, which the Christians of the early centuries placed upon the tombs of the holy martyrs, burning therein balsams and precious oils, several of which have been found during the excavations. Upon that Altar, His Eminence Cardinal Franchi, Prefect-General of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide, in full Cardinal robes, celebrated Mass. Around him stood many distinguished Italian and foreign Prelates, and Mgr. Dwenger, Bishop of Fort Wayne, in mantelletta and rochet.

It would be impossible to describe fittingly the pious recollectedness of the Faithful, who assisted at the Sacred Rite, and to express the sentiments which inspired them at the remembrance of those ruins; of that basilica, of those catacombs, of those sepulchres of the primitive Christians, over which, after one thousand years, other Faithful, of Rome, and from a world then unknown, had gathered to offer to Christ the same prayers for His Church, fearing the renewal of the ancient persecutions. Many of the Pilgrims received Holy Communion at the hands of the Cardinal.

Mass being ended, and the final benediction being imparted, Cardinal Franchi, still clad in Pontifical vestments, seated himself at the end of the apsis of the Basilica, and from that very spot whence, from the early days of Christianity until the sixth or seventh century, the faithful and the Pilgrims of every region of the ancient world had heard the homilies of the Roman Pontiffs, of Damascus, and of St. Gregory the Great. Cardinal Franchi set forth to the Pilgrims of the New Continent in the nineteenth century, the same truths of the faith of Jesus Christ, in a discourse glowing with eloquence and with Christian unction. He began by felicitating himself at beholding before him so select a portion of Catholics from that young America, so potent for energy of character, so flourishing in commerce, so opulent in her United States, wherein Catholicism is so marvelously propagated. He recalled to mind the most ancient pilgrimages of the Faithful to this basilica, to these catacombs, consecrated by the tombs of so many Saints and so many Martyrs, and enumerated the sovereign Pontiffs who had announced the Gospel from the same chair which he had then the honor to occupy; and qualified as providential the discovery of that august basilica now that Catholic pilgrimages

were again returning into vogue: as unfortunately persecutions are once more the order of the day, not as yet of torture and of blood-shedding, but of errors and of seductions so great as to lead us to fear the proximate ruin of civil society which threatens to crumble to its very base. Therefore I feel justified in reiterating the exact words pronounced by St. Gregory himself in a remarkable homily enunciated in this basilica, in which the great Pontiff lamented that the world "was seared within itself, but lived still in the hearts of the faithful. Everywhere reigns death, everywhere desolation and mourning; in every place we are assailed and overwhelmed with bitterness, and yet the mind, blinded by carnal concupiscence, by these very afflictions we love to receive from the world, we follow it through fleeting; we attach ourselves to it, falling though it be, and inasmuch as we cannot save it from its fall, we shall fall with it, because of our clinging thereunto, and be dragged ignominiously to ruin."

To ensure triumph over so many evils as over the newest form of persecutions which the Church of Jesus Christ always endures and ever overcomes, the Cardinal made a fervid appeal to the prayers of the devout Catholics of America, to whom he further addressed most affectionate words of adieu, as follows:

Now, naught remains to me but the utterance of an affectionate adieu, ere you depart from this Holy City, to return to your families and to your homes. Depart, then, with the admiration of all the good Romans, who have been edified by your piety and by the filial love demonstrated by you towards the august and immortal Pontiff: depart with the satisfaction of the good example you have given to Catholicity at large by this your holy pilgrimage; depart, in short, with the blessing of the Church and of her august head, a blessing which will accompany you throughout your entire lives, and fear naught. On the contrary, animate yourselves even more and more with the promises of Him who said, Have confidence, I have conquered the world. Shut yourselves up within the Sacred Heart of Jesus and within the most pure heart of Mary, which the Church now invites us to honor; and secure within that mystic ark, ford courageously the turbid water of this agitated world, and doubt not of obtaining the harbor of salvation promised to those who know how to struggle even to the end.

Having lain aside the pontifical vestments, Cardinal Fracchi and the Prelates of his suite, the American Pilgrims and the other guests

were conducted to a spacious building, hastily yet tastefully converted into a handsome hall, wherein tables were spread for a collation. The "table of honor" was occupied by His Eminence Cardinal Franchi, Mgr. De Merode, Prof. J. B. DeRoni, the Rector of the American College, Madame De Corcelles, French Ambassadress, Mrs. Peter, and other distinguished personages. After refreshments were served, Father Daly, S. J., proposed a toast in honor of the Holy Father, alluding eloquently to the consolation experienced by the Pilgrims at having been so lovingly welcomed and having been communicated at the august hands of that saintly and most venerated Pontiff. All the Pilgrims stood during the speech of Father Daly, in token of reverence. Several other beautiful addresses were delivered. At eleven o'clock, the assemblage broke up. No music, no sumptuous decorations, none of those noisy spectacles wherewith the world surrounds her festivals, characterized this lovely Christian feast. Nevertheless all who had the good fortune to assist thereat will never forget it, but will ever treasure the memory thereof amongst these calm and tranquil joys only to be found in the peace of Christ. Our pilgrimage being now ended, the pilgrims spread over different parts of Europe. I remained in Rome for thirteen days and visited a great many churches and places of interest, the most important of which I will attempt to describe.

ST. PETER'S.

This temple may be justly called the most magnificent modern monument in the world, since all the arts contributed to embellish it, and the greatest artists exerted themselves to the utmost of their ability. It occupies the place of the gardens and circus of Nero, where that tyrant made the massacre of Christians, whose remains were buried in a grotto, situated near the circus, and in which was also deposited the body of St. Peter.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS OF JERUSALEM.

This church was erected by St. Helena in the Variani gardens which belonged to Heliogabalus. Under the Altar is an ancient urn which contains the bodies of the holy martyrs, Anastasius and Cesarion. In this church we were shown a number of most precious relics, viz.: The true cross, one of the nails by which our divine Saviour was nailed to the cross. Two thorns, from the crown of thorns, and the finger of St. Thomas. The Altar was also faced with the wood of the cross of the penitent thief.

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL.

This church is believed to have been founded by Constantine and rebuilt by Valentinianus II., Theodosius and Arcadius. It was several times restored, but in 1823 it was almost entirely destroyed by fire. Leo XII. ordered it to be rebuilt, confiding the execution to the architect Poletti, who in union with some others brought it to a termination. Entering the church by the eastern door, we observe, first, the transept. At the two extremities of this aisle, decorated with twenty-four Corinthian pilasters, is an altar, with four large columns, which altogether support the pediment of white marble, and upon which repose brick pilasters, painted in imitation of white marble. The frescoes between the windows are by the most able painters of our times. Beneath the frescoes there are seventy-four portraits in mosaic, of the Popes, from St. Peter to John IV. Under the altar is preserved half of the bodies of St. Peter and St. Paul, the other halves being in the Church of St. Peter, and their heads at St. John in Lateran. A marble staircase conducts to the subterranean chapel, entirely encrusted with marble, in the altar of which is preserved the body of St. Timothy and the relics of other martyrs.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN LATERAN.

This church is the most important of Christianity, being the cathedral of the Pontiff, who takes possession of it after his election. It was founded by Constantine, and took the name of Lateran from the place in which it was erected. After having existed for ten centuries, it was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1308. Rebuilt by Clement V., and embellished by the other Popes. In this church we were shown many precious relics, which are preserved there.

CHURCH OF THE THREE FOUNTAINS.

This church was built by the ancient Christians, on the site of the martyrdom of St. Paul. There are in the interior the three fountains which sprung miraculously in the three places which were touched by the head of the Saint when he was beheaded. Near to them we were shown also the pillar or block on which he was beheaded.

CHURCH OF ST. PETER IN CHAINS.

St. Peter and St. Paul were here confined, and in the prison of Tullius beneath, we were shown the miraculous spring of water which St. Peter caused to spring up in the prison, in order to procure

water to baptize his keepers, whom he had converted, who then died martyrs. I was also shown and allowed to kiss the very chain with which St. Peter was chained in prison, when he was released and set free by the angel.

CHURCH OF THE JESUITS.

This is one of the largest and richest churches in Rome. The interior is rich in stuccoes, in paintings, and in sculptures. Under the altar in an urn, ornamented with bas-reliefs and precious stones, the body of St. Ignatius is preserved.

THE CATECOMBS.

I will describe those of St. Calisto, as they are the most important. They were excavated like all the others, by the early christians, who, during the persecutions, assembled in them to celebrate the mysteries of religion and to dedicate themselves to prayer. Here also they buried their dead. The bodies of the martyrs were deposited in the spaces made on purpose, in the walls of the long and winding corridors. Near many of the bodies were discovered the instruments of their martyrdom and the vase with the blood which they had been able to collect. These are the largest that have been discovered, and Catholic writers assert that 14 Popes and about 170,000 Christians were here buried.

THE SCALA-SANCTA.

I also visited the Scala-Sancta (Holy Stairs), formed of twenty-eight marble steps, which belonged to the Palace of Pilate. It is held in very great veneration, because Our Lord and Saviour ascended and descended it several times, bathing it with his blood. I was allowed the privilege of ascending those Holy Stairs on my knees. In the chapel called the Sancta Sanctorum, is preserved the greatly venerated picture of the Divine Saviour (attributed to St. Luke), and a quantity of relics.

THE COLLISEUM.

It was built by order of the Emperor Flavius Vespasian, on the ground formerly occupied by the stagnum of the garden of Nero. It was inaugurated by games which lasted a hundred days, and in which 5,000 wild beasts and many thousand gladiators were killed. The exterior is composed of three stories of arches, and each story was composed of eighty arches, with the same

number of half-columns. The whole of the edifice was crowned by an entablature adorned with pilasters and windows. The style of architecture varies at each tier; the first being Doric, the second Ionic, and the third and fourth Corinthian. The arches of the first tier are marked with Roman numbers, as they formed so many entrances, through which, by means of internal staircases, the upper stories were reached. Its form is oval, and its external circumference is 535 metres and 49 in height. It is capable of containing above a hundred thousand spectators. After having served until A. D. 523 for these sanguinary spectacles, from the eleventh century until A. D. 1312, some noble families made use of it as a stronghold and it was then that it suffered the greatest injury. Pius IX. restored the upper tier to its primitive state. The arena had two entrances, and all around apertures enclosed by railings of bronze, from which the gladiators and the wild beasts entered. Above was the Podium, a place intended for the Emperors and their families, for the magistrates, the senators, the pagan priests, and the vestals. The fourteen small chapels, with the passion of Jesus Christ, which are in the interior, are in remembrance of the thousands of Christians who in this place suffered martyrdom, becoming the prey of wild beasts.

Rome is situated on the Tiber, by which it is divided into two unequal parts. It is distant 90 kilometres from the mouth of this river; 370 from Florence; 800 from Vienna; 1300 from Paris; 1600 from London, and has a population of about 250,000 inhabitants. The part of the city built on the left of the Tiber is Rowe, properly called. The city is entered by fifteen gates, it possesses 360 churches and forty-six public squares. There are twelve principal fountains, which adorn it, and provide it with water. Although Rome has undergone so many and such varied vicissitudes, she may still call herself one of the most beautiful cities of the universe. To her ancient magnificence, to the obelisks, to the columns, to the statues, to the masterpieces of a remote epoch, disinterred from the ruins of her first grandeur, are united the splendid creations of modern art. Her many and sumptuous churches, her great and majestic palaces, her fountains and her galleries, rich in the most valuable paintings of the great masters, in a word as she was in the past so she still remains—the city in which art most flourishes.

It was a source of great edification to the pilgrims to see the sincere piety of the Roman people, and their devoted attachment to the Sovereign Pontiff. We could not help thinking that Divine Providence will soon in his mercy terminate the abnormal condition of affairs in the secular government of Italy.

On Saturday morning, June 20th, I left Rome for Loretto and arrived there the same evening. It is something over 100 miles distant from Rome, and is renowned as being the place where the house the Blessed Virgin lived in is preserved, it having been brought there by the Angels from Nazareth. The following is a copy of an authentic document relating thereto which I procured at Loretto :

THE MIRACULOUS ORIGIN AND TRANSLATION OF THE CHURCH OF OUR
BLESSED LADY OF LORETTO.

The Church of Loretto was a chamber of the house of the Blessed Virgin nigh Jerusalem in the City of Nazareth, in which she was born and bred and saluted by the angel, and therein conceived and brought up her son Jesus to the age of twelve years. This chamber, after the ascension of Our Saviour was by the apostles consecrated into a church, in honor of Our Blessed Lady, and St. Luke made a picture to Her Likeness extant therein, to be seen at this very day. It was frequented with great devotion by the people of the country, where it stood whilst they were Catholics. But when leaving the faith of Christ, they followed the sect of Mahomet, the angels took it, and carrying it into Scлавonia, placed it by a town called Flumen, where not being had in due reverence, they again transported it over the sea to a wood in the territory of Recanati, belonging to a noble woman called Loretto, from whom it first took the name of Our Blessed Lady of-Loretto, and thence again they carried it by reason of the many robberies committed, to a mountain of two brothers in the said territory, and from thence finally in respect of their disagreement about the gifts and offerings, to the common highway not far distant, where it now remains, without foundation, famous for many signets, graces, and miracles; whereat the inhabitants of Recanati who often came to see it, much wondering, environed it with a strong and thick wall, yet could no man tell whence it came originally, till in the year 1296 the Blessed Virgin appeared in sleep to a holy and devout man, to whom she revealed it, and he divulged it to others of authority in this province, who determining forthwith to try the truth of the vision, resolved to choose sixteen men of credit, who to that effect should go all together to the City of Nazareth as they did carrying with them the measure of this Church, and comparing it there with the foundation, yet remnant, they found them wholly agreeable, and in a wall thereby engraven, that it had stood

there, and had left the place; which done, they presently returning back, published the premises to be true, and from that time forward it has been certainly known that this church was the chamber of the Blessed Virgin, to which Christians began then, and have ever since had great devotion, for that in it daily, She hath done and doth many and many miracles. One friar, Paul de Silva, an hermit of great sanctity, who lived in a cottage nigh unto this Church, whither daily he went to matins said, that for ten years' space, on the 8th of September, two hours before day, he saw a light descend from Heaven upon it, which he said was the Blessed Virgin, who there showed herself upon the feast of her Nativity, in confirmation of all which, two virtuous men of the said city of Recanati divers times declared unto me, Prefect of Terremen, and Governor of the fore-named Church, as follows, the one called Paul Renalduci avouched that his grandfathers' grandfather saw when the angels brought it over the sea, and placed it in the fore-mentioned wood, and had often visited it there; the other called Francis Prior, in like sort affirmed, that his grandfather being 120 years old had also much frequented it in the same place, and for a further proof that it had been there, he reported that his grandfather's grandfather had a house nigh unto it, wherein he dwelt, and that in his time it was carried by the angels from thence to the mountain of the two brothers, where they placed it as above said.

By order of the Right-Reverend Monsignor Vincent Cassal of Bologna, Governor of this Holy Place, under the protection of the Most-Reverend Cardinal Moroni, I, Robert Corbington, Priest of the Society of Jesus, in the year 1634, have faithfully translated the premises out of the Latin original hung up in the said Church.

To the Honor of the Ever Glorious Virgin.

On the morning after I arrived in Loretto, it being Sunday, I went early to the beautiful church which is built around the house of the Blessed Virgin, and found the church crowded with the good people of the place, and a great many Masses being celebrated at the different altars. The people of the place are really sincere and devout Christians. There is a community of about fifty priests attached to this church. I remained here for a few days, and then went to Bologna, Milan and Turin, on my way to Paray-le-Monial. I also passed through the famous Mont Cenis tunnel, which is eight miles long, and in some places the mountain is above a mile high over the tunnel. On the 30th June we arrived at Paray-le-Monial, fortunately in time to join the grand procession which closes the

devotional exercises of the month of the Sacred Heart. In the evening the procession was formed in the church, each one held a lighted taper in his hand. There were upwards of five thousand persons in the procession which marched through the streets of the town. Many costly and beautiful banners were borne in the procession, which stopped about a half mile beyond the town, where a beautiful altar had been erected. Here the Bishop gave solemn benediction. After this the procession returned to the Church, all still holding lighted tapers and reciting the rosary. It is almost unnecessary to state that Paray-le-Monial is one of the most renowned shrines in Christendom, it being the place where our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ appeared so often to the Blessed Margaret Mary, a nun of that place, and made her the following promises in favor of persons devoted to His Divine Heart :

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will console them in all their pains and trials.
4. I will be their assured refuge in life and especially in death.
5. I will shed abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in my Heart an infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls will be rendered fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall rise rapidly to greater perfection.
9. I will bless those houses where the image of my Heart shall be exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the talent of moving the hardest hearts.
11. Persons who propagate this devotion, shall have their names inscribed in my heart and they shall never be effaced from it.

I left Paray-le-Monial on the 1st July, travelled all night and arrived in Paris next day, where I visited the Head House of St. Vincent de Paul, and was shown many relics of the Saint. I left for Havre the same day, and arrived just in time to catch the steamer City of Paris, which sailed for New York next day. We had a very pleasant voyage, and arrived in New York on the 14th July. Mass was celebrated on board the steamer by Bishop Jamot, who was returning from France with Priests for his new mission. I remained for about a week in New York, and reached Guelph on the 22nd of July, having travelled over eleven thousand miles. Need I tell you with what feelings of joy I once again greeted my

native town and the kind familiar faces from which I had been separated for a time. Need I say how thankful I felt to Almighty God, who, in his mercy, conducted me in safety over the dangers of the deep, and shielded me from all the perils incident to so long a journey. I have not forgotten that my safe return was entirely due to the powerful intercession of our Blessed Lady of Lourdes, Blessed St. Joseph, and the prayers of my good friends in Guelph and other places. I cannot close this sketch without expressing my gratitude to God and to His Holy Mother for granting to me, all undeserving as I am, the singular privilege of being amongst those who constituted the first American Pilgrimage; amongst those who were the chosen few to carry from the Western World to the venerable Pontiff, Pius IX., the conviction that the faith of Peter lives and burns in the hearts of millions in this far-off land, that they share in the sufferings and persecutions of their common Father, the Pope, and that they have all united with one accord in transmitting to him by those good pilgrims their expressions of condolence, of deep affection, and undying tenacity to the same holy faith which Peter taught. I will conclude with the hope that the holy pilgrimage which I have performed will enure not only to my own spiritual welfare but to that of every member of this parish, that all may share in the abundant graces and blessings which I am confident will flow through the merit of America's First Pilgrimage.

