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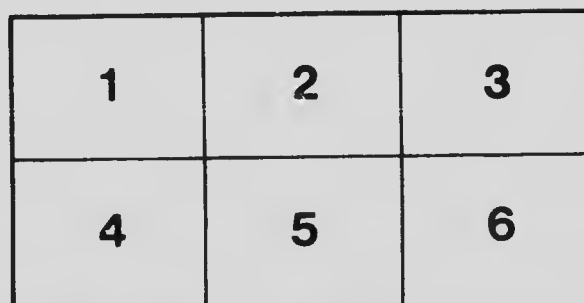
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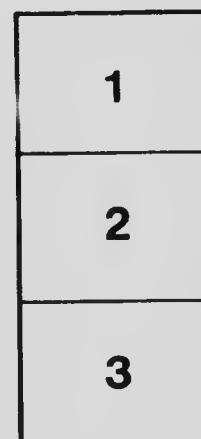
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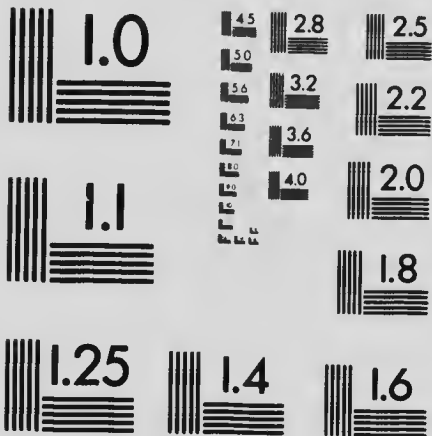
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OUR LADY OF LIESSE

MOTHER OF GRACE

BY

REV. EDWARD LECOMPTE, S.J.

Translated from the French

by

LAWRENCE DRUMMOND



LEGEND, PILGRIMAGE AND REMOVAL OF THE
STATUE TO THE GÉSU IN MONTREAL

Cum permissu superiorum.

Nihil obstat

Marianopoli, 15 Septembris 1920,

E. HÉBERT,

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Permis d'imprimer

Montréal, le 2 décembre, 1920,

F.-X. DE LA DURANTAYE, V.G.

OUR LADY OF LIESSE¹

Ever since its foundation, Montreal has been dear to Our Lady. She inspired M. de la Dauversière, the venerable M. Olier and their associates to found a colony, which should be both a bulwark against the Iroquois and an advanced post to win over the Indians to Christianity. Out of love for the Virgin Mary, the society adopted the name of *Notre-Dame de Montréal*. Maisonneuve took possession of *Ville-Marie* on May 18, 1642. Three months after, on the great feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, the town and the whole island were consecrated to the august Mother of God, our Mother.

Thenceforth the city has not ceased to show its love for Mary. Seventeen churches have chosen her as their patron. The most venerable, by its antiquity and the most endeared to the people, is no doubt *Notre-Dame de Bonsecours* (Our Lady of Good Help). Then comes the handsome, devotion-inspiring chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes, also remarkable for its many pilgrims.

A third shrine consecrated to the Madonna is found at the church of the Gesù, where a miraculous statue is venerated under the gladsome name of *Notre-Dame de Liesse* (Our Lady of Joy). Its history is most extraordinary, carrying us back to the Crusades and setting before us the Blessed Virgin, three French knights and an Egyptian princess. This legend taken from the works of Bosio, a sixteenth century author, bears the hallmarks of the most perfect authenticity. Its substance was approved by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, on July 1, 1858.

¹ In these pages we condense an anonymous pamphlet, which appeared in Montreal, in 1886.

The Three Knights

It was during the heroic days of the crusades. Jerusalem had been delivered for a time; but Ascalon, a fortified town, twenty miles from the Holy City, was still held by the sultan of Egypt. In August 1134, the Christians were defeated in a battle fought between Jerusalem and Ascalon, and many of them were taken prisoners, amongst whom were three brave French noblemen, three brothers, born in the province of Picardy, near Laon, knights of the order of St. John of Jerusalem. They were led captives, first to Ascalon, and thence to Cairo, to be presented to the Sultan, as prisoners of distinction.

The Prince, at first sought, "with gracious and honeyed words", to win them over to the religion of Mohammed. The Knights replied that they were disciples of Jesus Christ and would remain faithful to Him, at the cost of a thousand deaths. The enraged Sultan ordered them to be cast into a horrid dungeon, in the depths of a tower and had them guarded by a fierce Saracen, who was "to give them no other food but bread and water". He then convened "the most learned priests and marabouts throughout Egypt" and sent them to the imprisoned Knights, bidding them put forth all their eloquence and even offer the captives the highest places in the caliph's army. The Mohammedan priests returned crest-fallen; they had been worsted in the discussion and felt dispirited. "It is impossible", they said, "to shake the faith of these Christians". In a fit of anger, the Sultan drove them from his presence "calling them ignoramuses and blockheads".

But his anxiety to bring the three noblemen over to his religion only increased with the difficulties. He then bethought himself of an expedient which, he was sure, would overcome all obstacles.

Princess Ismeria

The Sultan had a daughter, called Ismeria, "an accomplished lady, of exquisite beauty, ready of speech and learned in the Mohammedan law". The Knights, thought the Sultan, will not withstand the "bewitching" arguments of Ismeria's beauty and charms. So he sent her to them, with orders to use all means, reasons, reproaches, charms, caresses, and, if necessary, to sacrifice even her honor ! But the Mother of God was watching over her good and loyal servants and looked mercifully upon the youthful Princess whose honor a heartless father was ready to surrender.

The result of the first discussion was to raise a thousand doubts in Ismeria's soul regarding the religion of Mohammed. At the second interview, the Knights, God-inspired and filled with the Holy Ghost, related to her the sublime mysteries of the Incarnation of the Word, the Life, Miracles, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ, the virtues, excellencies and incomparable Virginity of the glorious Virgin Mary, before, during and after the Birth of Christ. The Princess was deeply moved : "Their words were as so many fiery sparks, which, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, gradually kindled in her soul the light of Faith and inflamed her heart with a holy yearning to embrace it".

The following visits only added new zest to these holy desires. She felt drawn especially towards the august Virgin Mary. So much so that, thinking of her day and night, she conceived "an extreme desire to see the portrait of the Mother of God, of whom she had heard such great things". One day she asked the Knights if they did not happen to have a picture of that Most Holy Virgin. They said they had not.—

"Could not one of you make one for me?" asked the Princess.—"We will do what we can," replied the eldest of the three brothers, "provided you supply us with wood and tools for carving".

Ismeria withdrew in an ecstasy of joy. As for the Knights, they felt sorely perplexed. None of them had ever done any carving. And of course the two younger ones blamed the eldest. "Fear nothing", replied the latter, "Our Lord and His glorious Mother will assuredly come to our assistance".

The next day, the Princess brought the wood and tools and begged the Knights to make haste, in order that she might have the precious statue on the following day. This meant further perplexity and more expostulation. The eldest brother once more quieted the younger ones and, at nightfall, they began most fervently to implore the Blessed Virgin to intercede for them and rescue them in their sad predicament. Hardly was this prayer finished when they all three fell asleep.

The Blessed Virgin

The prayer of the good Knights went straight to our Blessed Mother's heart. "And lo! towards midnight, the Mother of God, watching in their stead, sent them, borne in the hands of angels, a most devout and miraculous image of herself. This image straightway so brilliantly lit up and so sweetly perfumed that dark and foul prison that it seemed aglow with a thousand tapers and scented with the fragrance of Paradise"; moreover, "there was heard a rare, exquisite and wholly angelical song".

Imagine the ecstasy of the three brothers awakened by this music and perceiving the miraculous statue in a halo of heavenly light! Casting themselves down before it, they spent the remainder of the night "prai-

sing and thanking Divine goodness for this signal gift". At daybreak the young "damsel" Ismeria impatiently hastened to ascertain how far the Knights had proceeded with their work. On opening the prison door, she saw the brilliant light, she breathed the delicious perfume and beheld the three Knights praying before the holy statue. When informed of its heavenly origin, and noticing indeed that the wood and tools which she had brought had not even been touched, she exclaimed :

"I believe it, this is not the handiwork of man. Ah ! I wish to serve this holy and glorious Virgin together with her Divine Son all my life. I will give up the Mohammedan religion and I promise to be baptized and to live like a good christian, if you will give me that heavenly image.—With the greatest happiness", replied the Knights. Then Ismeria, in an outburst of unspeakable joy, said :

"Be sure that I will keep my promise and before long I will deliver you from this prison".

At these words, the pious Knights again prostrating themselves, thanked God and the Virgin Mary, and in the gladness of their hearts, agreed to give the heavenly statue the name of *Our Lady of Llesse*, that is, Our Lady of Joy.

Ismeria spent the day contemplating the statue and begging the Blessed Virgin to show her how she could succeed in becoming a Christian. That night, during her sleep, the Mother of God appeared to her in a dream and said : "Be confident, Ismeria, thy prayer is heard : thou shalt deliver my three devout Knights, thou shalt be baptized and shalt bear my name. Through thee, France shall be enriched with a priceless treasure... Through thee, my name shall be famous throughout the world, and at the end I will take thee

into Paradise with me for ever". The vision disappeared and Ismeria awoke. Her room was all perfumed with the most exquisite fragrance and her heart overflamed with joy. She thought herself already in Heaven.

The Flight

The following day found Ismeria more than ever resolved to follow the Divine inspiration : she spent it "gathering up her most valuable belongings, her rings and jewels, together with a large sum of money, without forgetting the holy picture".

That night, amid the darkness and silence, she proceeded noiselessly and in secret to the dungeon where our three Knights were imprisoned. On arriving, she found the door miraculously opened; entering, she saw the captives sound asleep and awoke them. At first they were at a loss to account for her presence at such an hour; soon, however, they rejoiced at the thought that she had come to deliver them. Ismeria hurriedly related what she had seen and heard in her dream, declared that she was resolved not only to deliver them but also to escape with them, and she added with warmth : "Follow me boldly, fear nothing, I have full confidence in your God and in the Most Blessed Virgin, whose image I bear; they will guide, help and save us." The Knights rose and leaving the prison they followed trustfully in Ismeria's footsteps. They had to cross the city of Cairo and found the streets "thronged with people going and coming", but no one asked them whence they came or whither they were going.

On arriving at the gates of the city, they found them open; hurrying on, they soon reached "the bank of one of the broad arms of the Nile and wondered how they would cross over".

The fugitives feared lest the Sultan, perceiving their escape and that of his beloved daughter, might despatch his servants in pursuit. While thus anxiously seeking a way out of their predicament, suddenly they espied a small skiff dart from the opposite river bank. It was propelled by a noble-looking young man, who reached them in an instant, and "without further salutation", said : "I have come for you, Gentlemen, enter, I will ferry you across, for I know your wish." They embarked and, in the twinkling of an eye, they were on the opposite bank. "Instantly the young man and the skiff vanished from their sight".

Pursuing their journey, they walked for about three hours. Ismeria was exhausted and begged the Knights to suffer her to rest a little. They all four left the beaten path and, hidden by some bushes, they fell into a peaceful slumber.

In France

This slumber was to be followed by a marvellous awakening. On opening their eyes to the daylight, our four fugitives wondered where they were. They heard the sound of a bagpipe on which a shepherd was playing. The Knights went up to him and, believing they were still in Egypt, asked him "in the moorish language" where they were.

"Gentlemen", replied the shepherd, "speak French if you wish me to understand you.

— Are we then in France, my friend ?

— To be sure.

— But in what province, in what diocese ?

— In the province of Picardy, in the diocese of Laon and quite near the château of Marchais".

This was the Knights' own château, their paternal house. Then they realized what an astounding miracle the glorious Virgin Mary had wrought in their

behalf. The angels, God-sent, — as a century hence for the holy house of Loretto, — had carried them in a moment from the banks of the Nile to their own country.

They poured forth a grateful prayer to Heaven for this new favor and proceeded towards the château. While passing through a garden, the statue became so heavy in Ismeria's hands that she had to set it on the ground. They understood that the Blessed Virgin had chosen that spot to be honoured thereon. Accordingly, after being welcomed at the château with every imaginable feeling of surprise, joy and gratefulness, they went on to Laon, accompanied by the Princess. They were present at her baptism, conferred by the Bishop, who gave her the name of Mary. Having obtained the prelate's permission to build a church in honor of the Mother of God, they raised it in the garden chosen by herself and called it *Our Lady of Liesse*. Crowds were drawn by the miracles wrought there, and around the church gradually rose up a small town, also called *Liesse*.

"Finally, the said *damsel* Mary, formerly called Ismeria, made her home with the Knights' mother, who was an honourable and virtuous lady, very devout to the Blessed Virgin. There the Princess lived a holy life for a short while, and having passed on to a better world, her body was buried in that same church of *Our Lady of Liesse*".

The Great Pilgrimages

Ever since the days of Ismeria and the Knights, the fame of the pilgrimage of Liesse had spread far and wide. Crowds flocked there from all over France and even from foreign parts.

Among pilgrims of note may be mentioned, first of all, king Louis VII, then Charles VII, who went there after his coronation at Rheims, accompanied by Saint

Joan of Arc. Louis XI made four pilgrimages to Liesse and Francis I, three.

Shortly after, Cardinal de Lorraine, who had become owner of the old manor of the knights of Marchais, had it magnificently rebuilt, to make it a fit residence for kings and princes during their pious sojourn at Liesse. Hardly was it completed when Henri II came to make a stay there in 1554; others followed : Francis II, after his coronation, and, no doubt, accompanied by Mary Stuart; then Charles IX, who thrice visited Liesse.

The Bourbon family showed the same piety. Marie de Médicis, the King's wife, left Paris on the seventh day of January to go on a pilgrimage to Liesse, "in order that the Beautiful Lady might vouchsafe to plead for her to obtain an heir". The child granted to her fervent prayers was Louis XIII. The latter made four pilgrimages to Liesse together with Queen Anne of Austria. They left rich presents at the Shrine and begged that a son be given them in return. Their prayer was heard only after the pious King had, by a solemn vow, consecrated his kingdom to the Mother of God. The long-desired child was Louis XIV, who often came to thank Our Lady of Liesse for obtaining his birth. His descendants emulated his assiduity at the Shrine.

The Revolution

During the XVIth century, the Huguenots vented their fury on the hallowed Shrine of Liesse.

But still more terrible was the frenzy of the Revolution, which showed its Satanic character at Liesse more than at any other place. Liesse was to see the Revolution rob it for a time of the priceless treasure that it had guarded so carefully for well-nigh seven centuries. Let us recall some of these tragic events.

On December 28, 1790, all the coats of arms covering

the walls and pavement were mutilated. On March 15, 1791, the intruding bishop made a mock pilgrimage to Liesse, where he installed apostate priests like himself. On October 15, 1792, official looting began and the Shrine was stripped of all its gold, vermillion and silver ex-votoes, worth several million marks. On November 1, 1793, whatever remained was carried off : statues sacred, vessels, ornaments.

At that time occurred the crowning sacrilege. One day, bandits, not inhabitants of Liesse, stole into the church to destroy the statue, which, although stripped of every ornament, still drew many pilgrims and fostered religion in the hearts of the people, religion, which the Revolution strove to abolish. A big fire was kindled in a corner of the treasury; sacrilegious hands laid hold of the statue and cast it into the flames. Soon the good people of Liesse were startled by the rumored outrage and rushed to the spot. The statue was snatched from the blazing embers, but already it was partly charred. The hallowed relics were reverently gathered up and carefully preserved.

We shall now behold Our Lady of Liesse rise from her ashes and impart the same power to these remains of the old statue as to the statue of Ismeria and the noble Knights.

A new era

When public worship was restored and the church reopened, a priest is said to have discovered the stone head of a Virgin in the loft. This head was raised on a wooden support, a cardboard bust was set up beneath it and clad with ornaments. The faithful were thus reminded of the former miraculous statue. At the feet of the improvised statue were laid the charred relics of the first one. This occurred in 1802.

The kindly Virgin was pleased to acknowledge this token of faith by once more granting pilgrims favors

like those which had spread the fame of Our Lady of Liesse throughout the world.

As the above mentioned statue is the very one now honoured in the church of the Gesù, we will, for the comfort of the faithful, relate two facts carefully reported in the official records.

Seraphine Varet, aged 23 years, had been stricken for four years with complete paralysis and insensibility of the lower left side. Her relatives had vainly exhausted all the resources of art. One day, in 1818, the invalid felt prompted to call upon Mary alone to cure her, and wished to be conveyed to Liesse. It was a rather long journey. While in the carriage with her father and sister, Séraphine prayed unceasingly with growing confidence. A secret voice said : "Go, thou shalt be healed".

On nearing the town, she asked if she would soon see the church steeple. "There it is ahead of you : " answered her father. At the same moment, a sharp pain shot through the side which had been insensible or rather dead for so many years and caused the patient to moan. The crisis grew more and more painful; Séraphine uttered a last cry : her leg was straightened and restored to life.

On reaching the Hôtel des Trois-Rois, the invalid's father, who did not know exactly what had happened, called for a chair and asked some one to help him to carry in his daughter. Meanwhile, the same interior voice bade Séraphine arise and get down alone. Obeying, she got down and, before her amazed travelling companions, with crutches in hand, she rushed to the church and prostrating herself before the image of the Mother of God, she thanked her with feelings of the deepest joy. Before withdrawing from the blessed Shrine, she offered her crutches as an ex-voto, together with a gold necklace, the only ornament she had.

Étienne Leroux, aged sixteen years, had been paralysed for fifty months and was unable to walk alone or to stand on his legs. In the year 1833, his mother brought him for the third time on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Liesse. He was carried into the church and seated in the sanctuary. After praying for about half an hour, he slipped from his seat and made a forward movement. His mother handed him his crutches, but he refused them, and walking with a firm step for the first time since over four years, he went down the church aisle, ran into the street and strode through the village. His cure was as sudden and unforeseen as it was complete.

The crowning of the statue

The Blessed Virgin had wrought so many miracles at Liesse that it seemed fitting to crown her statue. Accordingly, in 1857, Mgr de Garsignies, Bishop of Soissons and Laon, obtained leave from Pope Pius IX to crown Our Lady of Liesse, under the title of *Mother of Grace*.

While preparations for the festivity were under way, the statue was examined. What was the surprise of the Parish Priest and of his assistants on discovering that it consisted in nothing but the stone head supported on a piece of wood, and cardboard ! Evidently what gave this statue its value and power, was the ashes of the old one. They resolved to have another statue made, on the model of the former one, and to inclose therein some of the charred remains. Since 1802, however, the present statue had been the instrument of so many wonders and the object of such veneration that it was deemed fitting to donate it to the Jesuits' residence, recently founded for the purpose of attending to the spiritual wants of the many pilgrims frequenting Liesse. This plan was carried out that very year, 1857.

The new statue was crowned in the month of August, amid incomparable celebrations, which lasted four days. But as this subject is foreign to our narrative, we shall return to the old statue, which now claims our attention, since it is about to settle in our midst.

Removal of the statue to Canada

The statue of 1802 (at least the head and the ashes, for the rest had been remade, carved and painted by a Parisian artist at the residence of the Jesuits of Laon. Besides the Fathers who attended to pilgrims, young Jesuits were also stationed there for their third year of probation, after their studies. In 1862, the Third Year, together with the statue, was transferred from Liesse to Saint-Vincent de Laon. Fifteen years later, in the spring of 1877, the Society of Jesus had to give up the Saint-Vincent Residence, which was expropriated by the French Government, as being necessary for the fortifications of Laon and of the valley commanded by it. It was then decided that the Third Year should be moved to Paray-le-Monial. As this place was already favored by innumerable pilgrimages to the Sacred Heart, the Jesuits determined to give the miraculous statue to one of their many foreign missions.

At that time, under Providence, there happened to be at Saint-Vincent's two Canadian Fathers, who were returning home in August. One of them was Father Francis de Sales Cazeau, a zealous apostle of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. His longing to possess the Virgin of Liesse may well be imagined. The two Canadians joined the Superiors in praying to find out God's will on this point. In the month of August, the Tertiaries went on a farewell pilgrimage to the Madonna of Liesse. Father Dorr, revered as a saint, was their Instructor. He said Mass at the altar

of Our Lady of Liesse. Hardly had he finished his thanksgiving when he called Father Cazeau and said : "The statue of Our Lady of Liesse, Mother of Grace, shall go to Canada; take it with you."

A few days after, the two Canadian Fathers started homeward, bearing the miraculous statue like a treasure. They reached St. Mary's College at the beginning of September. The statue was brought into the church and set up on a little pedestal, in front of the Lady altar. The following Sunday, every preacher told the legend of the Three Knights and of Princess Ismeria, and of the Blessed Virgin's marvellous intervention.

It was also necessary to add that the treasure was not certain to remain at the Gesù. The Superior of the New York-Canada Mission, Father Charaux, to whom the point had been submitted, hesitated between the Gesù and the Sault-au-Récollet novitiate. He ended by leaving the decision of the case in Our Lady's own hands. If she gave sufficiently clear tokens of her preference for the Montreal Gesù, the statue would remain there. Hence the faithful could largely contribute by their fervor to obtain this result.

The appeal was heard. Pilgrims flocked to the Virgin and prayed most devoutly at her feet. Nor was the sweet Mother of God slow in bestowing her favors. Of the numberless graces obtained through her, some of the most remarkable are recorded on ex-votces. The longed-for petition was granted and the statue remained at the Gesù, for the welfare of the faithful and especially of the College boys, who were thus placed under the eyes of the Mother of God and of her Son.

First Pilgrimage. Solemn inauguration of the statue

On January 6, 1878, Mgr Conroy, Delegate Apostolic, had convened in Montreal the whole Hierarchy

of the Province of Quebec for the inauguration of the various faculties of Laval University, Montreal. The following day, the Bishops accepted an invitation to visit St. Mary's College. After the official reception and the dinner, the College Rector (it was precisely Father Cazeau, appointed the previous month), told them the story of the statue and of its recent and Providential arrival in our midst. The prelates were greatly interested in this narrative and at once proceeded to the feet of the Madonna, where they prayed together with the assembled clergy and the College community. This may be said to have been the first pilgrimage to Our Lady of Liesse in Canada. Nor could it have been more solemn or more promising for the future.

The following Spring, Mgr Fabre, Bishop of Montreal, after closing the May devotions at Our Lady of Bonsecours, as was customary, wished to close them by inaugurating the statue of Our Lady of Liesse on May 31. That day the church was thronged. The Bishop presided over the ceremony. There was a sermon followed by a procession in which the statue was borne. Then an act of consecration was read and the statue was raised on its pedestal. This grand manifestation in honor of Our Lady of Liesse was fittingly closed by a solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Cures and spiritual favors

The manifold graces which Our Lady had lavished upon France were renewed in behalf of her children in Canada. We shall relate a few examples in order to increase our readers' confidence in the Mother of God.

A Catholic family of Montreal was distressed to see one of its members forsake the Sacraments and live unmindful of his salvation. Without his knowing it,

they began a novena to Our Lady of Liesse. The young man being of a quiet and retiring disposition, nothing was noticed during the novena. On the last day, his mother found him in his room busy searching for something he had mislaid. Wishing to help him, she asked what it was; he said it was his beads, which he needed that morning. They found them at last. The young man went out earlier than usual and then came back for breakfast. The day before he had been to confession and that morning he went to Holy Communion, without any one suggesting it to him. An ex-voto offered by the grateful family may still be seen near the Holy Image. To this spiritual favor may be added a physical cure.

Mrs. . . N. . . was suffering from a violent headache which gave her no respite either day or night. And no wonder. An internal abscess had formed, baffling all remedies and leaving no hope of recovery. In this extremity she heard of the cures obtained through the intercession of Our Lady of Liesse. She felt moved to have recourse to that good Mother, and requesting a friend to bring her some oil from the lamp burning before the Statue, she began a novena in her honor.

So great was her confidence that she discarded all remedies and would no longer see her doctor: "My doctor", said she, "is Our Lady of Liesse". Our Lady could not spurn such confidence. On one of the days of the novena, while the pain was at its height, Mrs. N. . . applied some of the blessed oil. The effect was instantaneous; it seemed as if an enormous weight was lifted off her head. The pain had disappeared and the invalid was cured.

A still more extraordinary cure was that of Timothy O'Reilly, stricken with paralysis for fifteen months and successively attended and given up by five doctors, two of whom had pronounced him utterly incurable. On being removed to the Hôtel-Dieu, a nun proposed

that he should make a novena to Our Lady of Liesse. He eagerly accepted, said the prayers of the novena every day and, on the last day, was carried to the chapel to hear Mass at Our Lady's altar. He received Holy Communion and while imploring Our Lady to have pity on him, he suddenly felt a violent shock, accompanied by sharp pains. Instantly his limbs relaxed, the blood began to circulate, his body grew warm and he was cured. Kneeling down at once, he thanked Our Lady of Liesse. The next moment, he rose and, walking unaided before the astonished invalids, he returned to the church and made the Stations of the Cross.

Four doctors declared, under oath, that science was powerless in such a case, that the cure had been wrought in an unprecedented, extraordinary way, contrary to what had ever been seen or known in like occurrences.

Other witnesses who were examined, agreed in pronouncing this event a miracle of the first order. What confirmed this opinion was the fact that the young man showed all the signs of one actuated by a good spirit : deep humility, great candor, piety, detachment from worldly things. He thought only of thanking God and Our Lady of Liesse and of taking means to assure his perseverance. "I wish to leave the world", said he, "otherwise I would not think I was doing enough to show my gratitude to Our Lady of Liesse".

Glory be to God through Our Lady of Liesse, and through her also, in union with the merits of her Divine Son, peace to men of good will !

Let us put our full trust in her. Let us beseech her to relieve our bodily pains and still more our spiritual woes. Let us entreat her for the conversion of sinners. May those poor stricken souls hearken to her sweet motherly voice ! May they hasten towards her and thus become disposed to receive pardon, together with

all the graces which the Sacred Heart of her Son Jesus Christ, Our Lord will royally grant them !

In conclusion, we reproduce the "Prayer to Our Lady of Liesse", followed by a short invocation. This prayer, which His Grace the Archbishop of Montreal was pleased to enrich with 100 days' indulgence (July 12, 1920), and this invocation might be recited during a novena to Our Lady of Liesse.



PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LIESSE

O Lord, Our God, grant Thy servants the joy of perfect health of mind and body, and through the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, freedom from all sadness during this life, and after death, the enjoyment of everlasting bliss. We implore these graces through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

Our Lady of Liesse, Cause of our joy,
pray for us.

