CIRCULAR LETTER, No. 39.

OF THE

VERY REVEREND SUPERIOR-GENERAL

OF THE

Congregation of the Holy Cross.

REV. FATHERS AND DEAR BROTHERS IN JESUS CHRIST:

God alone knows how painful I feel the duty I have to fulfill in announcing to you the death of our dear Brother Laurence. Last night, at the close of the Feast of Our Lady of the Seven Dolors, as the College clock struck nine, he gave up his soul to his Creator, fortified by all the helps of our Holy Church, and surrounded by a number of his fellow Religious, Priests and Brothers, who continued to pray around his bed until he had breathed his last. He had been unwell and then sick, for nearly three months, until at last he sank under the weight of his incessant labors, rather from an exhausted nature than from any clearly defined disease. He was in the fifty-seventh year of his age, and in the thirty-second year of his profession.

Brother Laurence was one of the six companions I first brought with me from France, in 1841. Three of this little band have long since gone to their reward; but of the other three, still remaining, none had inspired me with more confidence than the subject of this notice, that he was likely to survive us all; for, more than any of the rest, he possessed a robust constitution, which had naturally given us the hope that after we should have disappeared he might be spared yet awhile to keep his watchful eyes upon the field we had so long cultivated together. God in His Inscrutable designs has ordered it differently; and so he departed this life in the fifty-seventh year of his age. In Him we have the assurance that He will bring the dead in His own time, to the enjoyment of the fruits of their labors and the growth of their virtue. The Community will always cherish the memory of the most ambitious, efficient, and honest citizen. Brother Laurence.

I now offer my congratulations to you all, not only for the loss of the respected Brother, but for the example of the Christian spirit which he has left us, and which, I am sure, will be a source of comfort and joy to you. May God ever be with you all, and bless you with love and charity, and unite you in holy union. May you assist and support each other, and do your duty to God and your neighbor. I believe that you will do your best to accomplish this. The Community loses in Brother Laurence one of its first pillars; but his spirit will not die away with him, or disappear: his virtues and examples shall live for ever on the spot where his name is identified with every acre now cleared, and every building erected with his personal assistance. The neighborhood itself loses one of its hardest pioneers, and one of its most efficient and honest citizens.

As to myself personally, I lose a friend who never refused me any sacrifice, who for thirty-two long years kept himself, without a moment excepted, ever ready and willing, for any call of obedience. I have been aware of his devotedness.

His funeral service will take place to-morrow at three P.M.

May he now rest in peace from his labors!

E. SORIN, C.S.C.
Postscriptum de la Circulaire N° 39.

Notre R.P. Geoffroi du collège St. Joseph de Memramcook nous informe aujourd'hui sous la date du 10 courant, qu'au moment où il allait envoyer à la station du chemin des forêts le corps du P. Hupier pour le faire passer au Canada sur l'ordre de l'Assistan Provincial, les paroissiens de Memramcook une nuitement onlevé le corps; en à l'époque de sa lettre il n'avait pu découvrir encore où les bons Acadiens l'avaient caché. Qui peut mieux nous révéler la générosité qu'inspire la vertu en les profond attachement qu'elle crée sitôt dans les âmes droites! Le P. Hupier n'avait juré à Memramcook que dix mois, sur lesquels il avait fait une absence de deux mois pour accompagner Mgr l'Évêque de Chatham dans la visite de sa mission.

Je n'ai pu faire ces incursions qui confirme si bien tous mes pressentiments.

E. Sorin.