II. From Vincennes to Notre Dame.

The wagon was piled high with trunks and bundles, sacks of bread, some crude furniture, and packages galore wrapped in old copies of the Washington, Indiana, newspaper.

Father Sorin had said Mass at a very early hour and all the Brothers had received Holy Communion. At the end of Mass, Father Sorin, turning to his congregation, spoke in English:

"You will say, with me, now, the prayers for our journey. We leave St. Peter's and go to the North. It is a long journey—over 250 miles. It will not be easy. You must not forget us, you, who remain here. Pray for us every day. Pray to the Mother of God that she may prosper us on our way!"

Then, he knelt at the altar and placed his whole being in the heart of Mary.

Besides the laden wagon, drawn by two horses, there was another contraption, more like a hay-rack, drawn by the oxen. It, too, was piled high with farm implements and other necessaries.

At last, after touching farewells, Father Sorin mounted the wagon, with three of the Brothers. His first act of that journey was to reach into his pocket and bring forth his rosary. The beads passed through his mittened fingers, as the little cavalcade went down the hill toward Washington. In the ox-cart, there were four Brothers.

With Father Sorin, was young Brother Gatian. He was a lively, cheerful soul, and when Father Sorin had finished his rosary, Brother Gatian spoke up:

"Father, it's just a year since we came to this country. Then, all of us were French. Now, we have lots of Irish with us!"

"Yes," replied Father Sorin, "and since they know the language much better than we do, they will be of great assistance to us in the North. See, I have brought Brother Patrick and Brother Peter, for they are both good farmers. Brother Basil is a good smithy, and Brother William a splendid carpenter! And they were all born in Ireland!"

"They have a good spirit and all of them pray much at their work!"

"We will need all their spirit, their Irish spirit!"

At nightfall, that 16th of November, 1842 when the oxen had finally caught up with the horse drawn vehicle, they had made only six miles. The road was icy, and at one point, just when they were nearing the top of a hill, the oxen slipped backwards, and the whole procession landed in one wild heap at the bottom. Things had to be repacked. The second time, they all made it.

But now it was getting on toward night. They must find some shelter. They stayed that night with a Catholic farmer, and said their prayers around the fireplace.

The farmer was an Irishman. As they sat there together, the farmer said he was sorry to see Father Sorin go.

"Oi was gettin' to understand ye a bit! Ah, may God be good to ye! It's Our Lady will be lookin' out for ye!"

"Amen!" echoed Brother Patrick.