AUTUMN.

Written for the CATHOLIC JOURNAL.

Autumn is upon us again. The leaves are commencing to detach themselves from the trees and, leaving the resting places they have had during the summer, descend gradually to the earth from which they drew their sustenance and with which they will soon be assimilated; the air grows chill and bleak; the fall winds whistle mournfully through the trees, now stripped of their foliage; the traveler wraps his great coat closer around him and shivers as he plies his way toward his destination; the familiar stove begins to make its appearance in the street car and office; how cheerful is the appearance of the fire in the grate! All these indications warn us that autumn is fast o'ertaking us. With how many beautiful studies does the autumn furnish us. When we stroll through the forest and, with the fallen leaves rustling beneath our feet, gaze upward at the sky, tinted so beautifully at this season, with no foliage on the denizens of the wood to obstruct our view; when we cast our eyes about and note the giant guardians of the waste denuded of their covering; when we note the paling of the verdure on the ground o'er which we tread; then the thought comes over us that the world must have presented some such appearance before the Great Creator imbued it with life and beauty. Then how vividly would the contrast between the spring with its balmy breezes and vitality-giving force, quickening all into life, and the work accomplished by God when He planted trees and flowers on what before was a bleak and forlorn waste, and made it "a thing of beauty and a joy forever," flash into our minds.

One more thought is brought before our mind. Some of us may have reached the autumn of life: others are in the spring and some in the summer.

Now, what have we who are in the autumn to show? Have we always obeyed God's commands, always tried to do our duty toward our Holy Church, always did as we would be done by, always striven not to lead others into temptation, always honored and respected our parents; always loved and endeavored to smooth the way of our companion on life's weary way, always inculcated in our children a respect for our faith, and have we always lived so that they, by our example, would follow our footsteps and be earnest, devoted Catholics? If we have not, then why not? What reason could we possibly adduce at the judgment day, now rapidly drawing nigh, and from which there is no avenue of escape, what excuse can we give for our derelictions? When the irretrievable past rises before us like a spectre, will it bring joy or sorrow to our souls? When the graveyard of memory gives up its dead, will what pertains to our past life entail everlasting happiness or eternal misery? These are questions that only we can answer. It is to be hoped the answers will be pleasing, not sad.

To us who are in the summer of life, is addressed the query, "What will the harvest be?" With what have we planted the garden of our hearts? Was seed sown that will bring forth a glorious harvest of rich and luscious fruit, of devotion to Jesus and His Blessed Mother, of noble deeds, of acts of self-denial, of endeavors to make life pleasanter and easier for your fellow-men, of living so that, when this life is o'er, we will be prepared for the eternity that is to succeed? If we have so planted the garden of our hearts, then we should till it assiduously and carefully, root out all nauseous weeds that would be likely to choke the grain springing up; and when the harvest is come, we will not be harassed with thoughts of a poor crop.

To us who are in the springtime of life should come the thought, "How shall my life be spent?" We answer: Follow closely in the footsteps of our Blessed Saviour; be earnest and devoted in the service of our Holy Church; heed carefully the instructions of your parents, teachers and spiritual advisers; make resolutions, and endeavor—by Divine help to keep them, too—that your life will be of some use to the world at large and productive of happiness to yourself. For what life can be a truly happy one save that of a Christian, who finds pleasure for himself in doing good to his fellow-men?

With these few thoughts we conclude, and hope that autumn will bring thoughts to all of another and a better world, where the seasons shall never change and where everlasting summer reigns for those who die a holy death.—*News.*

New Publications.

We have received a copy of "Two Spiritual Retreats for Sisters," by Rev. E. Zollner, translated by Rev. Augustine Wirth, O. S. B. In the preface the translator says: "Year after year religious communities of women are increasing in our country, who, by their rule or constitution, are obliged to practise the exercises of a spiritual retreat, at least once a year. Now, it is often difficult to secure a priest, secular or regular, to conduct these spiritual exercises. Again, the number of postulants or novices who wish to prepare themselves by a retreat for the novitiate or profession is frequently so small, that a Master of retreat cannot well be engaged for them. In either case, a book supplying systematic meditation or considerations cannot but be welcome to Sisters as a great help in making a retreat without the loving voice of the priest. Perhaps such a book is welcome even to the priest himself, who, charged with the many exercises of a retreat, cannot always find time to prepare meditations suited to the occasion."

A Souvenir Volume.

With the approval of His Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, Mr. W. H. Hughes, of the *Michigan Catholic*, has undertaken the task of publishing a full and authentic report of the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the United States, the proceedings of the first American Catholic congress, including the papers read, speeches made, resolutions adopted and the ceremonies attending the dedication of the Catholic University November 13, next. The volume will be dedicated to Pope Leo XIII and to the Catholic hierarchy and laity of the United States. A noticeable feature in it will be the portraits of the archbishops and bishops of the country, chronologically arranged, and executed in the highest style of the engraver's art. Major Henry F. Brownson, LL.D., chairman of the committee on papers of the American Catholic Congress, will assist in editing the volume.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Foley approves of the "Souvenir" and kindly offers a suggestion:

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE,
DETROIT, September 28, 1889.

William H. Hughes, Esq.: DEAR SIR—I am pleased to learn that you have undertaken the publication of a *Souvenir Volume* of the approaching Catholic Congress, and of the ceremonies attending the Celebration of the Centenary of the Church in this country and the dedication of the Catholic University.

Would it not be well if you could publish with the volume the cards of the Catholic educational institutions of the United States. This would be in line with the purpose of the work, as it would be, as it were, a centennial exhibit of Catholic Educational Progress. The presence of such cards in the volume would be a great gratification to the heart of the Holy Father when he would inspect the elegant copy you design to send to him, and it would be no less gratifying to all the members of the American Hierarchy who would, perhaps for the first time in their lives, see this exhibit of *all* the Catholic educational institutions in our beloved country.

† JOHN S. FOLEY,
Bishop of Detroit.

The Catholic Church is well represented in Salt Lake City among the Mormons. The Sisters of the Holy Cross have two very fine institutions. St. Mary's Academy, a large, fine building, with beautiful surroundings, in the middle of the city, is a boarding school for young ladies. Some of the pupils are daughters of wealthy Mormons. The new hospital of the Sisters of the Holy Cross is one of the handsomest and largest buildings in the Western States. The hospital is all finished and has many invalids. The Sisters purchased ten acres of land in the suburbs of the city about six years ago for the sum of $6,000, and now the property is worth $200,000. The Bishop has also established All Hallows School for boys, and has just purchased a fine piece of property in a central part of the city for a Cathedral. He begins to see the fruits of his hardships and labor fifteen years ago, when he first went among the Mormons.—*Dakota Catholic.*

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