

## DIED,

At his residence in Terre Haute, Indiana, on the 25th of May 1857, Rev. SIMON PETIT LA LUMIERE, in the 53d year of his age and the 26th of his Priesthood. Requiescat in pace—Amen.

The loss which the Diocese of Vincennes and especially the congregation of Terre Haute, has sustained in the death of the Rev. Mr. LA LUMIERE, will awaken feelings of profound sorrow in the hearts of thousands of faithful Catholics, who have known and loved him as a good and zealous Priest. The friends of the mission will, with equal sincerity, regret that the Bishop and clergy of Indiana should be so soon deprived of a devoted and efficient fellow laborer, and his people, of a vigilant and energetic pastor. God grant, in his mercy, that his place be supplied by a successor, who may be able to continue and augment the good he has done in the mission.

The respect of all who knew him, and the honor in which he maintained the dignity of the sacerdotal character, in his ministerial duties, and in his intercourse with the world, endeared him to both clergy and laity. He was made, through divine grace, a model of the virtues he was sent to teach. He has deserved well of the whole Diocese; and many who are faithful to his instructions, and to whose good works give life and add lustre to the profession of the true faith, will remember that to him, next after God, they owe a sacred debt of gratitude. His works remain and will be the best monument to perpetuate the memory of his meritorious life and labors in the service of God, for the good of his neighbor.

He was born at Vincennes on the 18th of September, 1804, and educated in the seminary of Bardstowa, Kentucky, under the venerable Bishops Flaget and David, and ordained in 1831 as a Priest of that Diocese, which then included the State of Indiana and the eastern half of Illinois, afterwards the Diocese of Vincennes. Elevated to the priesthood, he was sent back to his native State as a missionary. From his residence in Daviess county, he visited, with unwearied zeal and patience, the Catholics scattered throughout the vast territory above mentioned.

On the arrival of Bishop Brute, in the autumn of 1834, to take possession of his new episcopal see, Mr. La Lumiere was the only Priest of his Diocese. That holy prelate appointed him pastor of his Cathedral Church—it may well be said, as a matter of necessity. But such were the duties attached to this new position, that nothing but an absolute necessity could justify the offer or acceptance of a charge so responsible. He succeeded in fulfilling the expectations of the good Bishop, by twice visiting the whole Diocese in the years 1833 and 1833. This timely visitation was a source of great consolation, and the encouragement given by Episcopal authority, to the then resident Catholics, prepared the way for the future congregations which must soon be founded. The emigrants seeking a home in the West, and the laborers on the public works, just then commenced in the State of

Indiana and Illinois, added largely to the numbers of the Catholic body. His unremitting care in the instruction of the young, and his exertions to establish order and increase good example in families and neighborhoods, was the means of saving many to the church. His long course of five years of solitary wanderings ceased on the return of Bishop Brute from Europe, with a number of clergymen for the service of the mission. The congregations of Daviess county were again assigned to him as his field of labor, and in that mission the present Bishop was his assistant for the space of two years. The friendship then formed between them never diminished, but on the contrary, increased steadily from year to year, until his former assistant, now his Bishop, received his last sigh, and after being edified by his virtues to the last, closed his eyes in death. During his stay in that place, he completed the church of St. Simon, in Washington, thus leaving that portion of his flock, which formed the new parish, in possession of an excellent edifice suitable to every requirement of the Catholic worship. He left them the better gift of the good instruction he had given, and the example he had shown them. They are not, and surely never will be, unmindful of the man of God, who was, indeed, to them a good shepherd.

In the mean time, on the death of the sainted Brute, he was left by him with the title and authority of administrator to govern the Diocese until the arrival of a successor. On the arrival of the Right Rev. Bishop De La Hailandiere, he surrendered into his hands the power which he had held and exercised, to the complete satisfaction of all the clergy.

In 1842 he was appointed pastor of Terre Haute, where he continued to reside until his death. The establishment of a school for girls, under the charge of the Sisters of Providence, the enlargement of the church to double its former size, the acquisition of a suitable cemetery, and the enterprise (for the erection of a school for boys,) in which he was engaged when called upon to give an account of his stewardship, were the principal effects of his untiring perseverance in the temporal order, during the time of his pastorate in Terre Haute. It should not be omitted, in speaking of his merits, in connection with this congregation, to state that he has, with the concurrent assistance of the Bishop, procured a house every way suitable for the residence of the pastor. He was sent to Terre Haute when that church was destitute, and the faithful few in number—he has left it provided with every element of prosperity.

He died of a broken constitution, his health having commenced to fail some ten or twelve years ago; but the event was precipitated by the cold of the past winter, which affected him severely. The presence of the Right Rev. Bishop De St. Palais and the Very Rev. John Corbe, V. G., consoled and strengthened in his last days, the early companion of their labors on the Wabash.

He received the sacraments from the hands of the Bishop, and prepared himself tranquilly to pass out of this life in the sweet confidence which faith alone can give. Admirable indeed are the ways of God, and great his mercies to those who love and serve Him! Here we see a man naturally timid, who was always powerfully affected by the thought of death, and may be said to have lived in the constant fear of it, resigning himself to that dread call, with the calmness of a martyr, and with a resolution truly heroic, at the same time that he felt, as he thought, the force of returning health. The only care he manifested from the moment he knew he must die, was to advise those who visited him, to be firm in their adherence to the true faith, and to lead lives worthy of it. When all were weeping around him, he alone unmoved, and tranquil, rallied his remaining strength, and exclaimed with an energy and emphasis which all who have known him, will be able to call to mind: "Never mind me, my friends, it is my time to go, but be good Catholics. Stick to your colors and God will be with you."

His death was calm and peaceful as the disposition which preceded it.

The remains of the deceased were interred in the church, on the 27th, being accompanied to the tomb by an immense concourse of the inhabitants of the city, as well as by his whole congregation. The Right Rev. Bishop, desiring to render every honor possible to his departed friend, and to give all the solemnity to the funeral, which the ritual of the Catholic Church expresses with such sublime grief, hope, and tenderness, in the last acts of her solicitude for her children, determined to perform the sad, but consoling duty, of committing the mortal tenement of the worthy Priest to its last resting place. It was due, said the Bishop, to the oldest Priest of the Diocese, to the first son of Indiana, who had been raised to that dignity, but still more to the merits of the man of God—for such he was. He could not be satisfied with anything less as a testimony of his respect for the clergy of his Diocese, who with him, have borne, and still bear, the burden of the day, and the heats in the cultivation of the vineyard of the Lord entrusted to his care.

At Mass the Very Rev. John Corbe, V. G., was assistant priest. Rev. Deydier, of Evansville, and Rev. W. Engeln, of Vincennes, officiated as deacon and sub-deacons. Rev. E. Audran, pastor of the Cathedral, was master of ceremonies. The excellent choir was assisted by Rev. Messrs. Chasse and Urcun. The Rev. Mr. Deydier delivered an address on the occasion, from the text of Revelations xiv. ch. 13 v.

Thus passed to his reward the first priest of the Diocese of Vincennes.

The character of the Rev. Mr. La Lumiere was distinguished for innocense of life, zeal, perseverance and great industry in all his undertakings. He was devoted to the fulfilment of the duties of his priestly office. He took, when occasion served, an active interest in the temporal advancement of the members of his flock. He was self-denying and disinterested to a remarkable degree. He possessed the happy talent of turning his natural and acquired faculties to the best account. He left not an enemy. His early labors and patient fidelity to his duties in his later years inspire his friends with consolation and hope. May he rest in peace.

W. D.