

that his success lay in the missionary field, and in accordance with this wish he was assigned to the province of St. Louis. It should be understood that the Jesuit Order in the United States is divided into four sections, known as the Provinces of New York, San Francisco, New Orleans, and St. Louis.

The reverend gentleman having been assigned to St. Louis, he took charge of St. Xavier's Church in that city. At that time St. Louis was quite a thriving town, considerably ahead of Chicago. This city was then only known as a little trading post. During his stay in St. Louis Father Damen was also identified with the St. Louis University. Father Damen was remarkably successful as a missionary. He came to this city in 1855. He was then known in St. Louis as a faithful worker in Christ's vineyard, and his name was mentioned with reverence in every Catholic family. During his many years' residence as a Jesuit missionary in Chicago Father Damen became deeply loved by the Catholics, among whom he was looked upon as a father in the sense that they had confidence in him and could look up to him always for consolation and advice. He was ever ready to labor in behalf of charity, and his voice and pen were always at disposal for that purpose. He worked without ceasing, almost, in behalf of charity and religion. Father Damen introduced the Sons of Jesus Order into this city, and it was he who gained for it a strong foothold, and he worked assiduously to maintain it. In 1857 Father Damen first gained the consent of the city authorities to erect a Jesuit church in this city and ~~where he erected, which he did on West~~ ~~17th Street, where the present Jesuit~~ church stands, next to St. Ignatius College. Here he erected a temporary place of worship and drew around him a large congregation. Father Damen was far-seeing and far-reaching. When he bought the present site of the Church of the Holy Family, nineteen years ago, it was a suburb of Chicago City proper. It was a vast, open prairie. At that time, people laughed at his investment. But, with his great piety and love of God, Father Damen was shrewd in business and saw the benefits that would accrue to his society by purchasing largely of the then valueless land, and would raise up around him an immense following. How truly Father Damen predicted can be best judged from seeing the effects of his labor. "By their fruits ye shall know them." He labored earnestly and faithfully during his twenty-one years' missionary life in Chicago, and at times against tremendous odds. At the first he had a rough and unpromising field of labor, but his prodigious zeal and energy speedily effected a wonderful change. He organized missions, sodalities, confraternities, and benevolent associations, he utilized the zeal and talents of every Catholic with whom he came in contact. One of his greatest efforts was the founding of Ignatius College, formally opened in 1870.

Some time has elapsed since Father Damen participated in active work here. He worked for a time at St. Louis and from there went in turn to a number of Western towns. He was a born missionary, reveled in mission work, and was engaged in it when he died.

Father Damen was a man of imposing presence, with a strong and kindly face. As an orator he had but few equals, and as a potent worker, a man of power among his people, he was almost unrivaled.

FATHER DAMEN IS DEAD.

The Well-Known Priest Passes Away at Creighton, Neb.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 1.—Father Damen, S. J., died at Creighton College at 9:45 this evening from a stroke of paralysis received about five months ago at Cheyenne while on his way to the Pacific coast.

The Rev. Father Arnold Damen was born in Ralston in 1815. He was a religious en-

thusiast while even a child, and he had no sooner reached the requisite years than he was admitted to the order of the Sons of Jesus as a novice, at the same time attending a college belonging to the brotherhood, when he studied for the priesthood. In due time he was fully received into the order and was duly ordained. Father



FATHER DAMEN. Damen was a man of peculiar impulses, generous in heart, and who had a love for souls. It was this spirit which led him to believe