



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ORPHANAGE, CHARLOTTETOWN

St. Vincent De Paul Orphanage

During the year we have watched with interest the erection of the new St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage which is situated only a few hundred yards from the scene of our studies. The construction of this building was begun early last spring and was pushed forward with all possible speed during the summer and autumn months, with the result that the exterior was entirely completed before winter set in, and much of the interior work has already been done. It is expected that it will be ready for occupation early in the coming summer.

Casting a retrospective glance over the history of this praiseworthy institution, we find that the project of establishing a Catholic orphanage near Charlottetown was first proposed, some five or six years ago, by Rev. Laughlin McDonald, now chaplain of the Charlottetown Hospital. This proposal met with the hearty approval of the late Bishop McDonald and, under his direction, the Morris farm, which adjoins the college property, was purchased, being paid for by the voluntary subscriptions of the Catholic clergy of this Diocese. The large dwelling which was on the premises was converted into an orphanage and has since furnished a home for a number of destitute children, who share in the tender and affectionate care of Mother St. Elizabeth and her devoted sisters. The number of children in the institution has been on an average about twenty-two.

Realizing the importance of the work being carried on by the good sisters in attending to the corporal, mental and spiritual needs of their little charges, and also the necessity of better accommodations than those afforded by an ordinary dwelling house, our present beloved Bishop, although engaged in the reconstruction of St. Dunstan's Cathedral and the remodeling of the episcopal residence, undertook, last spring, the erection of the handsome brick edifice which is to be the new home of the orphans. Rev. Joseph Gallant is

chaplain of the orphanage and to his untiring zeal the success which has heretofore attended the institution is, in a large measure, due.

The new home, which is a three story building with basement, is eighty-three feet in length by sixty in breadth and will provide ample accomodation for a hundred or more children. It contains class rooms, dormitories, chapel and infirmary, as well as recreation rooms where the children may take exercise indoors when the inclemency of the weather forbids their doing so in the open air.

An undertaking of this kind necessarily involves a great deal of expenditure and, notwithstanding the generous contributions made by the people of the province, both clergy and laity, much of the expense of construction still remains to be met. The work being done by the good people of Charlottetown who, from the opening of the orphanage, have so geuerously supplied it with bread, is worthy of special mention. The care of the little ones of the flock is a cause that should appeal to all. No other work of charity can be more pleasing to the loving Heart of the Good Shepherd, or more certain to draw down upon all who assist in it the choicest blessing of Him who has said: "Suffer little children to come unto me for such is the Kingdom of Heaven."



Weariness can snore upon the flint, when resty sloth finds the down pillow hard.



Emulation admires and strives to imitate great actions ; envy is only moved to malice.



Genius is nothing more than our common faculties refined by labour and diligence to a greater intensity.