

stands for everything in the history of Camillus de Lellis. Constantine, after the victory, constituted his Order of knighthood from the chiefs of the Christian Legion, as the Christian Order of the Red Cross. The Crusader, of course, wore his cross of red cloth upon his right shoulder. The military Order of Knights Templar wore a white habit with a Red Cross. When Camillus chose the Red Cross for his followers it was to him the military sign of the Crusader, as he himself had done battle against the Turk. Camillus received the Red Cross from the long line of Christian soldiers, and he has handed it down to us through the wars of four centuries, by the hands of his spiritual sons, who have meanwhile carried it on to almost every battlefield of Europe, and finally into the French, Belgian, Italian, and German trenches of our own day and our own war. From the days of Constantine to the days of Foch, Christendom has had the Red Cross."

Further, we read that "Camillus not only chose the Red Cross as we know it now, for the distinguishing badge on the habit of his Order, but he was the first to send out upon the field of battle Red Cross workers composing a Field Ambulance in the modern sense."

The author reminds us that "one of the most beautiful gifts of God is the eternal and infinite variety of the Saints. . . . He who would appreciate truly a saint must select him from amongst his fellows, place him in a jar filled with the clear water of truth, and carrying him into the chamber of his heart, inhale the sweetness of his perfume with devotion, interest and affection."

"Moreover, the simple eye is essential to any continued stay in this wonderful garden of the saints, and the simple eye looks out from the child's heart."

Camillus at first tried to enter the Order of the Capuchins, but it will be realised that he had much to learn before he developed the qualities which later earned him the title of Saint, and he was refused by his uncle as a potential Capuchin. He had contracted a bad leg in the wars and it was "the shame of a soldier going about with a bandaged leg" that drove him to Rome after his uncle's refusal to accept him as a potential Capuchin at Aquila. Camillus heard there were skilful surgeons at the hospital of S. Giacomo, and, hoping they might be able to cure him, the penniless boy turned limping towards the Eternal City. All this doubtless explains why he placed himself in the hospital of St. Giacomo as a servant."

"But as 'the habit does not make the monk' so a vow does not produce the spirit of a Capuchin. After some months the superintendent of the hospital lost all patience

with Camillus 'because of his violent temper, his always picking quarrels with the other servants, and his unbridled passion for gambling, making him abandon the sick, and care nothing for their sufferings.' The superintendent's decision to dismiss him was made absolute when, after many warnings, he discovered one day a pack of cards under the miscreant's pillow."

So Camillus went off again to the wars. The Venetian Republic was at war with the Turk, and Camillus "held various offices both naval and military, under this government, and went through many dangers, both on sea and on land."

"As the years passed, however, he grew spiritually to the strength of a giant. The memory of what he had once

been was ever in his mind, and helped him to attain to that genuine humility which is the touchstone of sanctity. After years of the most heroic self-sacrifice, when his Order had been firmly established in Italy, and the standard of the treatment of the sick raised nearly all over the world by its noble efforts, he was complimented one day by some people, who told him how happy they were to have seen and known him. "And what have you known," he demanded at once, "but a cripple and a monster."

We have quoted at length from this record of St. Camillus, and his "Ministers of the Sick" and commend the book to all who would know more of this interesting Red Cross Saint.

Our illustration is from the charming illustrated booklet designed and presented by Miss Itta Frascara at the International Tuberculosis Congress at Rome last year.

FIGLIE DI S. CAMILLO.

"The Order of the Camillians (Ministers of the Sick) felt long ago the need of Sisters, who, in the spirit of St. Camillus, would consecrate themselves to assist

the poor sick, but as the old Third Order (Tertiaries) had been extinguished about the end of the XVIII century, the Order could not accomplish this merciful design.

In 1889 the Order commissioned the Rev. Fr. Luigi Tessa to revive the old institution which in its period of existence had given such proofs of heroic sacrifice in Italy and elsewhere. Providentially Father Tessa made the acquaintance in Rome of a pious lady, Giuditta Vannini, in whom he found all the necessary gifts to trust in her hands the important mission of founding an Institute of Charity. The first daughters of St. Camillus . . . began at once to show their zeal of charity towards the poor sick, assisting them in their houses or receiving them into their own Religious house."



ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS, 1550-1614.

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