

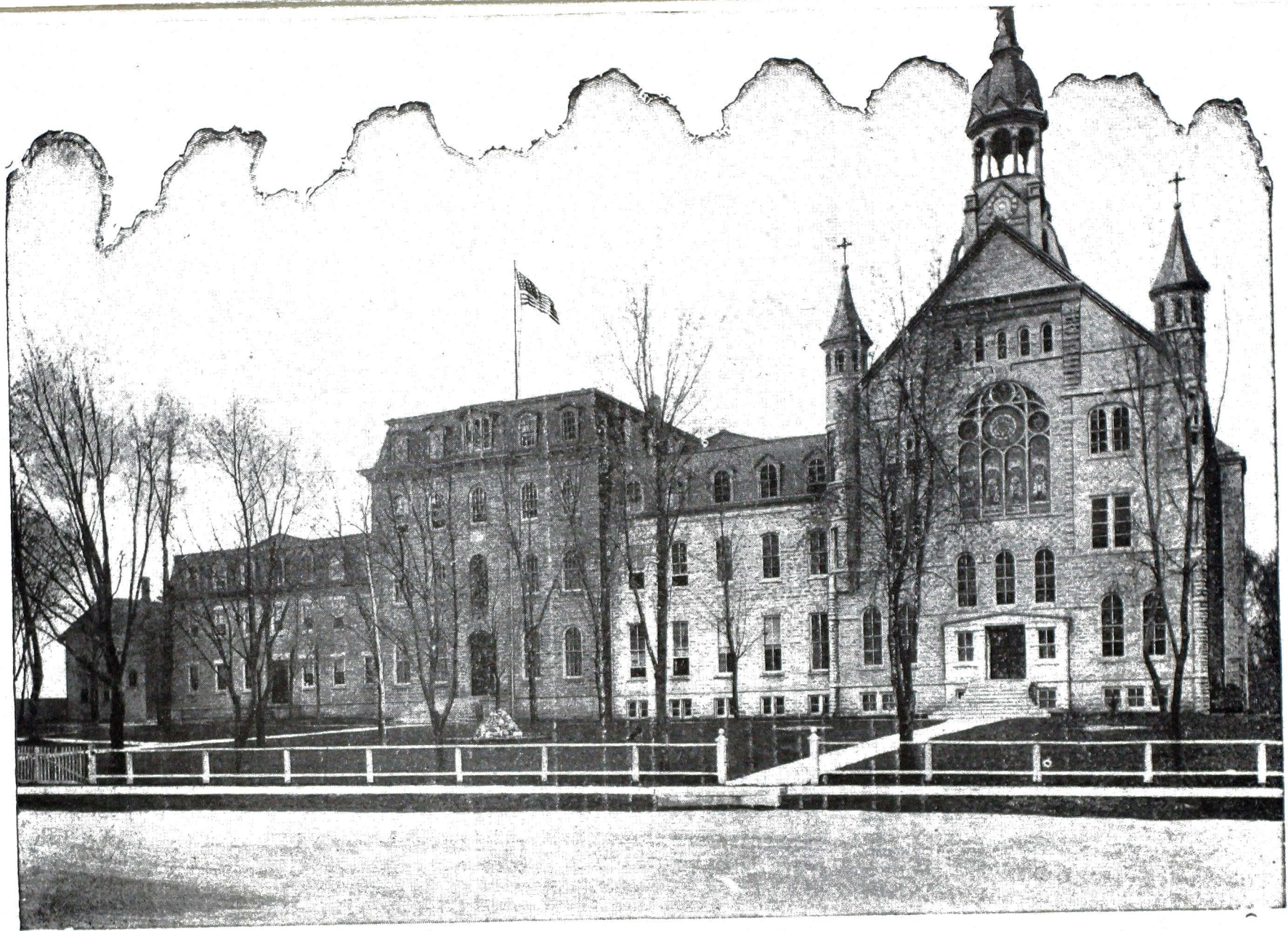


## **ST. VIATEUR'S COLLEGE DESTROYED BY FIRE**

### **No Lives Lost--Gymnasium Saved**

This is the saddest chapter in the history of this institution, for it must record the total destruction of the college buildings on the fateful evening of Feb. 21st. That evening the students and many of the members of the faculty had been witnessing a game of basket ball, played in the gymnasium. After the game all came into the college for evening prayer. It was then nearly 8 o'clock. A pronounced smell of smoke on the third floor of the main building aroused suspicion that there was fire somewhere. The alarm was immediately sounded and the breeding nest of the fire was discovered in a private room toward the north end of the third corridor, a room occupied by Shiels Brothers. Under the judicious leadership of Father Bergin and Father Ryan fire-fighting brigades of students, seminarians and brothers were organized, who plied the Babcock extinguishers, and with fine courage used every available means of quenching the blaze. Soon the villagers were upon the scene lending valuable assistance. The fire departments of Kankakee and Bradley hurried to the rescue of the college. But in spite of the heroic efforts made by the well organized bands of students and villagers and firemen it soon became painfully evident that our fire-fighting equipments were totally inadequate to even arrest the progress of the blaze. Less than half an hour after the fire was detected, fiendish forked tongues of flame were dancing on the roof of the main building. Once and even twice while the water supply lasted it was thought that the fire fighters held the fiend in check and would be able to control it, but it seemed only to be gathering





### BEFORE FIRE.

St. Viator's College was established in Bourbonnais in 1865. The school was first taught in a two story stone building, forty by sixty feet, built for the district school and purchased by the trustees of the college. The building soon became too small and additions were made, the building shown in the cut being the result.





FRONT VIEW OF RUINS.

This view was taken the morning after the fire. It shows the



strength for a vicious leap into the open, where it could do its work unmolested. From the moment it became certain that the progress of the fire could not be arrested, orders were given to the students to begin to save their effects, and the greatest care was taken to have every student vacate the buildings before there was any danger for their lives.

The cause of the fire is unknown. There had been no student on the third floor for two hours when the fire was discovered. No one was allowed or needed any oil lamp. The entire institution was lighted with electricity. A possible theory is that the fire originated from crossed electric wires, but this is not more than merely probable. All wires were carefully insulated and set by specialists in this line of work. It is possible, however, for these complicated arrangements to get out of order. Some two or three years ago a blaze was discovered in the minimis' dormitory, where the transformer was located. This apparatus was thereafter placed outside the building, where it could cause no harm. The large wire transmitting the current to the gymnasium entered the main building at the north end of the third floor corridor and turned in the neighborhood of the room where fire originated.

In consequence of the hypothesis that the fire had sprung from the electric lighting apparatus, the main wire was cut so as to lessen the danger of spreading the fire to the other buildings through the electric wires. Darkness ensued while students were carrying down their belongings and helping to save the property of the institution. In spite of the darkness, which was now relieved only by the light of a flickering candle here and there, excellent order was maintained among those doing the salvage, and it was due to this that we have not to deplore any broken limbs, nor even any serious bruises.

It was now clear that all the college buildings which were connected together were to become the prey of that hungry fiend. From the solid old building the fire leaped into the chapel wing and thence to the chapel itself. Detonations, the bursting of pipes and the crashing of great iron pillars, the falling of heavy marble altars down from the chapel to the basement, the rain of stained glass from the beautiful windows of the chapel, all attested the furious



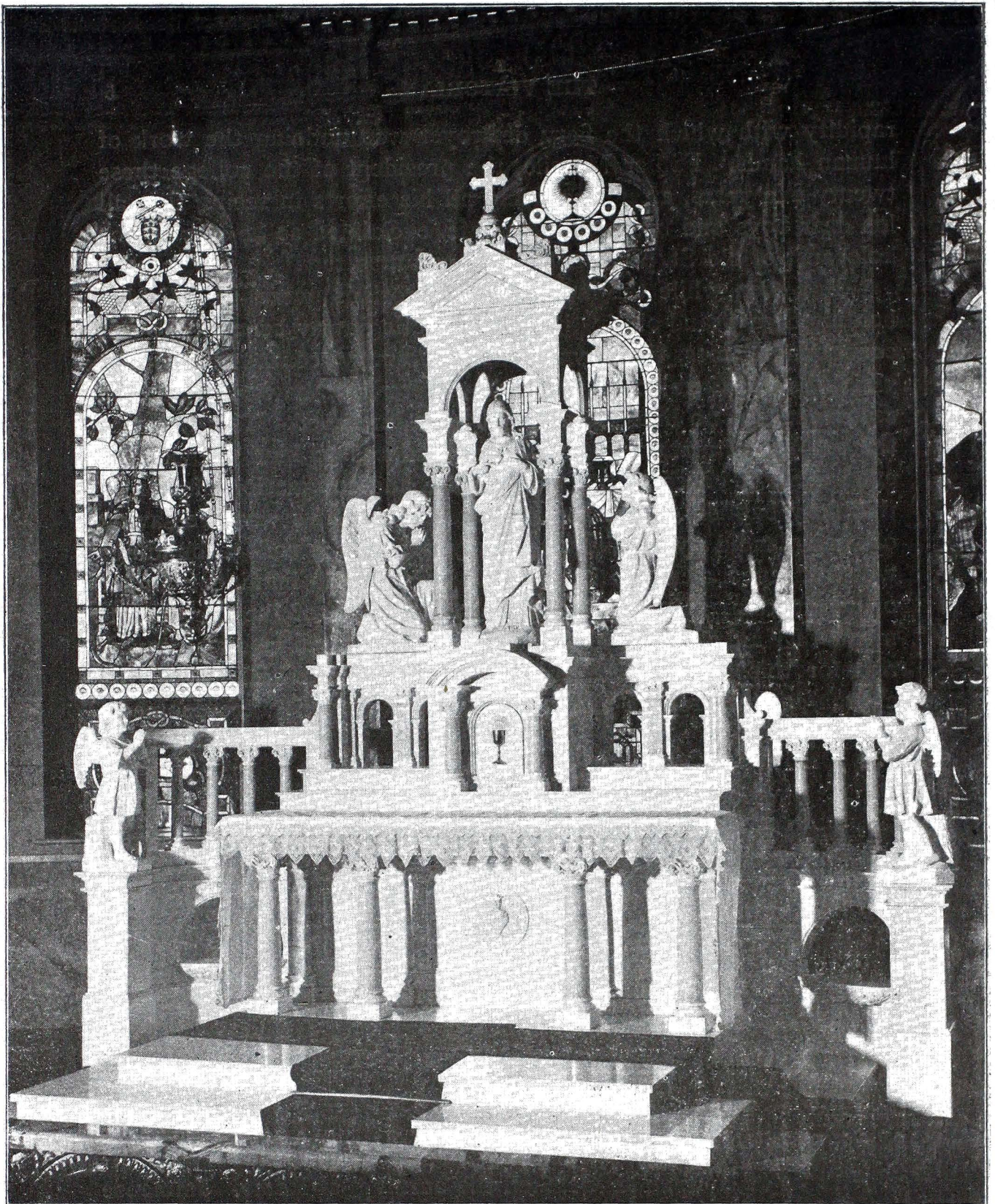
rapidity with which the fiery destroyer was undoing the work of human hands. Father Marsile, the president of the college these twenty-five years, after employing all his efforts in seeing that all his dear boys and brethren were safe, exclaimed as he viewed the holocaust of old St. Viateur's, "Fiat voluntas tua!"

But even while the industrious Viatorians were pitifully beholding their grand old institution crumbling away beneath the fast consuming flames, there was one supremely consoling thought which helped them to bear the blow more bravely, and it was the assurance that no lives were lost or even imperiled. This fact was the subject of many fervent thanks rendered to kind Providence, even while it chose to try the patience and resignation of men in this fiery baptism. Another cause of thankfulness was the saving of the splendid gymnasium, the only one of the college buildings which escaped, although it was for a long time in imminent danger of destruction. Through the timely assistance of the fire departments of Kankakee and Bradley the parish church was also saved, and for this preservation are we all duly thankful. Had the church caught fire, the presbytery and the convent were doomed.

### IT WAS A PROUD FIRE.

As there was not the slightest breath of air stirring, the burning buildings formed a solid column of fire that rose straight up into the heavens nearly 200 feet, and the disdainful flames seemed not inclined to feed on aught but the most princely morsel in Bourbonnais. It was a proud fire; its towering crests could be seen for 20 miles around on the level prairie and in spite of the heavy condition of the roads attracted scores of residents from such distant points as St. George, Manteno and Twelve Mile Grove, who could not resist the drawing power of the most spectacular blaze ever witnessed in Kankakee county. It was a costly, but a grand illumination, from which one might judge what had been the imperial delight of Nero as he watched the burning of Rome. Immense crowds of citizens from Kankakee hurried to the scene to view the conflagration and to offer their sympathy and assistance. A noticeable feature of the vast throng which assembled on the vil-





### LEGRIS MEMORIAL ALTAR.

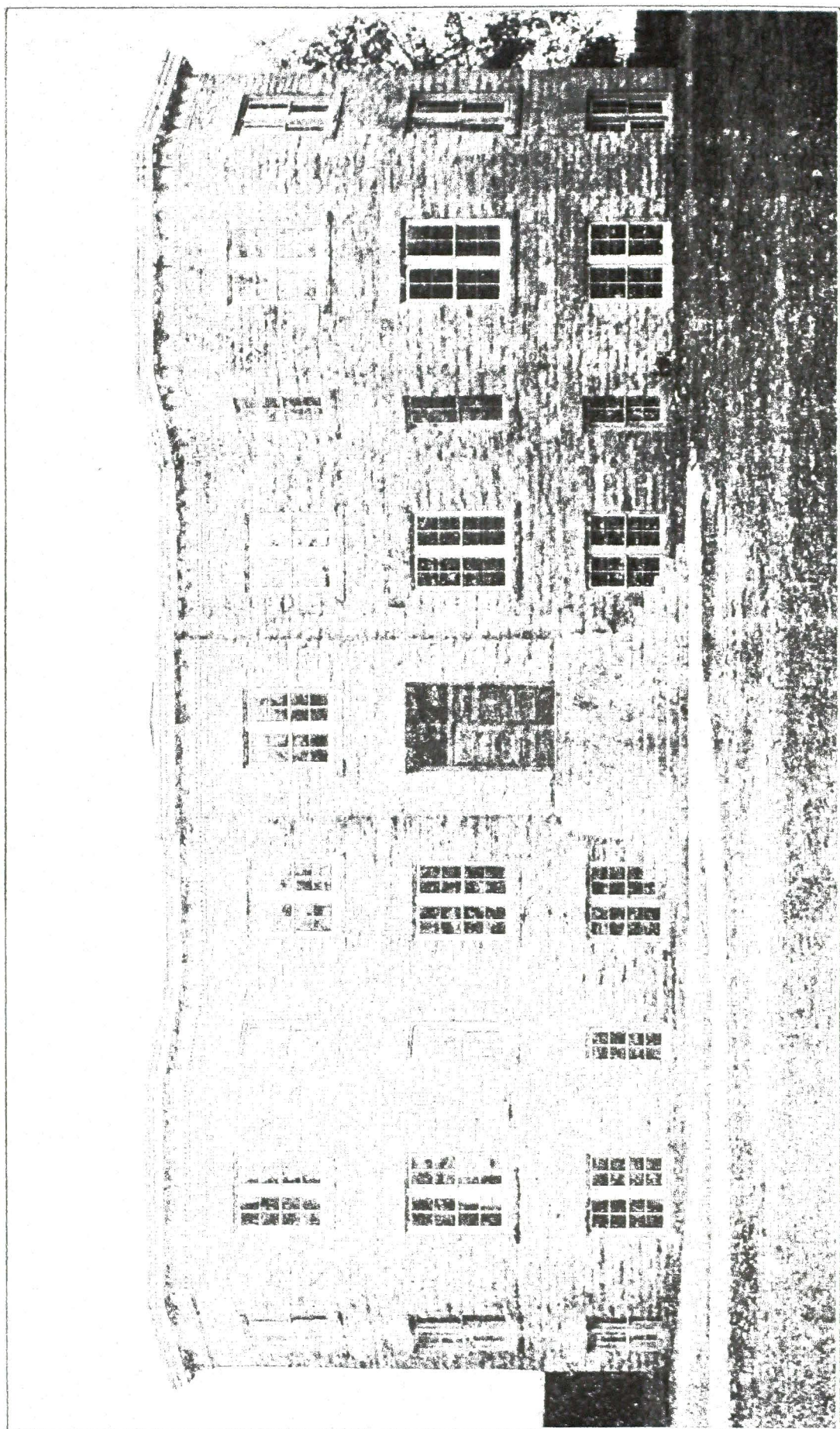
This beautiful marble altar, which was burned Wednesday, was part of the Roy Memorial Chapel. It was donated to the college by Mrs. Joseph Legris and was built two years ago. Its value was estimated at \$3,000. Broken part of it are in the ruins, but they are practically worthless.



lage streets was the impressive silence which prevailed among that great multitude. No cries, not even a continuous conversation, but silence, broken now and again by a subdued exclamation of pity or a sob of regret. It seemed as though all thought that in the presence of the majesty of a great scourge like this the proper attitude was that of silent resignation and prayer.

The sight of that huge mass of devouring flames was so terrible in its grandeur that one could not fail to be profoundly impressed with man's littleness and weakness when his handiwork, accomplished through the patient labor of years, it reduced to naught but a heap of ashes in the brief space of a few hours. It was in this attitude of humble submission to the divine will that the Viatorians beheld the passing away of old St. Viateur's, round about which their hearts were fastened by so many strong cords. In silent stupor the villagers, whose efforts had failed to save from the flames the pride of Bourbonnais, saw this idol of their inmost hearts wrenched from them by the pitiless fiend and could scarcely reconcile themselves to the thought of the insupportable insignificance of Bourbonnais without the college. It would no longer be Bourbonnais, but the commonest of country hamlets. Their depression was one of those deep sentiments which find their proper expression in tears, and we saw them glistening in many a well known face. Brave and loyal folk! They had been with the college from its beginnings, they had helped its growth and applauded its progress; they had taught their children to prize it as a family glory, and now alas! it was deserting them. They felt as if the tutelary deity of their happy village was winging its flight to other worlds forever. It had been through its great voice the safeguard of their peaceful firesides, it had conducted their sons along the paths of learning to stations of honor and success, it had made for their village a name which they were proud to proclaim when they revisited their good old Canada, because Bourbonnais had become synonymous with higher culture; it had even charmed their leisure moments with the most refined and delectable entertainments,—and was it possible, they thought, and must it be that all these blessings should be entirely taken out of their lives? Hence these strong men wept. Kankakeans themselves, although remote from the





### ST. VIATEUR'S GYMNASIUM.

This is the only building now standing on the college grounds. Like Roy Memorial chapel and the new Ahmni Hall, this building was erected and equipped by generous contributions from former students of the college. It is a massive stone structure, 153x97 feet and cost \$40,000.



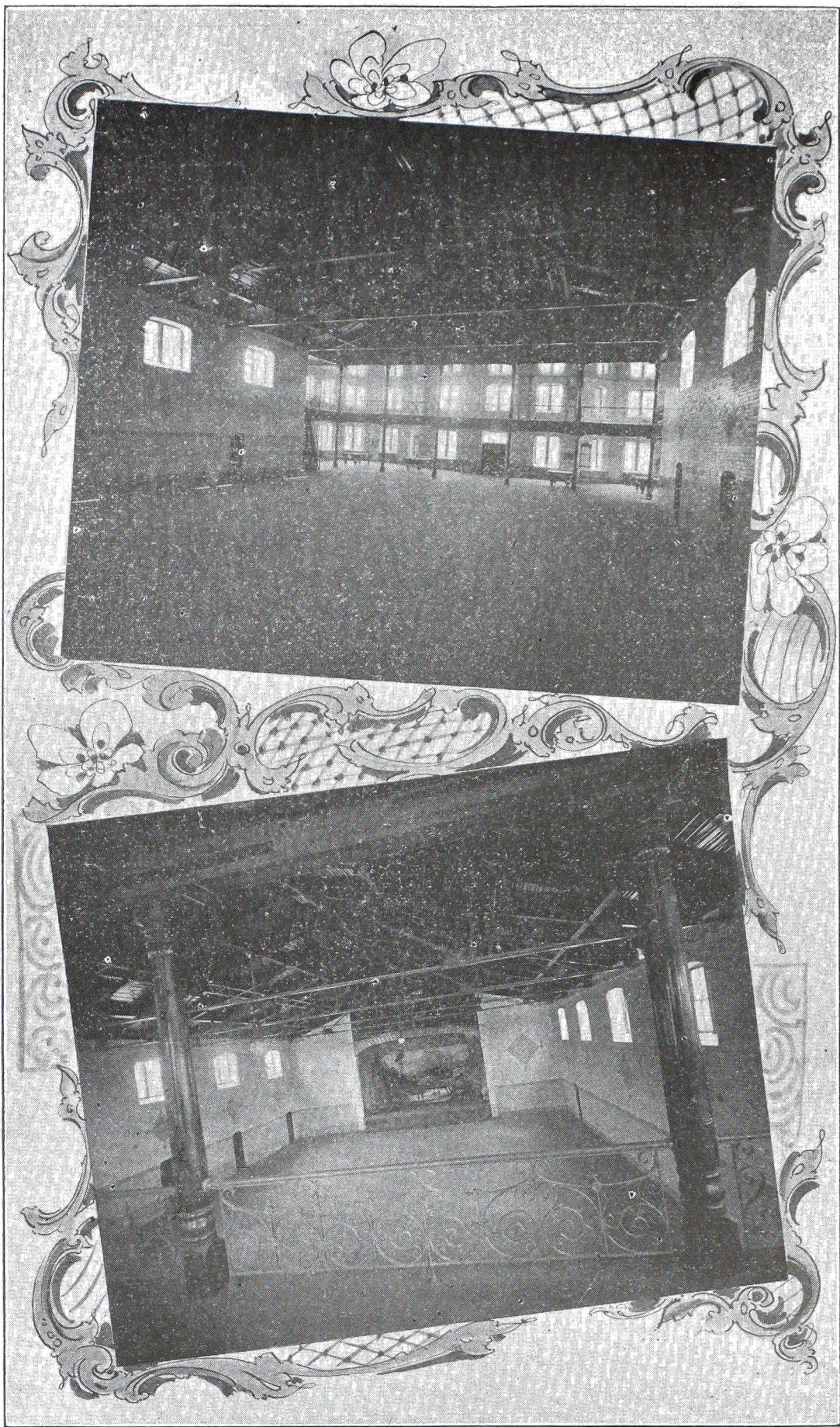
college in many ways, were not lacking in genuine sympathy for the sudden calamity befalling an institution which these many years has been a source of gainful business to them and has given to their city a distinction other than that of being a mere suburb of Chicago,—the worthier honor of being very near an intellectual center, a great school of refinement, whose goodly name is in the student world all over the United States coupled with Kankakee.

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### HOW ORDER WAS MAINTAINED.

Excellent generalship was displayed in moving the student body from the chapel to the study hall and thence to the gymnasium. Through the skillful maneuvering of Brother Kirly, Father Bergin and Father O'Mahoney students were directed to proceed in orderly ranks from the chapel to the study hall. None were allowed to go to their rooms or to the dormitories. With dispatch a force of fire fighters was culled from among the older students in the study hall. These were placed at the orders of competent leaders who took them to the scene of the fire. The minims and juniors and remaining students were ordered to the gymnasium and held in perfect safety there. Bro. Kirk, Bro. Corbett, Father Ryan, Father Lennarts, Father O'Mahoney and Father Bergin meanwhile guided the movements of the water carriers from the first and second floors to the fourth, where the fire was raging. Brother Boisvert was all this while doing a hero's work in the very face of the fire on the roof. When a heap of inflamed cement fell from the ceiling to the dormitory with ominous crash and blinding dust and smoke fear of instant danger bade Father Bergin order all students from the scene, all those engaged in fighting the fire and in saving the effects of their companions. As the dormitories were early filled with thick smoke, it was hardly possible for the saving crews to take more than a few trunks and valises as they made their hurried final exit from the doomed building. At this point much timely foresight and no mean courage were exhibited by Brothers Corbett and Kirk and Father Ryan, who scoured the building from top to bottom to make sure that no student was left





### INTERIOR OF GYMNASIUM.

The interior of the gymnasium is shown above. Facilities for military exercises, hand abll, base ball and other athletics are there provided. Faculty and students were enjoying a basket ball game in the building when the fire broke out. It will now be used for class and dormitory purposes.

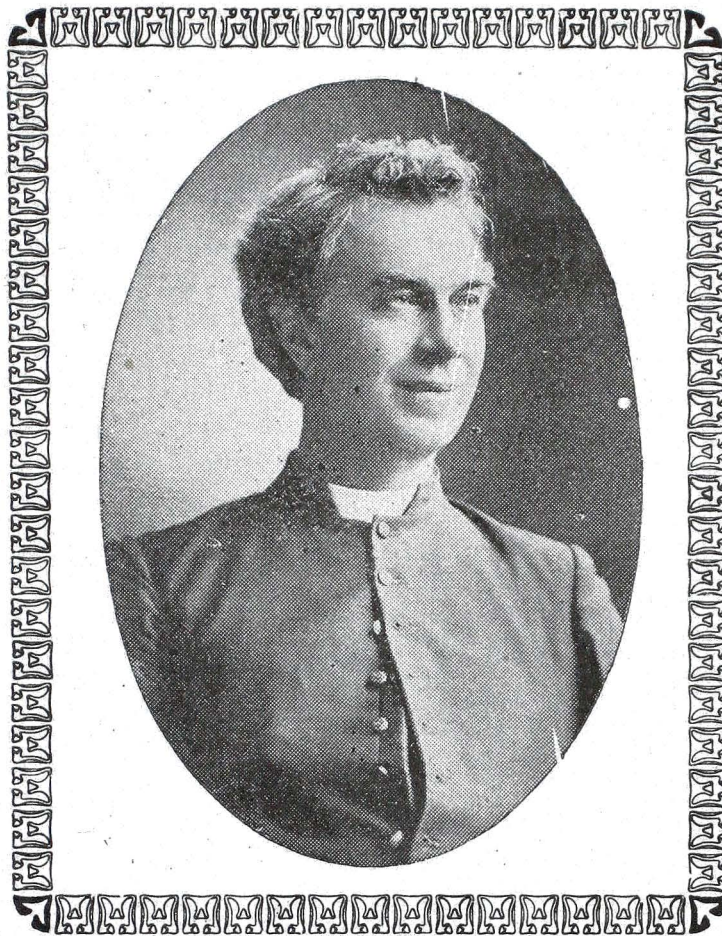


in any room. While engaged on this charitable errand Father Ryan was all but caught by the fall of incandescent timbers from the ceiling of the third floor, which he, however, succeeded in escaping. Bro. Kirk, who had seen Father Ryan advancing in the direction of the rain of fire, thinking him actually buried beneath it, ran to his assistance and becoming in the act overcome by the gas and fumes, smoke and heat and dust, was finally rescued from imminent peril by Father Ryan, whom he had aimed to save. Both succeeded in finding their way to the second floor, where student Bentley had been found a moment or two before in a semi-conscious state. All now vacated the house, even Brother Boisvert and Mike Hayes, who were the last to desist from now ineffectual attempts to put out the fire. Regretfully they came down, knowing as they said that had not the water carrying crews been dismissed so soon, they would have succeeded in controlling the blaze with a few more buckets of water. But it was thought better not to further risk any lives than to try to save buildings at such cost. There was much to admire in the bravery and excellent discipline displayed by the students and all those who figured in the various phases of the disaster.

When it was thought that even the gymnasium was in danger the students who were quartered there were taken to the street, where they remained until the danger was over. They were then divided into groups and confided to the obliging care of the kind villagers and residents of Kankakee and Bradley, who not only opened their homes to shelter the homeless boys, but even sent carriages to take them thither. Some spent the remainder of the night in the gymnasium and in the town hall, where a few improvised beds had been provided. The great mass, however, were housed and cared for by the residents of Bourbonnais, who vied with one another in securing refugees.

A pathetic sight it was the next morning to see the students returning in small groups from their scattered lodgements and assembling in front of the ruined buildings, like young birds around their wrecked nest.





REV. FATHER MARSILE, C. S. V.

President of St. Viateur's College, who has directed the college for 26 years and endeared himself to every alumnus of St. Viateur's.



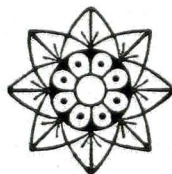
## FATHER MARSILE ADDRESSES THE STUDENTS.

Under the direction of Father Bergin and Brother Kirly the students were all gathered in the gymnasium to receive directions and a parting word from Father Marsile. Those who know Father Marsile's tender heart will easily realize what were his emotions when he addressed the students in the sight of the spectral ruins of St. Viatur's. He said in part: "My dear boys, no long drawn speech is needed from me to make known to you the extent of our great loss. From the windows of this beautiful gymnasium, which God has spared from the devouring flames, the smoking ruins of what was once your college home attest with awful realism both what you have lost and what we have lost. \* \* \* \* However, we are not disheartened. The designs of the Lord are inscrutable. Through the very smoke of these ruins we may see rising in a brighter day a greater St. Viateur's college. Many noble institutions have passed through this fiery trial and risen from their ashes Phoenix-like. We trust in the Providence which tries us only to strengthen us. For the present our work with you and for you must necessarily be suspended. We are not prepared to retain you here. You will go to your homes today. But I trust that in a few weeks we may be able to recall you and may be equipped here in these spacious halls so providentially spared to resume all the classes of the superior courses. You will return, I am confident, although I must tell you that you may have to submit to certain hardships and many inconveniences. Still I count upon your loyalty. To name one's self a student, and especially an alumnus, of St. Viateur's has always spelled loyalty. Like true born eaglets be worth of the eyrie that is fledgling you for superb flight. Your fidelity in returning will mark you already true sons of alma mater and will be a comfortino balm that will almost make us forget our loss. The old students who have preceded you here these last years have given you magnificent examples of their devoted attachment to this college. Emulate their example. The opportunity to do so is now at your door, nay in your very hands. Your parents will be notified of arrangements for your return. I hope you will not forget us in your prayers. On your way home and while at home remember who you are and let your conduct pro-

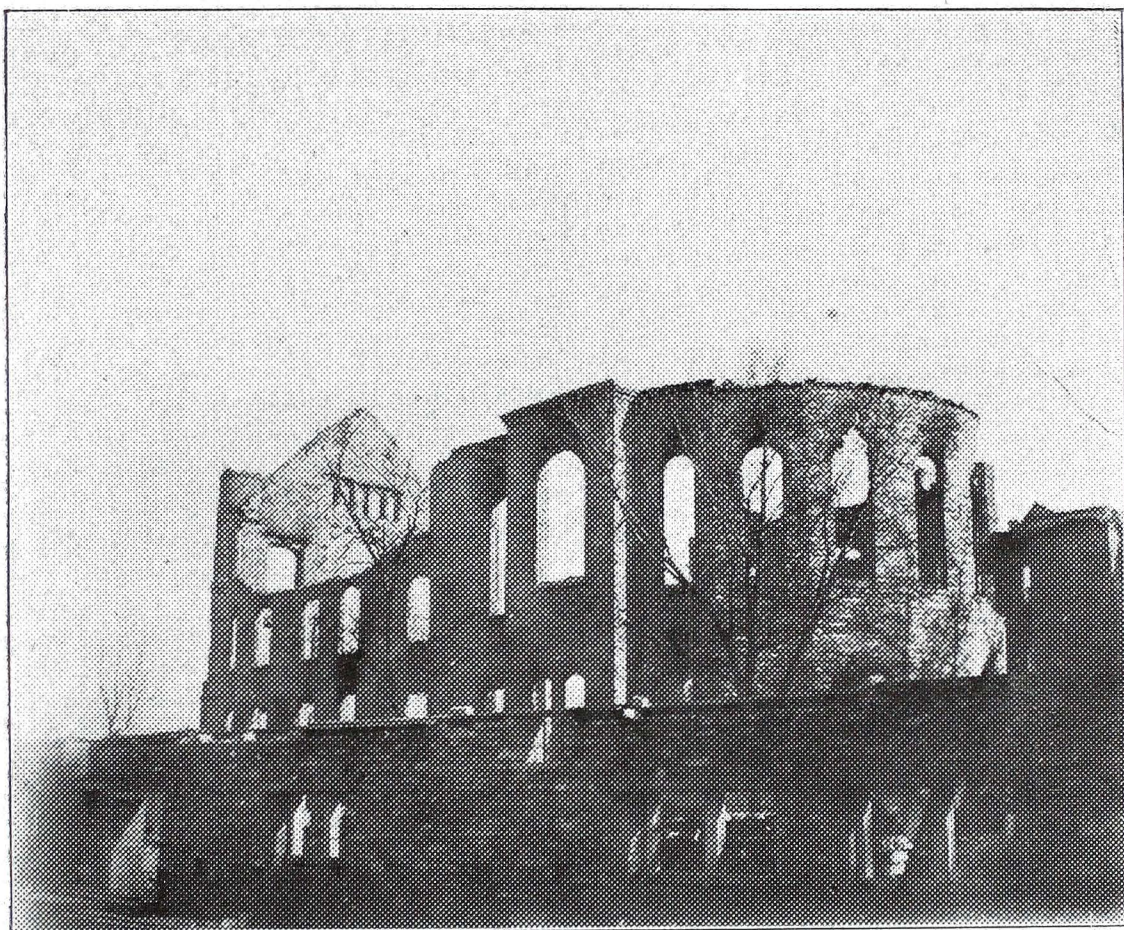


claim you young gentlemen, Catholic students and ever dutiful sons. Good-bye. May your good angels guide you safely home."

Father Marsile was during the course of this address frequently overcome by the depth of his emotions, and there were not many dry eyes among the students who heard his parting words.



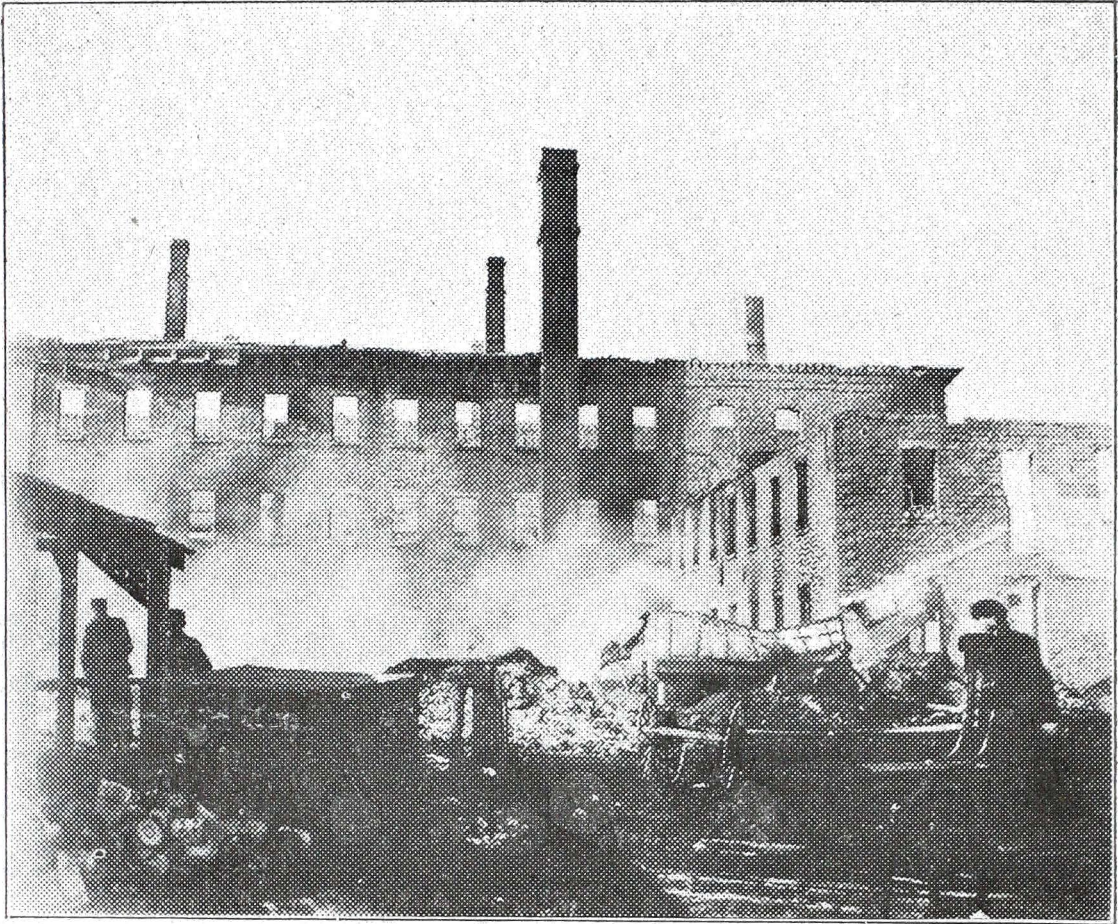




### REAR VIEW.

View from the east, showing the rear of the college as it appeared Thursday morning. The smoke stack was apparently uninjured and the walls appeared to have withstood the fire. It developed since, however, that the walls were held together by a few bricks, and they are also to be torn down. Part of the saved furniture is shown in the foreground.





**SOUTHWEST VIEW.**

View from the southwest, showing the chapel as it appeared Thursday morning. Some of the walls are still standing, but the greater part of them have been pulled down. The new alumni hall, in process of construction, is shown in front of the picture of the ruined building. The latter will be the first part of the re-constructed St. Viateur's.



**STUDENTS LEAVE.**

Announcement was made that transportation had been arranged with the Illinois Central on the 11:30 a. m. train. Students from Chicago and points north all left on this train. Others left some hours later for other directions and on other roads. Students from distant points, like the New England states and the far West were hospitably received by friends of the college and will be cared for by them until classes are resumed.

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**THINGS SAVED AND THINGS LOST.**

About half of the library books were saved, and most of the books, papers and other effects on the first floor. The scientific apparatus and chemical laboratory were completely destroyed. Many of the students, forgetful of their own property, rushed to the chapel and helped to save from the fire the marble statuary and the altar vestments. A strong force of villagers were at work at the other end of the building helping the sisters to carry to a place of safety the valuable property that could be moved from the dining rooms and kitchen. Just in time Fr. Ryan came out of the office with the books and other important documents. Soon the entire street was lined with pianos, bureaus, libraries, statues, trunks, and every front yard and porch for many blocks became the receptacle of library books, clothing, military accoutrements, musical instruments and a bewildering accumulation of sundries.

Brother Seguin deploras the loss of manuscripts on which he had been working for years. These contained the results of his painstaking labors in physics and higher mathematics. It is, we are sure, not only a personal loss, but a loss to science, for Brother Seguin is an acknowledged authority in matters of science and mathematics. He naturally regrets his manuscripts infinitely more than his tuneful canaries, which made the third floor so sweetly musical. Father Rivard lost about fifty copies of his "Views of Dante," and many precious notes, lectures and other papers. Brother Girard is minus his science library and the complete wire-



less telegraph apparatus which he had just purchased with the proceeds of Prof. Moulton's lecture on astronomy.

The total loss of the institution is estimated at \$150,000. Insurance is about \$85,000.

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### SOUND ASLEEP.

A characteristic incident was noted the morning after the fire. Two or three hard working men, tired after the wearying labors of the day, had according to their accustomed use retired very early the evening of the fire so as to enjoy a good long rest. Morpheus was kind to them and sealed all their senses in so profound a sleep that they nor their wives or children heard anything or saw anything of the fire until the next morning, although they were literally within a stone's throw of the college. Not even when they issued from their homes the next morning did they immediately notice that the college was missing, as they suspected absolutely nothing. They felt rather abashed to think that they had to learn from some stranger an event which had happened at their very doors. Which is another proof that it was a silent, though a lightsome night.

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### PRIESTS AND BROTHERS.

The college priests and Brothers Seguin and Boisvert are domiciled at the parochial residence. The brothers who remained after the departure of the students secured sleeping rooms in the village. The community meet for prayer in the parish church and take meals in common at the parish house, where V. Rev. Father Fournier and Father Beaudoin do all in their power to accommodate their homeless conferes. Several of the brothers went to St. Viateur's Normal Institute, to St. Edward's, Chicago, to St. George, St. Mary's, Irwin, Kankakee and other places, where they were kindly cared for during the preparation of living quarters in the gymnasium.



## VISITS AND MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY.

The dying embers of the great conflagration were still red on the morning of the 22nd when alumni began to arrive to assure the fathers and brothers of their sympathy and to offer their assistance. Father Bennett and Father W. Granger, of Kankakee, Father Labrie, of Momence, Father Berard, of St. Anne, Father Dugas, of Beaverville, Father Bourget, of Irwin, were earliest among visitors and made generous offer of their homes for the homeless teachers. Only a little later came Fathers Bergeron and Lamarre, of Notre Dame, Chicago, Father P. Conway, of Chicago, Father J. Cannon, of Urbana, D. O'Dwyer of Chebanse, and H. Durkin, of Rantoul, Ill. All these faithful sons of St. Viateur's desired to assure the fathers by their presence that they were even more than ever with St. Viateur's, and their words of comfort were sweet and strengthening.

Telegrams and letters of sympathy began to pour in from presidents of colleges, from Bishops, from alumni and friends far and near. Notre Dame University, Ind., St. Bede's College, Peru, Ill., St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Ind., Joliet College, Canada, were among the first to dispatch messages of sympathy. From the mass of letters which were received we submit the following, which is characteristic of the spirit of the old students of St. Viateur's:

Peoria, Ill.

Dear Father Marsile: Your Peoria boys have heavy hearts today and are grieving with you. They always had a soft warm spot in their hearts for dear St. Viateur's, and her destruction is their loss. Don't be discouraged or downhearted. Every one of us in this section will be with you financially and otherwise as much as we can and unless I have mistaken the spirit of the old students, wherever they are, they will rally to your support, and from the smoking ruins of today gladden your heart by helping in the erection of another St. Viateur's, more glorious and grander than the old. All that I have is yours.

Sincerely,  
M. P. Sammon.



**CHURCH DIGNITARIES EXPRESS REGRETS.**

His Grace Most Rev. James Edward Quigley expressed keen regret when he heard of the destruction of one of the oldest and most prosperous educational institutions of his archdiocese. In conference with the president, V. Rev. M. J. Marsile, who went to His Grace to convey official announcement of the calamity, the Archbishop spoke freely and most encouragingly of plans for the rebuilding of the new St. Viateur's. His Grace made several very practical suggestions regarding the style and disposition of buildings, and even the kind of material to be used in their construction.

His Lordship Rt. Rev. P. J. Muldoon was just writing a letter of regrets when Father Marsile entered the rectory of St. Charles, shortly after visiting the Archbishop. Bishop Muldoon tendered his sympathy personally to the afflicted president and spoke of the strength of St. Viateur's position in the archdiocese and at the doors of Chicago. There was no possibility of mistaking the genuine interest of his Lordship in the future of the resurrected St. Viateur's.

The following telegram was received from Rt. Rev. Bishop McGavick, an alumnus of the college: "Waco, Texas, Feb. 28, 1906. V. Rev. M. J. Marsile: Just learned of your dreadful misfortune. Do not be discouraged. Help will come."

Rt. Rev. Bishop P. J. O'Reilly, of Peoria, sent the following telegram: "Peoria, Ill., Feb. 27. V. Rev. M. J. Marsile: Accept my deepest regret for your loss."

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**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SYMPATHIZE.**

Texts of telegraphic messages and excerpts from letters:

Rev. John Cavanaugh, president Notre Dame College: My heart bleeds for you. All here sympathize with you. Your present loss will be your future gain, as it was here at Notre Dame. What is your loss? Can we be of any service?

Rector and Faculty, St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Ind.: It grieves us to learn of the calamity that has befallen St. Viateur's. We desire to express our deepest sympathy in your great loss and



hope that our sister college will rise from the ashes more glorious than before.

Rev. D. J. Kaib, St. Bede's College, Peru, Ill.: The faculty of St. Bede's College grieves with you. May a new St. Viateur's arise Phoenix-like from the ashes of the old.

Rev. C. Ducharme, Provincial of the order, Outremont, Canada: My sincere regrets on the occasion of the loss sustained at St. Viateur's College.

Rev. John Kofinifski, C. R., St. Stanislaus College, Chicago: Accept my heartfelt sympathy in most appalling calamity.

St. Ignatius College, Chicago, Ill., Rev. C. J. Leib: Late last night I heard of the terrible calamity which has befallen you at Bourbonnais. Permit me to assure you of my sincerest sympathy in your great loss. I shall pray for you in the hope that your institution may rise from its ashes more glorious than ever.

St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, Iowa, Rev. D. M. Gorman: I heartily sympathize with you in your loss and severe trial. May God help and direct you for the future.

Joliette College, Joliette, P. Q., Canada, Father Roberge, C. S. V.: Accept our heartfelt sympathy. Thank God your boys are safe. We pray for you.

Novice House, Joliette, Canada, Rev. O. Joly, C. S. V.: Be assured of our deepest sympathy and our fervent prayers that God may grant you strength and health and wisdom in the awful situation which confronts you.

Outremont, Montreal, Canada, Rev. J. A. Charlebois, C. S. V.: The terrible trial you are submitted to can be borne only by the help of a lively and profound faith such as yours. Would that I could offer you as many millions as tears! But courage. God will help you.

Outremont, Montreal, Rev. J. Foucher, C. S. V.: The sinister news of your appalling calamity profoundly afflicts us. We grieve for you and we pray for you and your devoted co-laborers that you may courageously bear this cross. His Grace, Mgr. Bruchesi, requests me to offer you his deepest sympathy.

Institut des Clercs de St. Viateur, Montreal, Rev. J. A. Desjardins, C. S. V.: The news of the total destruction of your beau-



tiful college strikes us like a thunderbolt. Be assured of our profoundest and most fraternal sympathies.

Holy Ghost College, Pittsburg, Pa., Rev. M. A. Herir, C. S. S. P.: Have just learned the loss you and your community have sustained. I hasten to express our most sincere sympathy and regret. I hope that the alumni and friends of St. Viateur's will come to your assistance and will show their appreciation of your sacrifices in their behalf.

Letters of sympathy, full of the most comforting assurance of their good prayers, were received from Sister Mary Samuel, O. S. D., prioress St. Clara College, Sinsinawa, Wis.; Sistery Mary Neri, of St. James School, Chicago; the Sisters of St. Joseph, of St. George, Ill.; Sister M. George, of St. Clara College, Sinsinawa, Wis.

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#### FRIENDS OF COLLEGE CONDOLE.

We here give the list of those who, though not former students of the college, have written or telegraphed messages of sympathy. They represent men of all the liberal professions, literary men, lawyers, physicians, priests and business men:

Mr. W. J. Onahan, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. Thiers, Elgin, Ill.; Dr. Corbus, Illinois Hospital, Kankakee; Rev. J. J. Burke, Bloomington, Ill.; Rev. W. J. Donoghue, Riverside, Ill.; Joseph Kelly, Chicago, Ill.; Joseph Flanagan, Cullom, Ill.; Rev. Dominic Meier, Streator, Ill.; Rev. Thomas A. Shaw, C. M., La Salle, Ill.; The W. J. Feeley Co., Chicago; P. J. Flanigan, Chicago, Ill.; C. B. Munday, Litchfield, Ill.; Rev. P. Menard, Escanaba, Mich.; Rev. D. L. Crowe, Kewanee, Ill.; Rev. J. T. Hudon, Fond du Lac, Wis.; Rev. J. R. Dinnen, Lafayette, Ind.; Rev. H. O'Gara McShane, N. T. Long, Chicago; J. Condon, Bloomington, Ill.; Burrell J. Cramer, South Bend, Ind.; L. H. Heyman, Chicago, Ill.

N. B. Letters and telegrams were received from the parents of nearly all the students of the present year. Since the compilation of the above list other communications have been received, but too late for insertion in this issue.—Editor.



## OLD STUDENTS HEARD FROM.

Among the proofs that all is not lost, as Father Hudon beautifully expressed it, but that "The good which St. Viateur's has accomplished remains and is indestructible" is the flood of letters and telegraphic communications constantly pouring in from the former students and professors of the college. Many of these letters were accompanied with offers of assistance and with ready checks to help rebuild alma mater on a grander scale. These letters are all heart expressions, full of sympathy and of encouragement. The faculty has indeed reason to rejoice at this evidence of the living permanence of its work among students who amidst the multifarious cares of practical life continue to cherish so highly their old college home and are ready and willing to make sacrifices to perpetuate her and the ideals she stands for. Full well does the faculty know that such a calamity was not needed to awaken the interest of the old students in their alma mater. It has never been dormant. It has always been active. The beautiful Roy Memorial Chapel was the first monument of their generosity. The splendid gymnasium which remains to attest the growth of the institution would not have been possible without their generous co-operation. This they yielded freely and lavishly when in large numbers they assembled to celebrate the silver jubilee of Father Marsile's priesthood in 1900. The joyous echoes of the enthusiastic celebration of his jubilee as president of the college last summer have scarcely died away. That memorable date again brought the old comrades together to rejoice with the venerable president and once more to pour into his hands a princely gift of \$25,000 for the erection of Alumni Hall.

And now that the alarm of the dreadful catastrophe has reached them they are not dismayed; through ill fortune as well as good they are with St. Viateur's.

Following are the names of those who have sent the college president and faculty assurances of sympathy and help: Rev. Dr. J. E. Laberge, Quebec, Canada; Rev. A. Martel, Chicago; Rev. D. A. Feeley, Excelsior Springs, Mo.; Rev. Joseph Kelly, Peoria, Ill.; Rev. J. J. Callahan, Butte, Montana; Rev. M. Dermody, Aberdeen, S. Dakota; Rev. C. P. Foster, Manhattan, Ill.; Rev. D. E. Walsh,



Carthage, Ill.; Dr. G. J. Rivard, Assumption, Ill.; Rev. T. F. Quinn, Chicago, Ill.; Rev. C. Quill, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. John Lonergan, Grand Seminary, Montreal; Lawyer Frank Burns, Kankakee; Mr. William Moran, Mattoon, Ill.; Rev. R. Pugny, Chicago, Ill.; Rev. Andrew Burns, Oregon, Ill.; Rev. J. J. Jennings, Chicago, Ill.; Rev. J. L. McMullen, Pesotum, Ill.; Roy Valentine, Chicago, Ill.; Rev. M. A. Dooling, Clinton, Ill.; Rev. John Dube, Joliette, Canada; Mr. F. A. Moody, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. William Charles Northway, Jefferson, Iowa; Rev. W. J. Burke, Chatsworth, Ill.; Rev. P. J. Tinan, Pullman, Ill.; Mr. Peter Dufault, Grand Seminary, Montreal; Mr. Charles Raymond, Grand Seminary, Montreal; Rev. J. Bollman, La Grange, Ill.; Mr. David Roche, Watford, Ont.; Rev. Louis Talley, S. J., St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.

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### BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE.

As early as 1857 Father Mailloux, then pastor of the Bourbonnais parish, desired to build a Catholic college. However, only a public school was opened and during the pastorate of Father Gingras it was taught by sisters and laymen. In 1862 Father Gingras built the main part of Notre Dame Academy. His successor, Father J. Cote, realizing the necessity of larger educational facilities for the congregation of Bourbonnais, appealed to the Clerics of St. Viateur in Canada, and in 1865 Father J. Cote resigned to the Viatorians the charge of the Bourbonnais parish. Father Beaudoin was placed at the head of the undertaking, with Bros. Bernard and Martel as assistants. In 1869 they erected half of the main building. Father Roy was appointed president of the college and he instituted courses in business, classics, philosophy and theology. In 1874 the college was completed and received its charter and was empowered to grant degrees in arts, sciences and letters.

Father Roy died in July, 1879, and was succeeded by Father Marsile, the present head of the institution. The Roy Memorial Chapel was erected in 1889, mainly through contributions from the alumni. The new gymnasium was built in 1902. Last year it was decided that more room was needed for the large number of



students and through the generous assistance of Rt. Rev. Mrg. G. M. Legris, D. D., and other alumni twenty-five thousand dollars was raised for Alumni Hall. The foundations of this building are laid and by September it is expected it will be ready for occupancy.

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### THE RUINS.

The traveler in old historic lands finds in ivy-clad ruins the link which binds the present with the past. Traced out in their architectural lines he perceives the ideas which actuated generations that have long since passed away and the echoes that in response to his questionings arise startled from the silence of ages bring back again those voices that have long since vanished into the stillness of the tomb. At the touch of imagination's magic wand these skeletons which loom up before him, hideous to the bodily eye, are clothed again in flesh and become to the eye of the soul things of living beauty. For a time he lives in the past, with all its glorious associations springing from nook and corner of every ruin and thronging around him. Much of the feeling which possesses the soul when one stands amid the ruins of the past must have seized upon the thousands of beholders who have come to gaze upon the smoking ruins of old St. Viateur's. Much, too, of this same feeling was lacking, for the transition from stately grandeur to unsightly ruin was so sudden that the mellowing effects of time were wanting. But a few hours and that which was an imposing pile of masonry, speaking so eloquently of the heroism of those who had embodied in its magnificent proportions the grand ideas to which they had devoted their lives, was transformed into a crumbling ruin, speaking no less eloquently of the perishability of human things, even of those which are most lasting. But though that which was temporal has passed away, though the arches are broken, though the walls crumble, though the magnificent dome which raised the emblem of Christ's love heavenward is leveled to the ground, still the imperishable spirit which enshrined itself under that hallowed dome comes forth from the ashes of its



shrine, purified and strengthened by its baptism of fire, to begin anew to embody itself in a worthier and more lasting form of beauty.

This noble idea of the resurrection of the dead St. Viateur's, which is now buried in its ruins, robs the somber pile of its gruesomeness and the smoldering embers, which at night illumine the vast inclosure, send forth through the open windows into the darkness messages of hope to those who grope overshadowed by the appalling calamity which, for a time, has darkened their horizon. True, the monument which promised immortality to the noble efforts of forty years, which enshrined the princely generosity of the Legris family and the undying loyalty of the other friends and alumni of St. Viateur's, which placed before the eyes of men the inspiring epitaph of a Roy, a Bernard, a Senecal and which gave assurance to perpetuate the fame of a Marsile, is to vanish from sight with the tearing down of the walls, but cannot the strength of a younger generation, which has drawn inspiration from their lives of noble sacrifice, raise up grander monuments which will make their name and example live on through the centuries as an incentive to those who take up their work, a beacon light to guide the young in the paths of truth and virtue?

Yes, as we look at the ruins today these are the thoughts which rush in upon us. That which was material is gone; what was spiritual remains. Many vestiges of the grandeur of the old buildings are visible in their ruins. Their magnificent proportions are spread out before us as upon the chart of the architect. Nothing prevents the view from including in one sweep the plan which gave a strict unity, relieved by the variety of buildings, to this vast structure. The strong, massive, or to borrow an adjective from the Kankakee Republican—the honest masonry—of the quadrilateral building rises grimly defiant over the smoldering fires that flicker at its base, proclaiming that the hand at whose touch they sprang forth knew how to combine beauty with strength, while the circular walls of the chapel, through their gaps and crevices, mutely condemn whatever would separate strength from beauty. The east wing and the connecting link are still intact, but in these as well as in the other buildings the stone, which contains so much



lime, is so badly damaged that they must be pulled down. It is no wonder then that visitors are coming every day by the thousands from the surrounding towns, and after one long, lingering look at what remains, carry away with them precious souvenirs of old St. Viateur's. Heretofore this grand monument greeted the eyes of the beholder for miles around and lifted his thoughts heavenward, bidding him thank God that he lived so close to one of those many institutions which, dotting this fair country of ours, tell the true citizen that the course of Christian education finds in them its garrisons of defense. Soon all will have vanished and no wall will be left as a connecting link with the past. It is sad to think that all must go, but let us hope that when the years have sped by and the forty years which have passed will be but as a unit in the history of St. Viateur's, that those who come after us can say, "Well done, noble sons of St. Viateur's. You were not content to weep over your loss, but whilst you shed tears for the past your eyes glistened with hope for the future. You were up and doing. You took for your motto, like Chicago, which also has had its deadful visitation, 'I will,' and the result has been similar, for behold! from a college you have become a university."

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#### URBANA MAKES OFFER.

The flames had not yet completed their work of destruction when the Reverends J. H. Cannon, of Urbana, Ill., and P. H. Durkin, of Rantoul, Ill., presented themselves before the authorities of their smoking alma mater. Through their instrumentality a wealthy banker and large land owner of Urbana wished to submit the following proposition to the trustees of St. Viateur's College: If they would open a college in Urbana, he agreed to give them \$50,000 and twelve acres of land. He would allow them to choose the site for the proposed college and the plot of ground. If, however, the authorities would permit him to select the site, he agreed to make a donation of \$65,000. The contemplated college would be situated one-half mile outside the city limits of Urbana, adjoining the experiment farm of Illinois University.



### **The Twin Cities Enthusiastic.**

The project has enlisted the enthusiastic support of the people and press of Urbana and Champaign. A meeting of the business men of the "Twin Cities" was called to discuss the proposition and to confer with representatives from St. Viateur's College. At the present writing the business men promise to double the offer of Mr. Busey. Dr. James, president of Illinois University, has entered heartily into the plan. He is willing to grant the students of the projected college every facility for carrying on the work of higher education. All the courses of the great state university would be open to them. They would also receive full credit for the work done at their own college.

### **Dr. James Favorable.**

It is the ambition of Dr. James to make Illinois a university in fact as well as in name. He deplors the presence of large numbers of students who are obliged to follow preparatory work at the university. It is his opinion that this kind of work can be done as well or better at the college. Besides, in the course of a few years, when in all probability Illinois will enroll from 8,000 to 10,000 students, it will be impossible to accommodate those seeking preparatory courses. If there were a number of colleges grouped around the university they could do this work and thereby relieve the university of a burden which at present hampers it in its own special work and which it will be unable to bear in the course of a few years.

The people of Urbana and Champaign desire to make their cities the intellectual center of the state. They are essentially university towns; their growth and development are wholly dependent upon the University of Illinois and kindred institutions. They believe if they could induce St. Viateur's College to locate near the university it would only be a few years before a number of colleges of other religious denominations would follow the example and group themselves around the state institution. If their expectations should be realized, Illinois University would become the great educational center of, not only the state, but of the west.



**A Committee Appointed.**

At the present writing we are informed a committee has been appointed by the college authorities to confer with Mr. Busey, Dr. James and the citizens of Urbana and Champaign. The committee will discuss the subject thoroughly with all these interested parties. Final action will not be taken in the matter by the authorities of St. Viator's College until they have heard the report of their representatives and sought the advice of their ecclesiastical superiors, the Archbishop of Chicago and the Bishop of Peoria.

**Advantages of Such a Location.**

A college situated within easy distance of a great state university would have many advantages not easily secured elsewhere. In the first place it would offer its students the same thorough training in the knowledge and practice of Catholic faith. Besides this it could give them the very best courses in lines of work which it is exceedingly difficult to duplicate without immense sums of money, which few Catholic colleges can command. Illinois University has now one of the best equipped schools of technology in the country. With the state of Illinois back of it, there is every reason to believe that in the course of time its scientific department will be placed on a level with the best. Without any additional expense, the Catholic student desiring these courses of study could follow them at the university. During his collegiate course, his work might be easily supplemented by special lectures at the university should he desire to specialize in some particular branch. In a word, such a Catholic college could offer its students all the advantages of a thoroughly equipped and endowed university, without losing its own character, sacrificing any of its special aims or rejecting any of its principles.

**Father Cannon the Soul of the Movement.**

The whole movement is due to the enterprise of Rev. J. H. Cannon, an alumnus of St. Viator's College. When Mr. Busey conceived the idea of bringing a Catholic institution to Urbana, he selected Father Cannon to carry out his plans, for he knew, as the Champaign papers express it, "what Fr. Cannon goes after he generally gets." If the college authorities should decide to accept



the generous offer made them, they will have a valuable and efficient auxiliary in Father Cannon. Although he is comparatively a young man, he is one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of the "Twin Cities." St. Viator's College is justly proud of her genial, enterprising and energetic alumnus. On behalf of the whole student body, the Viatorian desires to thank Father Cannon for his valuable assistance to the college in this dark hour of her trial. We feel also we hazard nothing in assuring him that the faculty is deeply grateful to him for his efforts in behalf of his alma mater. His merit will remain the same whether the proposition is accepted or ultimately rejected.





# THE VIATORIAN.

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## EDITORIAL.

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### EDITORIAL.

None are sorrier than we to publish the present number of the Viatorian. It records the total destruction of our college home. Were our pens dipped in tears the tale were not too sadly told. Were every word a sigh it would but faintly express our feelings. However, all it not gall in this bitter cut. The safety of human lives in such a terrible catastrophe bids us rejoice and give thanks. And while there remains no trace of the noble work of the hardy pioneers, the gymnasium, which is the result of later effort, is saved and opens its halls to receive us. This is a favor for which we are duly thankful to Providence.

On the very eve of the fire the entire edition of the Viatorian was in press. Orders were given to suspend the issue. We copy from the February number the editorial comments, poems and exchanges. The publication of the literary part of the number is necessarily suspended.

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## EXAMINATIONS.

(Selected from suspended issue of February Viatorian.)

The examinations are already but a memory. It is not altogether unpleasant that they should have passed to the estate of memories. This is perhaps one of the instances when the pleasure



of retrospection is several times larger than the pleasure of anticipation. While the process itself is not an unmixed joy, the result thereof is unquestionably gainful. It has set before us in the clear-cut shape of a note on the part of our professors the definite distance we have traveled in the way of knowledge, or the net amount of learning we have acquired since we resumed work in September last. From this conscientious computing we are enabled to reckon pretty accurately both how much of the precious ore we can treasure up with the same amount of effort in the next five months, and also what excess we can pile up if we redouble our exertion. And it is chiefly in this respect that the examinations may be declared advantageous. They should act as a spur to the sluggish, who have not done justice to their talents and their opportunities; they should be an encouragement to those who have proved successful; and to those who have relished the sweets of intellectual victories in the past they can but be a powerful incentive to equip themselves by persevering study for still greater mental combats.

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### THE HEROES OF ST. BEDE'S.

(Selected from suspended issue of February Viatorian.)

When a man's life culminates in a heroic act, this cannot be regarded as an accident, but it is to be considered as the natural sequence of a training through all antecedent years in countless little and great acts of self-renunciation. It is a result of that perhaps unconsciously gathered strength of years which, when occasion demands, proves itself capable of such splendid action as was witnessed in the case of Father Gilbert Simon and the drowning boys of St. Bede's College. There were two heroes in that catastrophe: The priest, Fr. Simon, and the student, Mr. Reuter, who both succeeded in saving half of the drowning students before they themselves sank helpless with the others to their watery grave. One must be hopelessly cynical who sees in all this drama only a case of lamentable boyish imprudence and fails to be struck by the moral grandeur displayed by the heroic rescuers who proved themselves brave enough to give up their lives for their friends. We regard this as one of the examples of that splendidly vital



Christianity which is capable of producing such really glorious acts, and we rejoice in the contemplation of this act of heroism as we do in all moral triumphs. There is comfort also in the thought that all those who perished had recently received the sacraments and that they were not unprepared for the unexpected summons. The survivors will owe a life-long debt of grateful prayer for the departed souls of their saviors. Our tenderest sympathy goes out to the afflicted parents of the victims of the accident. The faculty and the students of St. Bede's have long ere this been assured of the large share which every educational institution in the land has taken in their affliction.

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**THANKS.**

The faculty desires especially to thank the people of Bourbonnais for the shelter and care they bestowed upon the students the night of the fire. Thanks are likewise tendered to the Kankakee and Bradley fire departments.

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**ARRANGEMENTS FOR REOPENING.**

On the 10th of March, says Father Ryan, we will be ready to reopen classes and accommodate 150 students. That number can be easily and comfortably cared for in the specious gymnasium. Class rooms have already been prepared and equipped under the gallery of the gymnasium hall. The hall itself will be used as a dormitory for the collegiate students. The seminarians will have their quarters in the lightsome gallery of the gymnasium. The stage can be used as a temporary study room. The brothers will be domiciled in the music room and adjoining apartments. Recreation will be taken in the bowling alley. A concrete and cement floor has been laid over the entire basement of the building, which will afford ample space for the refectory and kitchen.

Students will be notified in a few days of the date on which to return. Many have already written asking for particulars. The entire body of seminarians, before they took leave of the college, manifested an eager desire to return as soon as possible and at any cost.



**NOTRE DAME SCOLASTIC SYMPATHIZES.**

Deep gloom fell upon the faculty and students of the University last Thursday when it was learned that St. Viateur's College at Kankakee had been burned to the ground. The misfortune is aggravated by the fact, as reported in the newspapers, that the heavy loss was only partially covered by insurance. Our alma mater has always felt more than usual sympathy with St. Viateur's, and this sympathy is heightened a hundredfold by the sad event of Wednesday night. The work done in our sister college is as sincere as her spirit is broad, and her alumni have good cause to be loyal to her. They will have an opportunity of proving their loyalty in this great emergency—old students by generous contributions to the rebuilding of St. Viateur's and present-day students by standing by her in the hour of her distress and steadfastly refusing to transfer their allegiance to other colleges. The great and good men who upbuilt St. Viateur's will know how to draw good out of apparent evil, and the Scholastic, voicing the feelings of all at Notre Dame, prays that the new college may be even bigger and better than the old. Courage, St. Viateur's.





WASHINGTON.

(Selected from suspended issue of February Viatorian.)

When liberty, a helpless babe was born,  
He pressed it to his bosom undefiled;  
How many prayers he realized that morn—  
How Suffering men would bless this longed for child!

He guarded well his trust the while it grew—  
Denying self, he gave the child the best  
To form it prudent, powerful and true;  
How well, it's vigorous manhood doth attest.

Today this mighty son, the pride of Earth,  
Thanks heaven for the glorious victories won;  
Whilst nations join to solemnize the birth  
Of this, our country's father, Washington.

W. J. C.

THE ANGELS OF THE SANCTUARY.

(Selected from suspended issue of February Viatorian.)

Angels! sweet guardians of the shrine,  
We gather 'round in wond'ring love;  
Our hearts do yearn to praise the Lord,  
And to adore who from above  
Came down from His celestial sphere,—  
Our bread of life, who now doth here—

In quiet dwell, alone, as one  
Awaiting to be visited:  
And ye, dear Angels, sculptured fair,  
In silent pose, whilst 'bout you tread  
The unseen throngs of seraphs pure  
Amazed at the Lord, who'd lure

With wiles of love us to His home  
Beneath the tabernacle cope,—  
Guard well Him as do the "choirs  
Invisible,"—whom we in hope  
And faith believe adoring bent  
With you, before the Blessed Sacrament!

W. A. S. (Phil.)



## EXCHANGES.

(Selected from suspended issue of February Viatorian.)

Without letting our pen ramble about aimlessly in fruitless search for tempting considerations with which to inveigle the reader into the arid regions of our sage and somewhat recondite critical reflections, we plunge this time in medias res. Our ire has been aroused and the ex-man of the **Columbiad** did it. The grand, necessary basic principle of all criticism, in our humble opinion, is knowledge of the thing criticized. The **Columbiad**, in remarks anent the Viatorian, does not manifest such knowledge. It boldly asserts thtt "the Viatorian is the repository of local news rather than of literary effort among the students." This is, truly, not a very hard rap, but it has never been applied to us before and we can see absolutely no excuse for it. We dare say the Viatorian contains as much literary matter as do the majority of college papers and that it contains more than is usually found within the covers of the **Columbiad**. We admire consistency and we cannot see how the **Columbiad** can consistently accuse us of a lack of "literary effort." We found literary effort in the "Squeedunk's Invitation" (Columbiad) in spite of its name, but there the effort seems to become fatigued and the remaining contributions in the Columbiad, except perhaps a few verses, lack the least semblance of any sort of effort.

It may be judged from the tone of above remarks that we have a very tender vanity, but the **Blue and White** (from Frisco) has introduced a department which, it happens, is to become a permanent fixture and which seems to be for the sole purpose of administering soothing syrup to itself and of giving itself gentle pats on the back. The Blues here candidly express admiration for their own cover (among very many other things), but report an observation upon it "that the gentleman in gown and mortar-board is 'a pretty tough looking guy'"—which strikes us as a singularly happy remark—he does look desperate. However, we shall say a few things about the **Blue and White** which it may quote in its salve department, if it so desires. In the first place "Brother Azarias—The Essayist," is a clear cut, well written study of the well known monographist. "A San Mateo County Landmark" aroused our



jaded interest by its pathetic strain and noetic descriptions, and "Brake-Beaming With the Czar" produced a new thrill in our likewise jaded risibles, which, however, we are bound to say, subsided when we glanced at the joke column. We would advise that the present of a brand new up-to-date joke book be made the funny man.

The **Exponent** aroused our choler by an article on "The Prophylaxis of Rabies" (!! ) which relates such facts as "no physiological disturbance other than that occasioned by the bite of an infected animal can give rise to the disease de novo," and proceeds in the same strain to its pathetic denouement. We finished the article and dare say we were one of the few that did; yet, we would not have done so had we not been led to suspect (from the catalogue of Pasteur's discoveries given in the beginning) that something would have been said on "The Diseases of Silk Worms" and "Studies on Wine and Beer." We felt relieved, however, after reading the tale of "Satan's Acceptance," which was the first story built on a really original conception that it has been our pleasure to meet in some time.

We promised in our last issue to present a few of our lucubrations on college journalism in general, and having opportunities of both time and space we haste to set them before the eager and expectant gaze of our fellow laborers in this field of collegiate endeavor. We would lend our efforts, firstly, to elucidate the much mooted question as to whether timely topics or classical subjects should be favored. The ex-editor of the **Schoolman** strenuously leads the crusade for the former, while the **St. Joseph's Collegian**, among others, seems to be in favor of the latter. We lean to neither side, but choose to cut the Gordian knot in two by recommending both. A student, as such, is eminently fitted to deal with classical subjects, and at the same time should be able to put his classical researches to practical use by the treatment of lively topics of the day. Inasmuch as he is a student, it is to be inferred that he is training for a future practical life and there can certainly be no better means to that end than the application of his rules and his lore to timely topics; the college journal becomes a suitable repository for his work. Besides this, it is certain that poor reading



in a college journal is invariably caused by the dry and uninteresting matter treated and because of its lack of up-to-date discussion. We said we were in favor of classical subjects; we maintain that they constitute the peculiar province of the student; these are subjects which appeal to him most, subjects on which he possesses the best qualifications and the greatest authority, and in which he, as a student, derives the most immediate benefit. But we have little patience with old subjects, which are necessarily dry, unless they are handled in a new, bright and fresh way, as was done some time ago by the editors of the **Young Eagle**. "Non nova sed nove" is an old and still a good rule of good writing. Let us have the grand old classical themes, the events and men and gods and goddesses that have made history and mythology and philosophy and all that is worthiest of literary enshrinement, but let us have these things with all the sauce of modern style. Let us likewise be awake to the things that occur around us and let us try to record these events and to speak of our great ones in tones that will be heard by our age and by the future.

We hasten to acknowledge the receipt of postal cards from the Dial, the Lorretto Magazine, St. Mary's Collegian and Pittsburg College Bulletin, which, although received during Christmas vacation, had not come to our notice until very recently. We wish to apologize for our tardy recognition of their greetings, and at the same time to heartily extend our best wishes in return. F. M. '04.

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### BOOK NOTES.

We are the grateful recipients of the "Report of the Proceedings and addresses of the Second Annual Meeting of the Catholic Educational Association." As an expression of Catholic opinion on educational matters the book is especially interesting. From the various addresses and the discussion which they occasioned there may be gained a good insight into the best Catholic opinion on the most important pedagogical questions. New phases of thought are presented on the intimate relation that exists between the primary school and the college; unity of action and mutual co-operation between the two is urged and, it may be said, practically promised. Diverse branches of the curriculum and proper text



books were discussed, Father Rivard taking a prominent part in his paper on the History of Philosophy. The entire book presents evidence of remarkable work done in what is only the second year of the association's existence, and indicates the unrest prevailing among educators that is an unerring index of the progress being made in Catholic education.

We have lately received a pamphlet, "Harvard University and Historical Truth," which it has been our fortune to read in the Boston Stylus, from which it has been reprinted. Owing to the merit of this article we welcome its appearance in pamphlet form, and we are certain that it can and will work good among those who have imbibed any of the false statements contained in Prof. Emerton's Histories.

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#### **NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL COMMENT.**

The following editorial comments on the destruction of St. Viateur's and the questions arising therefrom appeared in the Kan-  
kakee Republican:

##### **It Will Rise Again.**

St. Viateur's College, the famous old institution at Bourbonnais, fell before the fire fiend Wednesday evening.

It is consoling to think, as one looks at the blackened walls of what was a noble institution of learning, that the real, inward St. Viateur's is indestructible. The wood and stone and all the materials that went to make up the structure is changed in its form by the action of the elements until it appears to man as nothing but a ruin. But the real St. Viateur's is the spirit that moves the cause of education and religious advancement in those who builded the St. Viateur's of sentiment that stretches its influences from one end of our great country to the other.

The St. Viateur's that fell before the flames was corporeal. In time the elements would have reduced it, thus the change was but precipitated. The St. Viateur's of the spirit and the mind, the college influence and college thought that fills the hearts and influences the lives of those who have gone forth from its sphere



equipped for the battle, not only of life, but the vicissitudes of eternity, can never die. It is immortal.

Thus is brought to us the comforting thought that St. Viateur's is to be considered in the same light as an individual. Each of us is a structure, a temple, if you will, our exteriors being the corporeal parts. These pass away, the mansion falls and resolves itself back into the original elements. That which is within—the soul, never dies.

St. Viateur's will rise again. From its ashes will probably spring up buildings more beautiful and more enduring. The college building that was can remain as a cherished memory and with the new buildings will come increased fidelity to the St. Viateur's of mind and spirit.

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### Repel the Invader.

The misfortunes of one nation are sometimes the fortunes of another. A crop failure in Russia or the Argentine gives the Central Illinois farmer high prices for his corn.

On the same theory that it is an ill wind that blows nobody good the misfortunes of one state may be the good fortune of another. The misfortunes of one city may be the good fortune, at least the opportunity, of a neighboring city, to despoil the unfortunate one of some cherished institution.

An unfortunate thing for Kankakee was the burning of one of its characteristic and distinguishing institutions, St. Viateur's College. Champaign is endeavoring to turn that misfortune to its advantage by offering attractive inducements for its location there.

There are certain advantages that might accrue to the Bourbonnais educational institution by its location under the shadow of the great state university. The Republican is not going to discuss those advantages. The Champaign papers can be depended upon to do that. But The Republican will discuss the advantages of keeping St. Viateur's here; building it up upon a nobler and grander scale than it was before and making it the center of Catholic education in the middle west.

As this paper has said before, St. Viateur's would not be St. Viateur's removed from its quaint surroundings at Bourbonnais,

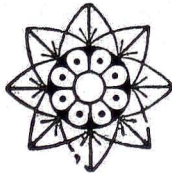


taken from the very atmosphere it has created itself, and removed to a strange land and among stranger people. The latter is a figurative piece of writing in a way, yet we all know it would take years and years to surround a new St. Viateur's with the traditions and customs that go to make up so much the college surroundings.

The picturesque surroundings of the present site, its proximity (it being nearer by fifty miles) to Chicago, from whence more and more come the young men and boys who fill the halls of the college, are items in favor of the present location. These are practical reasons for retaining the present location. The Republican, being a practical, matter-of-fact publication, merely gives the practical side. It makes no attempt to lift the veil that hides for the time being the thousand and one sentimental reasons—the "mystic chords of memory" that bring forth, when touched, the music of sentiment.

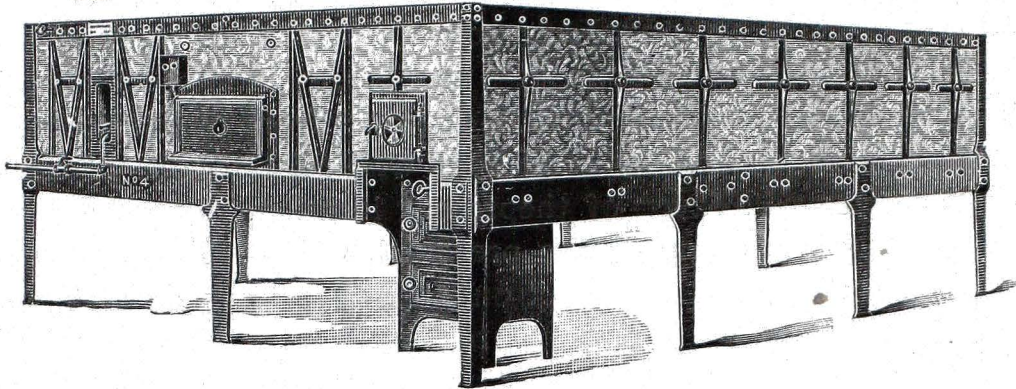
But while there is practical reason and sentiment beyond measure almost, that would seem to make it out of the question that the college would be taken from Kankakee and located in Champaign, yet the invader—the Twin Cities—is, from the standpoint of Kankakee—"perniciously active." It behooves Kankakee to be up and doing. Champaign and Urbana have "girded up their loins" to invade Kankakee and despoil the latter of one of its richest possessions. There is but one thing for Kankakee to do and that is to rise up in its might and repel the invader.

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