

proofs of your goodness. Meanwhile, for my part, I confess to you, Monsieur, I cannot cease to admire the perseverance of your charity through so long a course of years, during which you have practiced it in favor of our Hospital. Ah, what blessings await you in Heaven, and how many persons have found the door thereto through the means which you have given us to procure them that happiness! We have continued the practice of our calling throughout the entire year with scarcely any respite, our halls having been always full of patients—to such an extent that we have had more than twelve thousand. To these we have rendered every service in our power, [6] their number increasing our zeal; and the example set us by the labors of Monseigneur the Bishop of Petráa, our most worthy Prelate, and of Monsieur de Charny, our highly honored Superior, serving as a gentle and powerful stimulus which urges us to forget nothing on occasions so precious in God's sight. But, although we all have exerted our utmost energies in the work, we have still been unable to do everything, and have been obliged to hire women by the day to help us, although they are very hard to find. We certainly need some girls who shall become Nuns, and there are here two of very good families who offer themselves, and are very well suited to our needs; but they are very poor, and our Superiors do not think best, in our present condition, to permit us [7] to receive them for nothing. I beg you, Monsieur, to exert your efforts, when any offer of charity occurs, to make us the beneficiaries. Dowries here are not so large as in France, and there are charitable persons who are sometimes glad to provide a girl with the requisite means either for marriage or for