

which has not yet died out. In this Settlement, within fifteen miles of Green Bay, there exists a chapel and shrine, built to the Virgin Mary, to which thousands of pilgrim worshipers from far and near come yearly to offer up their devotions; and if we are to believe the reports of some of the faithful, many invalids have found a permanent cure, which is attributed by them to the virtue and powers of the Virgin. Many claim to have left their canes and crutches on the altar in the chapel, and to have gone home rejoicing and repeating, "*Ave Maria, gracia plena; Dominus tecum.*"

On the spot where the chapel is now built there stood, thirty-seven years ago, two small trees a few feet apart. Between these, it is said, appeared the Virgin Mary in person, and addressed Adèle Brice, who was at the time passing on her way home from attending church in the Bay Settlement: "and the Virgin Mary spoke to her in the French language, requesting her to devote all her time to the service of the Virgin Mary and the dissemination of the Catholic faith, and to build a chapel on that sacred spot." The report of this strange apparition spread over the Belgian settlements, in this and adjoining counties, with lightning speed. The people came in large numbers to see what they considered "holy ground," and to listen to the words of Adèle.

Without going into the details of the event and its results, I will simply say that for several years this young woman met with considerable opposition from the clergy of this diocese, who publicly declared that the alleged apparition was "a myth and an imposition." For a time even the holy sacrament was refused to the girl, for the perseverance with which she made her assertion. However, in spite of all opposition, the multitude would congregate on the spot, and with Adèle would worship and even say mass on certain days, without a priest. In the same year a small chapel was built, afterwards a school; and within five years from the apparition there was built a large chapel, a church, and a school-house and convent,