

In Appreciation of Mother Mathilde

Mother Mathilde, missionary, visionary
Over the swollen and heaving tropical sea
The good ship Bentinck sailed with sisters displaying
Humility, hope and constant praying.
Ever looking forward, leaving behind "Justine
Raclot", to follow her calling, her childhood dream.
Mighty in battle is the meaning of " Mathilde"
Against dark traps and trials she fought hard to bulid
The firm foundations of a girl's education
Haven for the homeless, the poor and abandoned
In 1854, within the convent walls.
Legacy of love and simple virtues to all
Devotion to selfless duty when called upon.
Eternal flame of IJ shall burn brightly on!

(Sonnet by Claire Ang)