

of 1867-8. To accomodate the increasing Catholic population a larger church of brick and stone was begun in 1874 and completed in 1876. The structure is an ornament to Helena and a standing monument of the liberality of her people. Attached to this church are the four counties of Lewis and Claska, Meagher, Jefferson and Gallatin, containing a Catholic population of about 1,500 souls. Besides the above, in 1876 St-Joseph's church was built in the Missouri Valley and two more are in contemplation, one at Bozeman and the other at Boulder Valley. In the Spring of 1877

THE FIRST EPISCOPAL VISITATION TO MONTANA

Was made by Rt. Rev. Bishop T. O'Conner, Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska, to whose jurisdiction the eastern portion of our Territory belongs. In this visit he confirmed over two hundred persons, children and adults. The impression made on his Grace was most favorable and lasting. In a letter addressed to the Rev. Pastor of Helena, March 31, 1879, the Rt. Rev. Bishop, referring to the people of Montana, writes : «It may be that I saw only the bright side of their character, but certain it is that I have never met a people with whom I was better pleased.» With such flattering words from our Bishop we may well cross the Range once more and say a few words of the good people of Deer Lodge. In this portion of the Lord's Vineyard Rev. R. DeRyckere has been a devoted and faithful laborer since 1866. He built two churches, one a handsome stone building at Deer Lodge, the other a frame lined with brick at Butte. The principal centers of the Catholic population in the country, besides Deer Lodge and Butte, are Phillipsburg, Beartown, Flint Creek and Nevada Creek Valleys. Having obtained no late returns we can give no accurate