

INTRODUCTORY.



THE object of this appeal is to endeavour to enlist the sympathy and support of all Canadians on behalf of one of the most interesting ecclesiastical edifices in the Dominion—the Chapel of Ste. Croix at Tadousac ; a structure which, in addition to the claims it presents as one of the earliest places of Christian worship on the St. Lawrence, derives a deep interest from its connection not only with the early Christian missionaries but with the early commerce and civilization of Canada.

If the piety of our forefathers in England, Scotland, Ireland, and France, during the dark ages, prompted them to perform such glorious works as the building and endowing noble cathedrals to the praise and glory of God, not grudging to give of all they had, not thinking that anything could, by any possibility, be too costly for the service that they made, what should be expected from those who rejoice in the brightness of a better and more enlightened age ?

Let us reverence the spirit of self-sacrifice of the dark ages (as they are contumeliously termed,) and see with what a noble ardour the men of those days devoted *all*,—money, time, thought, hope, life itself,—to raising for God and man shrines as worthy of God as human hands could raise, and fit and able to lift man's thoughts and hopes beyond Earth, and lead them on heavenward. They did not sit down to sum up the exact cost of glorifying God ; they did not calculate exactly how many the holy roof would cover ; they