

JOLIETTE

Le génie puissant, le patriotisme éclairé et l'esprit chrétien de l'honorable Barthélemy Joliette ont laissé des traces ineffaçables dans la vie, le caractère et les moeurs des habitants de la jolie ville qui porte son nom. Expansion industrielle et commerciale, marche ascendante du mouvement religieux et intellectuel, monuments et oeuvres de toutes sortes, tout, ici, porte l'empreinte des vertus fécondes de Barthélemy Joliette.

Jamais, semble-t-il, cette pensée d'un célèbre philosophe, qu'une institution est comme la continuation de la vie de son fondateur, ne saurait être mieux appliquée qu'à cette ville, coquette et progressive, où se manifeste partout le génie de celui qui, naguère, la faisait magiquement sortir du sol.

L'éminent patriote qui a fondé le village de l'INDUSTRIE, aujourd'hui la ville de Joliette, a confirmé l'adage : "Bon sang ne peut mentir"; en effet, chacune de ses actions nous rappelle l'énergie et l'esprit d'entreprise du découvreur du Mississippi, Louis Joliet, son glorieux ancêtre.

Barthélemy Joliette naquit à Montmagny, en 1789; à son âge de majorité, il embrassa la carrière de son père, Antoine, celle du notariat.

Durant la guerre de 1812, il se joignit à la milice volontaire et passa bientôt du rang de simple soldat aux grades successifs de capitaine, major et lieutenant-colonel. Ce fut pendant sa carrière militaire qu'il épousa mademoiselle Marie-Charlotte, de la noble famille Tarrieu Taillant de Lanaudière. Madame Joliette et la famille de Lanaudière devaient plus tard secourir puissamment monsieur Joliette dans ses colossales entreprises.

If it be true, as some philosopher has said, that every great institution is the lengthened shadow of one man, then the town of Joliette is certainly the ever increasing shadow of Barthélemy Joliette, who founded it, and impressed it with his dominant genius.

In the Hon. B. Joliette, seemed to have been focalized anew the energies which found such lofty expression in Louis Joliet the explorer, who was, with the great Father Marquette, the discoverer of the Mississippi river. As a reward of his services, Louis Joliet was appointed hydrographer to the king of France, and given the Seigneurie of Anticosti, to which, in 1697, was added the Seigneurie of Joliette, which descended to his relatives, among whom, in the fourth generation, was Barthélemy Joliette, in whom the family genius for daring enterprises found renewed expression. He was born in 1789. Following the attainment of his majority, he, like his father Antoine Joliette, became a notary. He was a volunteer in the war of 1812, and on account of daring and bravery, became, successively, captain, major and lieutenant colonel. While a soldier, he was married to Miss Charlotte de Lanaudière. The war over, he returned to his profession, and, in 1817, entered politics.

But the Hon. B. Joliette was much more than a politician. His practical constructive genius, saw a vision of a Quebec Province dotted with towns and villages, where should be heard the music of industries giving employment to thousands of people. That vision he sought to make practical.