

## LETTER FROM QUEBEC.

A. M. P. O.  
Blessing of the Corner Stone  
of the Chapel of  
Notre Dame du Chemin  
Near the Villa Mauresa, on the St. Foye Road,  
Thursday, the 1st May, Feast of the Ascension,  
at Quebec, K. A.

## Blessed Seat.

Such was the inscription—printed in French upon a card handed to me shortly after my arrival in Quebec upon the eve of the Ascension. I had not heard of the proposed church, nor even of the Villa Mauresa. The history of both, as told to me, will perhaps be of interest to some of the readers of the REGISTER.

Some three years ago the Jesuit Fathers of the Residence of Quebec feeling the need of a country house which would enable them to receive members of the secular clergy and men of the world, desirous of making spiritual retreats, and would afford to the Fathers themselves a place of quiet repose for the sick and fatigued of their community. Mr. Louis de Gonzague Baillaige, a venerable Queen's Council, and the City Attorney of Quebec, generously responded to the appeal with a donation of \$8,000, by means of which a beautiful white brick house, a short distance outside the city limits on the St. Foye road, was purchased and fitted up as a House of Spiritual Retreat.

The families resident in the neighborhood soon became possessed of the idea that it would be a good and convenient thing for them, were there a church built in connection with the Villa. Permission having been asked and obtained from the cure of the Parish of St. Jean Baptiste, and his Eminence Cardinal Taschereau having approved and blessed the project, the Jesuit Fathers set about what promised to be rather a difficult task, that of collecting the necessary funds.

Although they could scarcely expect any further assistance from one who had been so extraordinarily generous as Mr. Baillaige, still courtesy demanded that they should pay him the compliment of asking him to place his name at the head of their list of subscribers. The Reverend Pere Desy waited upon him, and received in response to his appeal a cheque for the magnificent sum of ten thousand dollars. Other friends of the good work subscribed according to their means, thus encouraged by the evident success which was attending the fulfilment of his pious project, the Reverend Father Desy undauntedly proceeded with the work of building the church, which will be roofed in this autumn.

The Feast of the Ascension was the day chosen for the solemn blessing of the corner stone. Very charming was the weather and very smiling the crowd that in fresh spring toilet thronged St. John street en route for Notre Dame du Chemin—which might be translated "Our Lady of the Wayside." The St. Foye road wore its brightest aspect, the houses had thrown off their winter gloom and donned their cool-looking green shutters and spotless lace draperies—the trees were in blossom, the crocuses and tulips in bloom—all was spring like and gay. Many of the houses in the vicinity were decorated with bunting, as was also the new church which at present consists of a basement roofed in by a temporary platform on which were chairs placed for the convenience of the invited guests. All around the edge of the masonry and lining the aisles and gangway were young spruce trees. At the extremity of the building facing the entrance a large latin cross marked the place whereon the High Altar will stand, this was draped with the tricolor and St. Andrew's cross. The whole building was shaded with a fluttering mass of bunting—the Papal, English and French flags predominating. At the head of the gangway, which led from the sidewalk

to the elevated platform, the Reverend Jesuit Fathers welcomed their guests. At three o'clock strains of martial music were heard, and the band of the Quebec Seminary appeared escorting a company of Papal Zouaves in full uniform, who marched up and grouped themselves around the cross of which it is their proud boast to be the recognized defenders. Then came his Honor Lieut. Governor Chapleau, with his staff, Chief Justice Casault, Judge Routher, and almost all the honorable senators, members of Parliament and public officials of any standing in Quebec, for the most part accompanied by their wives. At a few moments after three, the procession of clerics in surplice and baretta defiled along the avenue and under the white birch trees, chanting as they came. Monsignor Marois, V.G., was the officiating priest, and was assisted by the Rev. Father Royer, O.M.I., the Abbe Beauhieu, Chaplain of the Hotel Dieu. There were many other clergymen in the procession, among whom were the Rev. Father Guilloz, C.S.S.R., the Abbe Audet, Martel, Casgrain, Garneau, Dupuis, and the Rev. Fathers Desy, Turgeon, Hamon, Carro, French, Martineau, Caesse and Bellevue, S.J.

The procession passed up the aisle, and Mgr. Marois blessed the site for the High altar, the masonry of the foundations, and finally the corner stone, after which Rev. Father Desy read aloud in a clear and resonant voice, a French translation of the Latin document placed beneath, and of which the following is the English:

A. M. P. O.

Through the efforts of the Rev. Father E. Desy, S.J., and thanks to the munificence of M. Louis Gougague Baillaige, Q.C., a House of Retreat was opened on the St. Foye Road near Quebec on the 23rd Nov., 1891. In memory of the grove where St. Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus composed, and followed for the first time his spiritual exercises, this retreat received the name of Mauresa.

The citizens of the neighborhood soon decided that a sodality chapel of the Blessed Virgin would be a great spiritual help to them. With the gracious consent of M. F. X. Plamondon, Cure of the parish of St. Jean Baptiste, they addressed themselves to his Eminence Cardinal Taschereau, who, always full of zeal for the glory of God and for the salvation of souls, approved of and blessed the project. Again we have evidence of the limitless generosity of the eminent benefactor above named. To the \$8,000 already consecrated to the purchase of the House of Mauresa, Mr. Baillaige added \$10,000 towards the erection of this sanctuary. Other citizens equally animated with an ardent piety and love for the Virgin Mary contributed largely to this work.

Finally, on the glorious Feast of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 3rd May in the midst of a great concourse of people, after an eloquent discourse by the Rev. Father Hamon, S.J., the corner stone of the chapel of Notre Dame du Chemin, (Our Lady of the Wayside) was blessed and placed in position, according to all the rites of the Roman Ritual, by Monsignor C. A. Marois, V.G.

The year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four  
Of the glorious pontificate of Leo XIII, the Sixteenth.  
Of the reign of our gracious Sovereign, Victoria  
Queen of England, the fifty-seventh.  
His Excellency Sir John Campbell Hamilton Gordon,  
Earl of Aberdeen, Governor General of Canada.  
His Eminence Cardinal Eleazar Alexandre Taschereau,  
Arch-bishop of Quebec.  
The Honorable Adolphe Chapleau, Lieutenant Gov-  
ernor of the Province of Quebec.

His Grace Monseigneur Louis Nazaire Begin, Arch-  
bishop of Cyrenne,oadjutant of His Eminence.

M. Napoleon S. Parent, Mayor of the City.

The Very Reverend Father Louis Martin, General  
of the Society of Jesus.

The Rev. Father Francois Xavier Renaud, Superior  
General of the Mission of Canada.

The Reverend Father Edward Desy, Superior of the  
Residence of Quebec.

The Reverend Father S. French, Director of the  
House of Retreat—Mauresa.

Eleazar Alexandre  
Father and Prince  
And you fellow citizens,  
Your concurrence and your magnificence  
Have allowed us to build  
This Sanctuary in honor of the Mother of God,  
We, members of the Society of Jesus  
On this solemn day  
Offer up our prayers  
That the Great and Good God, the  
Author of every perfect gift  
May Himself be your great reward.

(Here follow the names of the Fathers and Brothers of the Residence of Quebec.)

After the reading of this document the Rev. Father Hamon, S.J., delivered a truly admirable discourse. The subject was one which no son of Loyola could treat in an unimpassioned manner—the building of a Sanctuary of which the very name breathes forth a souvenir of the days of St. Ignatius, and in a locality so sanctified by the footsteps of the early Jesuit missionaries, as is the St. Foye Road, between Quebec and Sillery.

"In the middle ages," said the Rev. Father, "the construction of a cathedral was a work which brought with it many blessings, and all hastened to contribute to it by their alms and by their toil. The faithful understood that to build a church is to share in all the good works that will be performed therein, in the course of centuries, it is to offer alms directly and personally to our Lord, it is to give him an earthly habitation and consequently to insure for ourselves a permanent habitation in heaven. Honour to M. Baillaige, Count of the Holy Roman Empire, who, after having given to God many dwelling places in heathen lands, wished also to build for him, a magnificent habitation in the old capital of new France.

Honour to Rev. Father Desy, who, by his zeal, his perseverance and indefatigable energy, has, in spite of many difficulties, brought this noble enterprise to a happy conclusion. Honour to all the citizens, who have gladly contributed to the erection of this beautiful chapel. They have done a good work for God, and for their country.

A church is a national monument, a citadel in which is the ark of the covenant of the public rights and the nationality of a people. A nation without churches, is a nomadic nation without interest and without root in the soil. A nation with its churches and monuments is implanted firmly in the soil, and can do battle for its altars and its national traditions. "Pro aris et focis."

Here we are upon historic ground; three names are heard upon the plains of Abraham: Montcalm, Wolfe and Levis. Wolfe fell upon this plain, and the English flag waves over his tomb. Montcalm went to sleep, his last sleep in a Canadian church in the heart of the conquered city. Levis gained a last victory, brilliant but useless, a victory which however was a happy omen for the future. The Canadians were driven back to their churches, to which they were attached by the strongest fibres of their souls, in those churches where lay the bones of their ancestors, where they had been baptized had made their First Communion, and received the sacrament of marriage.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies the Villa Mauresa was visited—a spacious house in extensive grounds. The little chapel though humble is neat and devotional, and in it as well as in the parlour are many portraits of dead and gone Jesuits—the difference being that those in the chapel are of canonized members of the Order, while those in the parlour are of Fathers whose names though not upon our altars are indelibly engraven in the history of our country.

Out on the lawn is a large statue of St. Ignatius surmounting a lofty pedestal on the base of which are engraved in Latin the following texts:

St. Ignatius, when setting out on the way to Heaven took first the road to Mauresa.

If you would enter life everlasting keep my com-  
mandments.

When we left Mauresa the sun was going down—its last rays lingered on the broad green lawn, where stood the Reverend Father Desy in the midst of a group of Pontifical Zouaves in their honoured grey, who were bidding adieu to the amiable and polished young Monsignor who had so ably conducted the impressive ceremonies of the afternoon—the representative at Mauresa of the first Cardinal of Quebec.

A. M. P. BELLINCKERT.

## Confirmation at Port Colborne.

Wednesday May 23rd will long be remembered at Port Colborne, as it was the day appointed for giving Confirmation by his Grace Archbishop Walsh of Toronto.

Rain had fallen in torrents almost every day during the previous week, but to-day the sun shone forth in all its brilliancy. Precisely at 9 a.m. 10 candidates for confirmation, comprising children from Port Colborne and Welland, entered the church in solemn procession—the girls taking their places on the Gospel side and boys on the Epistle. His Grace the Archbishop then vested in cope and mitre, assisted by Very Rev. J. J. McCann, V.G., Rector of St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, and Very Rev. Dean Harris, St. Catharines. Solemn High Mass, *Coram Pontifice* was then sung by the Rev. T. J. Sullivan, P. P., Thorold, Rev. L. A. Allain, P.P. St. Mary's Church, St. Catharines, Deacon, Rev. J. F. Lynett, P.P., Merriton, Sub-deacon, and Rev. J. J. McEntee, Master of Ceremonies.

After the first Gospel the Very Rev. Dean Harris advanced to the Altar rail and delivered one of his masterly pieces of eloquence on Confirmation, referring incidentally in a most happy manner to some of the various charges made by Protestants against our Holy Faith. The sermon was listened to with breathless attention by an immense congregation composed largely of Protestants.

At the proper time the children advanced to the Altar rail and received Holy Communion, a truly happy moment for them, and one most anxiously looked forward to and one that will be long remembered by the happy ones. At the conclusion of the High Mass His Grace the Archbishop, accompanied by the deacon and sub-deacon in Dalmatics, and his attendants at Mass, proceeded to examine the candidates in their Catechism. The kind fatherly way in which His Grace addressed them made the children feel at ease. The answers to all his questions came quick and fast. Now and then His Grace would soar aloft in explaining some teaching of the Church in sublime eloquence. The examination over, His Grace then proceeded to impart to them the sacrament of Confirmation—the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost. After a few words of fatherly advice, he requested all the children to stand up and lift up their right hand solemnly and pledge themselves not to touch intoxicants until the age of 21 years, a universal custom of his Grace which must be productive of untold blessings.

The children's modest deportment, dress and training, called forth many a compliment.

The choir under the able leader, Miss Mary Twohey, executed in a most admirable manner Bordes's Mass in F and other musical selections.

The three altars were one mass of the choicest exotics most artistically arranged by Miss Mary Dietrich.

A new sacred song, "Redemption," composed by Prof. G. L. Vantom and dedicated to his wife, Mme. Rosa d'Erina, has been published recently by Messrs. Whaley, Royce & Co., Toronto. The beautiful words of this song are by the well known Catholic poetess Eleanor C. Donnelly. Price 40 cents.