

broad and deep the foundations of the Church in Western Canada. His work was herculean; the man was a hero. I have seen the country that was filled with his labors, and in virtue of his work he is entitled to rank with the world's great missionary bishops and to be given place among the builders of Canada.

I have seen some of the country over which Grandin, so delicate in body, so strong and yet so sweet in spirit, journeyed, amid untellable hardships and suffering, in extending the work of Taché.

I have stood in the clearing which Clut made with his own hands for the mission of Lesser Slave Lake when that country that settlement now seeks was but a wilderness.

I touch but the fringe of a great subject. I mention but the names of a few; Tissot, Maisonneuve, Farand, Grollier, Tessier, Grouard, Lacombe, Lestane.

"On the long procession goes  
Glory in their crosses glows,  
And the Virgin Mother mild  
In their peaceful banners smiled."

They carried not only the Gospel message, but they were the pioneers of civilization. They established schools, they were doctors and nurses, farmers and millers, carpenters and engineers, road makers and bridge builders.

There is to my mind a special fitness in the chief institution of learning conducted by the Oblates being situated in Ottawa, for it was Mgr. Guignes, the first Bishop of Ottawa and the first Provincial of the Order in America, who, acting under instructions of his superior general, despatched the first Oblate missionaries to the west.

Bishop Provencher was overwhelmed by the immensity of his field and the dearth of laborers. It was found practically impossible to secure secular priests. The work called for more than the priestly vocation. It demanded the heroism of a Paul—the apostolic spirit of absolute self abnegation.

An appeal was made to the Bishop of Marseilles, the saintly Mazenod, the founder of the Oblate congregation. He responded. In August, 1845, the first Oblate priest came up the Red River to St. Boniface. He was accompanied by a scholastic brother, a young man who seemed so boyish as almost to disap-