

decided steps to make the mission permanent. With bricks imported from France, he built a house and appurtenances, and no less a person than Madame de la Peltrie visited the station. That fanciful lady was at the period devoting her life to the Ursuline Convent at Quebec, to which, although not herself a *religieuse*, she transferred much of her property. A few months later, she abandoned Quebec for Montreal, taking with her the furniture she possessed, and greatly inconveniencing the Quebec Convent. Montreal, however, did not content her, in spite of the theatrical display with which she was treated, having received the sacrament on the top of the mountain, where, as the Père Vimont tells us, and 'Monsieur de Chomedey de Maisonneuve,' in accordance with his vow planted a cross there, with some ceremony. Montreal became insipid, and the lady was seized with a desire to visit the Huron country—and was only restrained by the strong remonstrance of a Jesuit father who had not long before returned and knew the difficulties to be encountered. When she visited Tadoussac, a few years earlier, the place was under the protection of Quebec, and it is by no means improbable, as we view the visit by the light of her subsequent life, that she may then have intended to have constituted herself a missionary among the Indians to the north, but was dissuaded from her intention. As late as 1648, the church was merely a bark cabin, but the year previous a bell had been placed there. Shortly after, a frame building was constructed. For twenty years, matters continued without much change. Bishop Laval visited the place, and gave an impetus to religious feeling; but the region remained a wilderness and the only proselyte was the savage.

No change took place after the conquest. The Company which derived profit from the land may have varied; but the land itself was unmarked by

improvement. It continued the preserve of the fur trader. Eventually it passed into the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company, who held it by a lease from the Government, certainly for their own profit and emolument; and for the first sixty years of English rule, the territory remained without notice or attention. Indeed as we consider the events of that period, it was scarcely possibly it could be otherwise.

In 1820, the subject of the Saguenay attracted considerable interest, and Mr. Pascal Taché, who had carried on the trade for years, came before a committee of the House of Assembly and bore testimony to its resources, and the fertility of the soil, which consisted of rich loam, with a temperate climate, with forests of pine, cedar, poplar, aspens and spruce. It seems it is not in human nature to avoid exaggeration. Mr. Taché tells us, 'Les patates et les choux récoltés à Chicoutimi sont tels que ceux que l'on cultive à Quebec ne paraissent en comparaison que comme des choux nains.' We fear that sixty years have destroyed this good report. Now-a-days, we hear the same stories of Manitoba.

In 1826, Mr. Andrew Stuart brought the subject before the Legislative Assembly, and £500 had been voted for the exploration of the territory, known as 'The King's Posts.' The Royal sanction was not obtained until August, 1827: it was then too late that year to fit out an expedition. Lord Dalhousie was Governor-General. He was one of those military governors of the time, who were held to be the only officers available for the Government of Canada. In one sense this was true, for the emoluments of office had little to tempt any one who had made his mark in political life at home, and who had a future before him. To say nothing of saving money, the emoluments were barely sufficient to meet the expenditure inseparable from the duty, and it was a fortunate result if the governor escaped pecuniary embarrassment. Many charges were made by