

fields of missionary labour are opened here within the last few years. It is the most difficult and insalubrious of all the foreign missions, and needs at the present moment all our sympathies and aid. Many conversions are effected amongst the blacks. In Australia and Oceania new dioceses have been formed and a great future awaits the Church in those countries owing principally to Irish emigration, and their children being educated in the true faith. In our own North-West and eastern territory a great work has been accomplished during the last fifty years. There are now in these countries one Archbishop and five Bishops, Vicars-Apostolic, including British Columbia and Vancouver Island. The Archbishop of St. Boniface, opposite Winnipeg, is assisted by thirty-four priests and thirty Sisters of Charity, college schools, orphan asylums, schools, etc., etc., and a number of lay brothers.

The Bishop of St. Albert, in the Saskatchewan District, is assisted by thirty priests and by as many Sisters of Charity with their orphan asylums, schools, etc. There are about twelve thousand Catholic Indians scattered over that vast region. The thirty priests have residences in the most convenient localities. In the districts of Arthabaska and Mackenzie there are two Bishops, seventeen priests, and a number of lay brothers and Sisters of Charity. British Columbia has one Bishop, eighteen priests, seventy-eight churches and chapels, three convents, with orphan asylums, schools and hospitals. Its Catholic population being 20,000, principally Indians; while Vancouver Island has a Catholic population of five thousand four hundred, one Bishop, twelve priests, a number of Sisters of Charity, with schools, orphan asylums, and convents. There is no part of the world at present that is not mapped out by the direction of the Pope and provided with spiritual assistance and guides. The command of our Lord to His Apostles, "Go teach all nations," has been faithfully carried out by degrees, by the Catholic Church. The evangelization of the world requires great courage and perseverance, the Holy Spirit of God breathes into souls the spirit of self sacrifice to quit home and all human ties and comforts, to labour and suffer for the salvation of souls. The missionaries in most of those countries that we have enumerated have to endure, like St. Paul, the fatigue of long journeys by sea and by land; dangers in the rivers, dangers from robbers, from the pagans, dangers of the city and in solitude, dangers from false brethren, pains from sickness and in watchings, from hunger and thirst, from cold and nakedness, and above all the anguish from the solicitude for the salvation of the people confided to their care, lest any should be lost through their fault. What great reward must these missionaries, co-operators with Christ in the salvation of souls, receive from Him? We, by our alms, can participate in their reward, which must be exceedingly great, for the salvation of one soul is more important than the preservation of ten thousand material worlds. If the Society of the Propagation of the Faith ceased to exist, or becomes relaxed in its efforts to supply means to the missions, then millions of souls should be abandoned, and would relapse again into infidelity. But this, we hope, will never take place.

God will stir up the zeal of generous souls to continue the good work, and their reward will be very great both in this world and in the next. We trust that all our good people will contribute according to their means. We must not forget that all Upper Canada received large contributions from the Propagation Society, when the first missionaries were labouring under great difficulties, but now that the missions are well established, honour as well as gratitude demand a return. Donations were sent to us, until we announced to the Society that we scrupled to receive money from them whilst so many other parts of the world were in greater distress. Parents will also teach