

interesting. And so it is with the biography of Father Lacombe. To have lived in the West during its entire 'transition period' is no mean experience. Father Lacombe has done more than this. He has been a leader in that 'transition' of the West from a wild frontiersland to a civilized country.

Albert Lacombe was born of habitant parents, in the parish of St. Sulpice, near Montreal, in 1827. A slight strain of Indian blood tinged his warm and sympathetic French nature with the fine daring, the strategy and imagination of the *coureurs de bois*. Imbued with an Indian love of the wilds, he seemed especially fitted for the Indian missions. So in 1849, shortly after his ordination as an Oblate, we find him upon the western plains laboring among the Indians. The Indians never had a more devoted and watchful guardian of their interests, or a more ardent advocate than Father Lacombe. For almost forty years he labored in their behalf—converting the tribes, building their churches, teaching them husbandry. Later he was instrumental in obtaining Indian schools for his dear savages.

Father Lacombe has been an extremely active man. He has crossed the Continent innumerable times—now to interview the Government at Ottawa, now to seek funds for his missions. Europe, too, he has visited on business for the Order of Oblates. He rendered inestimable services to the Canadian Pacific Railway in its survey for a transcontinental line, and to the Government in its dealings with the Indians. His circle of friends is large and remarkable for the number of illustrious people it includes.

And, now, this old man, almost ninety years of age, still lives in his "Hermitage" among the foot-hills of the Rockies, close by the scene of his early operations. His life story is well told by Miss Hughes and cannot fail to interest.

Among the Magazines.

The Rosary for February contains an excellent appreciation of Dickens' genius by Thos. O'Hagan. The writer points out that the period of Dickens' youth was a time remarkable in England, for the 'sheer ugliness of everyday life.' Refinement and culture had become rare, hypocrisy and snobbishness were rife. Charles Dickens entered the arena as a moral reformer, and, particularly, as an advocate of charity towards the poor. "Christ's Wandering Friars" is an interesting account of how intrepid Do-