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SIXTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Grande-Ligne Mission.

So much has already been written and spoken during the present year, and especially quite lately on the work, prospects and needs of this mission, that the Secretary finds but little to glean to make his report, unless he repeats a good deal of what has already been said and printed.

It has often been said that this Province of Quebec is the most thoroughly Roman Catholic portion of the papal church. If by that is meant that among the million and a quarter of Roman Catholics living on the banks of the St. Lawrence, there are more truly devout, sincere, living members of that persuasion (*catholiques pratiquants*) as it is expressed in French, than among the same number in other countries, I think it is true. It is less tainted with infidel ideas than in France, less an external varnish than in Italy and Spain, less ignorant than Mexico, and though very superstitious it is a little less so than some parts of Belgium or Germany. Though far removed from the headquarters of Catholicism, they are in very direct and intimate communication with it; they have here a prince of the church, a Cardinal; they have Jesuits who are the essence of Roman Catholicism, assiduously working among them; bishops and priests are incessantly going to or coming from Rome. There are no sayings or movements of any importance in Rome, but we have the echo and the rebound on our shores. Monks—white, grey and black, with their strange uncouth garments, eccentricities and effrontery, parade our streets, in order to accustom our eyes to the garb of dark gone-by days and doings, and stealthily implant themselves in the finest quarters of our city. They come to reinforce the army which fights to perpetuate