

fields of our West, should have been the community selected for the noble work.

The year 1904 marks an epoch in the history of Cap de la Madeleine. On October 12th, an event, unique even in the annals of the Catholic Church in this country, occurred, when the statue of Our Lady was solemnly crowned in the name of the Sovereign Pontiff, Pius X, by His Lordship, Bishop Cloutier. The Apostolic Delegate to Canada, Mgr. Sbarretti, celebrated the High Mass on that occasion, and there were ranged about the altar fifteen mitred heads as well as four hundred priests and religious. The scene was certainly imposing; even in the eyes of a sceptic, it must have been so. Although the sun looked down from a cloudless sky, a piercing wind, that tinged with white caps the waters of the St. Lawrence, made it a cold, bleak day—a Canadian autumn day, clear, fresh and invigorating. From early dawn worshippers were at the shrine. Every train that passed by had its quota to swell the ranks, and steamers came from all directions on the St. Lawrence, densely crowded with pilgrims. By 10.30 o'clock, when the solemn service commenced, there were fully 15,000 people present upon the grounds. Only a religious ceremony could bring together such a crowd in a comparatively isolated country place—a crowd, so orderly, that there was not even a loud or angry word. The sudden silence that fell upon the vast concourse of people when Bishop Cloutier placed the sign of royalty and power upon the head of the statue was calculated to arouse those forces in the soul which make for salvation. Tears welled up in many eyes—tears of gratitude and love. And what did it all mean? Simply this,—the most illiterate could not mistake its significance—it was a magnificent profession of faith in Jesus Christ, our King, and His Immaculate Mother, Mary, our Queen.

The keynote of the two sermons preached on that day by Archbishops Begin and Duhamel, as well as of the special prayer recited by Bishop Cloutier was, that Mary might look upon this land, to guard it, as the heritage of her son. That it may prosper and abound, that its citizens may be upright and its laws just, that the Church may find herein the freest and widest scope, will have an echo in every Canadian heart.

C. M.