

He was one of the founders of an Irish settlement in the district of Gaspé, where marked traces of the race may still be found; and it may be observed that from his first election in 1791 till this day, Lower Canada has never been without an Irish representation in its Legislative Councils.* The County of Leinster, with its townships of Wexford, Kilkenny and Kildare,—dating from the same period, would also seem to indicate the existence of Irish settlements on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, between Montreal and Three Rivers; but of these we are not able, at present, to give any detailed account.

It is not, however, much more than half a century ago since the Irish communities of Montreal and Quebec—the *nuclei* of their class in Lower Canada—began to be formed. In the first ten years of the century “Dillon’s tavern” was the principal Inn or hotel at Montreal; and during the same decade, [1804], the present English Cathedral at Quebec was built by Mr. Cannon, an Irish Catholic from Newfoundland, originally of Wexford. In those days a mass was specially said for the Irish in one of the churches of Quebec; while at Montreal, first the Bonsecours, and subsequently the Recollet Church, was given up to their use, during certain hours on Sundays and holy days. In the war of 1812-’15, many of the Irish were honorably distinguished, and on the establishment of peace, a very marked increase in emi-

* The first “Provincial Judge” appointed for Gaspé, (in 1799) was Felix O’Hara, at a salary of £200 sterling. In the same year, among the subscribers to the “benevolence to His Majesty” for carrying on the war with France, we find the name of Judge O’Hara for £27.