

Providence conducting a people of predilection, step by step, through the perils of their way ; chastising them sometimes with rigor, but always bountifully rewarding them as soon as they return to the worship of the true God with bitter repentance of their errors ; finally, making the salvation of the human race spring from their midst in the form of Our Savior Jesus Christ : the other equally shows us with what solicitude God watched over the cradle of the Canadian nation ; with what paternal care and merciful goodness He has unceasingly protected this rising nation, so deeply tried by war and by its political vicissitudes, yet, nevertheless, always so firmly attached to the Faith, Language, and Customs of its forefathers.

We must, however, here remark, that in a course of General History, we could not separate the History of the People of God from Ancient History, as the former is a part of the latter ; we had, therefore, to place our National History, after Modern History.

ANCIENT HISTORY.—“ The ancient empires, says Bossuet, have, for the most part, a necessary connection with the History of the People of God. The Lord made use of the Assyrians and Babylonians to chastise His People ; of the Persians, to restore them ; of Alexander and his immediate successors, to protect them ; of Antiochus Epiphanes and his successors, to put them to the proof ; of the Romans, to maintain their liberty against the Kings of Syria, who only sought to destroy them.” It shows us these famous empires falling, one after another, under the weight of their own errors and crimes, leaving to exist after them, amidst all these ruins, but the one Empire to which eternity was promised : the Empire of Jesus Christ.

THE HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE AGES.—This period, of about ten centuries, presents the double spectacle of the fall of the old world, and the reconstruction of the new : Polytheism, which had taken such deep roots in the pagan and barbaric world, receives its death-blow from Christianity ; the reign of the Savior tramples the Empire of Satan beneath its feet ; the most cruel and insupportable tyranny makes way for a Christian and comparatively gentle government ; lastly, the intimate union of religion and government, gives birth to a new force, which, energetically attacking those bad passions fostered by the corruption of the age, finally comes out victorious from the gigantic struggle.

MODERN HISTORY.—The period included between the invasion of Europe by the Turks, and the times in which we live, counts but four centuries ; however, they are of the busiest and

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