

lips and hearts ; for the building is the Lazaretto of Tracadie. Before the year 1798 no register was kept of baptisms, marriages, or burials in the parish. Since that date, however, and up to 1842, Tracadie was under the care of the *curés* of Caraquet, a neighboring parish.

On the 24th. of October 1842, arrived the first resident priest, M. François Xavier Stanislas Lafrance, who remained there until January 1852. M. Lafrance has since died. At Tracadie he was succeeded by the present *curé*, M. l'Abbé Ferdinand Gauvreau, with whose name the history of these poor lepers must always be interwoven.

Probably the most terrible chastisement inflicted on a guilty people is that known as leprosy. In ancient times it was only too well known, for it was then more frequent than in our day. It made such fearful ravages in certain parts of the world, that its very name was whispered in accents of horror and dread. From time immemorial has this scourge been looked upon as utterly distinct from all other diseases ; more virulent in its effects ; more insidious in its approaches, and above all by reason of the frightful manner in which it distorts and disfigures its victims.

The alarm that has always been felt in regard to this most loathsome disease arises not alone from its hideous results, but also from the conviction that has always existed as to the absolute hopelessness of cure.

During the summer of 1757 the colony on the Miramichi River suffered much from the war between France and England, which sadly interrupted their traffic in fish and furs. Consequently, the following winter was one of great suffering, and many of the colonists died of hunger. Two transport ships, laden with provisions and supplies of all kinds, were sent out