

## INTRODUCTION.

In the course of the current year several articles have been published in *l'Action Sociale* and *La Vérité*, both of Quebec, on the religious condition of the Ruthenians in the Canadian Northwest, which were quite a revelation to a great many of their readers. We are thankful to God, that the surprise caused thereby will not be fruitless, for there are already several young clerics who are seriously studying the question and in their generosity have the intention of coming to the assistance of those who have already undertaken the work of saving the great number of souls who are threatened with losing their faith.

It is for them therefore that this memorandum is intended, as also for those who feel inclined to imitate or assist them in whatever manner may be necessary.

It is ten years now that I have been constantly in contact with the Ruthenian element in this country. As missionary and as priest I have followed with jealous solicitude all that concerned them, and, alas, how often, finding myself unable to drive away the wolves that had entered the fold, have I not deplored the fact that but so few priests are labouring among the flock. Many a time, on seeing the work accomplished by adversaries, calling themselves Catholics, I have looked with anguish towards the future of the Church in the Canadian Northwest and in the whole of Canada. Ah! if their efforts were to be crowned with success, what sad consequences for us! Our enemies have grasped the situation. They have set to work with an ardor and a tenacity worthy of a nobler cause. They have sacrificed all, time and money; they have so to say stirred up heaven and earth to secure for themselves this new element, being aware that thereby they will kill two birds with one stone: "weaken the number of Catholics and at the same time strengthen their own."