

At that time the Hon. and Rev. C. Stewart, whose headquarters were at Hatley, was the only other clergyman in what is now the diocese of Quebec, to the south of the St. Lawrence. Mr. Wood's position was, therefore, one of complete isolation, but he nevertheless often looked back to the seven years he spent at Drummondville as the happiest of his ministerial life; and it was the remembrance of them, and the affection he bore to the persons and scenes connected with his early labours, that induced him afterwards to return to the banks of the St. Francis. He gained, in a remarkable degree, the respect and affection of those to whom he ministered, not only in Drummondville itself, but in the neighbouring townships of Durham and Shipton, to which his labours were extended. Many examples of this have come under the personal knowledge of the present writer, among the older settlers whom he remembers. And in the journals of the late Bishop of Quebec, in his capacity of Archdeacon, when he was in the habit of visiting destitute settlements in order to ascertain their wants, frequent mention occurs of "Mr Wood's diligence," and of the success of his efforts in training to an appreciation of the services of the Church a population which had not been accustomed to receive them. He possessed one great gift for making the services specially attractive, for he had one of the sweetest voices in singing, and sang with such tenderness and feeling, as charmed all who ever had the happiness of hearing him. There are those now living who do not forget the impression he made upon them in this way, years ago, in their childhood. This gift, like all with which he was endowed, he was ever ready to use in his Master's service; and to the close of his life he used to lead the singing in his church. The influence which Mr. Wood exerted extended beyond his own flock, which at Drummondville consisted of persons properly belonging to the Church, and those to whom he carried his ministrations; an instance of which is mentioned in the Memoir of the late Bishop of Quebec, where an Irish Roman Catholic is stated to have had a great respect for Mr. Wood, saying that he was "the best man in the country, let who will be the other." Mr. Wood frequently accompanied Bishop Mountain in his journeyings both before and after his elevation to the Episcopate. In the account of one of his earlier ones, he thus refers to another power of pleasing, which, like himself, Mr. Wood possessed in a remarkable degree: "I would you had heard how my companion, as we toiled along, beguiled the way through the midnight woods, by repeating from his favourite poets, to whose works the conversation chanced to lead, I believe a hundred lines at a time, and favoured by the darkness, which removed some of the checks upon his confidence, gave their full effect to many animated or touching lines."

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