

EARLY EDUCATION IN CANADA.

BY MISS J. T., ONTARIO.

THE first school in Canada was opened by the Recollect Fathers who were persuaded by Champlain to send missionaries to the New World. Jauray, Dolbeau, Le Carvu and Duplessis were the first to arrive. Leaving Dolbeau at Quebec, the others went on to the mouth of the St. Maurice, where a school was opened by Duplessis, better known then as Brother Pacifique. Two years later, Le Carvu succeeded in opening another school at Tadoussac "in order to attract the savages, to render them sociable, and to accustom them to our ways of living." He writes home: "I have gone to Tadoussac to be of some assistance to the Indians of these places, to give them some instruction, and to administer the sacraments to the French, and to those who live there during the trading season. I would have had quite a number of children to instruct, had I the means of subsistence to give them. As it is, I have laid before some of them the alphabet, and they have made a good beginning in reading and writing."

In 1622, the Recollects built their first convent in Canada near the River St. Charles, and there they resided until, seventy years later, a building was erected for them where the English cathedral now stands. Schools were carried on in both convents. Amid great discouragements, Langoisseau endeavoured to train native teachers. But the wandering nature of the Red Man proved irresistible, and this praiseworthy attempt ended in failure.

At length Jauray obtained aid from the Prince de Condé and others to

erect a seminary near Little River, on land granted by the king for that purpose. About the same time several primary schools were established in outlying districts.

When Canada passed into the hands of the English, the lands of the Recollects were confiscated; but a life-rent was secured to the Order as long as any of them survived. At the same time they were forbidden to add to their number. Brother Paul, in Montreal, and Brother Louis, in Quebec, were among the last to conduct Recollect schools. The last of the fathers died in 1843 at Montreal.

But a short while later than the Recollects were the Jesuits, who sent out Brebœuf, Lalemant and Masse in 1625. The first Jesuit school in Canada was opened by Father Lejeune in 1632, who writes, that, after many years of college rule elsewhere, he is content and satisfied to teach A, B, C to a little Indian on one side, and a little negro on the other, and has no desire to change his two scholars for the finest audience in France. A year later we find him with twenty pupils. "My pupils come from a distance of a mile and a half to learn from me what is new to them."

... We finish with the Paternoster, which I have composed in rhymes, for them in their own language, and which I make them sing."

In 1635 the Jesuits succeeded in laying the foundation stone of a college at Quebec. They were well assisted, and soon became wealthy. Their college was conducted on the well-known principles of the Jesuit schools, and became the best on the continent.