

AN APPEAL TO LITTLE CHILDREN.



Y dear little friends, you have all studied geography ; you know Europe and its countries, and France in particular. You have heard of Lourdes where our Blessed Lady appeared and is ever working great miracles: Lourdes is in France. And you learnt about Louis IX of France, a saint and a king, just like Edward the Confessor. And above all, you dear little Canadians, you know Jacques Cartier, Samuel de Champlain and all the heroes who discovered and born (at the price of so much pains) your beautiful country ; and you know too, that they came from France.

From France also came those glorious missionnaires who lived and died amongst the natives of Canada, most of them losing their lives in the tortures of martyrdom : Brébeuf and Lallemand and Isaac Jogues, with his poor, dear cruelly maimed hands. — So you see, you have quite a number of reasons to feel interested in this far off land.

Now in France there live a great number of children, boys and girls, fond of play and full of merriment like you, children that have souls like you, that must go to heaven like you, if they shall not go to hell. And you know, my dears, in order to go to heaven we must learn our catechism and prayers, we must go to mass, to confession and communion. You learn all that, first in your pious homes, and then in the catholic schools when day by day, you kneel at the feet of our Lord's and our Lady's pictures.

But these poor little French children are very badly treated. Their parents have themselves, learnt very little about our holy faith, so cannot teach much to their boys and girls ; and these unfortunate children are sent to schools where they never see a crucifix or an image