

Pious as an angel, Ignace, at an early age, was the joy and consolation of his family. The smile of a saintly mother had caught and held his first look, and beneath that reflection of sweetest serenity, his childhood years passed onward, tranquilly, unassumingly as befits the poor of this world. Those first years were the mysterious preparation of a chosen soul entering upon a way in nowise remarkable, save for intensely loyal fidelity to God.

After studying some time under Mr. Gingras, a secular teacher, in the parish of Beaumont adjoining Levis, Ignace Bourget entered the Little Seminary of Quebec to begin his classical course. He brought thither a receptive mind, a soul ardent in faith, and a clear and unperturbed conscience. His edifying conduct soon inspired his fellow-pupils with a love akin to veneration, and his professors with an unbounded confidence. What every one admired in him was his regularity, his eagerness for learning and his exact obedience, all qualities that guide one in the ways of order and peace. The most lovable traits of his character were his cordial kindness, his willingness to oblige, and his good comradeship. Mild and reserved, without taste for the boisterous games into which most fiery natures cast themselves headlong, he hid beneath an