

## And the translation—

TO GOD  
 MOST EXCELLENT, MOST HIGH,  
 IN HONOR OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST  
 THIS CHURCH [WAS] ERECTED ANNO DOMINI  
 1717  
 [BY] THE MALISEETS  
 JEAN LOYARD, JESUIT, MISSIONARY PREFECT  
 [BEING THE] PRIEST.

The reconstruction and the translation are upon the authority of Professor C. L. Smith, of Harvard University, except for the letters M. P. on the seventh line, the meaning of which has been supplied by the Rt. Rev. M. F. Howley, Bishop of West Newfoundland. These letters, according to Bishop Howley, are not now used by the Jesuits themselves, but the title for which they doubtless stand, *Missionis Prefecto* or *Preposito*, is applied to missionary priests sent out by the Propaganda at Rome. The occurrence of a B at the end of the third line is inexplicable, except upon the supposition of an error of the engraver of the stone, for the entire context points to a P in that position. The x above the line in the fifth line appears also to show an error, this time of omission, but easily corrected.

The history of the stone seems to be fully given upon its face. At Meductic Point, where it was found, stood in old times, guarded by a rude fort, one of the most important Maliseet villages upon the St. John—at certain periods it was the most important. It is known that Father Loyard was stationed there as their missionary in the early part of the last century. The early French records several times refer to him, (Mss. published by the Quebec Gov't., Index). In 1716, he was on the St. John; in 1722 he was sent to France to represent the interests of the Indians at court; in 1724 letters written at Meductic were received from him at Quebec, and he was quoted as an authority upon the question of the boundary between Acadia and New England. He was evidently held in much esteem by the authorities at Quebec. The date of his death is unknown to us. It was doubtless under the inspiration of his zealous ministry that the Maliseets erected a chapel in 1717, probably but a simple building of logs, and upon its wall, perhaps over its doorway, was placed this stone, engraved in France or Quebec for the purpose. How long the chapel stood, we have no means of knowing, but unless destroyed earlier by accident, it was probably burned in the attack on Meductic Fort and village in the cruel foray of the English rangers from Quebec under Captain Rogers in 1760, (See EDUCATIONAL

REVIEW, Vol. IV, p. 154,) when the stone fell to the ground to lie until found by its present owner.

The name of P. Danillon upon its lower part is interesting, though it is not easy to say why it should be there. Jean Pierre Danillo was a priest on the St. John somewhat later than Father Loyard. He is mentioned as being the priest of the French settlers at St. John in 1733 (Murdoch's N. S., I., 515). His name is scratched but lightly upon the stone and was clearly not placed there with the original inscription.

The spelling *Malecitas* is worth noticing, for pronounced in French fashion it is precisely our "Maliseet." This is unquestionably the correct form of the word, though many corruptions of it have been in use.

The stone is the most interesting relic of the French Period that is extant.

For the REVIEW.]

## The Study of English.

To the observant beholder of us as a people, nothing can be more surprising than our comparative, I had almost said absolute, ignorance of the English language even in its plainest prose. Does anyone discredit the above statement? Let him inquire of any college professor of English, mathematics, or classics who meets, we may safely say, the majority of those having decided literary tendencies, and who are best equipped with that most powerful instrument of expression of thought, the English language. Let him ask that professor, I say, how many freshmen are able to write an examination paper the English of which is presentable, to demonstrate one proposition of Euclid without making the most egregious grammatical errors, conching the most obvious conclusions in the obscurest of terms; or how many at graduation may be relied upon to produce off-hand perfect King's English. Nor do we find this state of affairs limited to the provinces. The reports of Harvard university, of Cornell, indeed of all the great American colleges, show a most deplorable lack in this one respect. True, some students are more skilful in this department than others, but many of these might say, as did Rousseau of music, "By continuing to teach it I gained some knowledge of it." In other words, they are teachers who have learned to avoid the errors of more youthful students by reviewing and criticising their productions.

But if it may be said that the majority of matriculants are unable to express their thoughts clearly, are we to expect that those, whose education ends at the common schools, are better provided for? I myself have encountered young people of both sexes, who have successfully passed through all the grades of our common school course from I to IX, unable to com-