

But to Quebec was destined the honor of being the cradle of the Church in Canada. Here the grain of mustard-seed of which the Master spoke was to be cast into the earth, and though at first it was small and almost imperceptible, still it was to develop into a great tree and spread its branches far and wide.

Quebec in 1615, was composed of one fortified house with its dependencies, built by Champlain who called it the "Habitation."

1615-1915. It is 300 years ago since the first missionaries set foot in Canada. It is just three centuries ago since those heroic Franciscans sowed the seed of our greatness by establishing a colony whose people were destined to progress because they were imbued with faith in Christianity and guided by the light of the Gospel.

The great deeds of our history, and the salient facts of our existence as Catholics and as a nation, form a sacred and glorious heirloom of which we must always be justly proud, and of which we must know how to take advantage for keeping up and for strengthening in the souls of the Canadian people, the Catholic spirit which is its special characteristic.

And since the nation celebrated in 1908 the imperishable memory of the founder of the Canadian mother-land, may we not rightly sound the praises of those who were Champlain's most zealous helpers, and who gave to his undertaking that element of its wonderful vitality, the Catholic Faith?



A. Store-house. — B. Dove-cot. — CD. Main Building. — E. Dial. — F. Forge. — G. Gallery. — H. Champlain's Apartments. — I. House-door and Drawbridge. — L. Walk ten feet wide. — M. Ditch. — N. Platform for canon. O. Champlain's Garden. — P. Kitchen. — Q. Open space reaching to the River. — R. River St. Lawrence.