

the "River of the West." The following fact, so honorable to the citizens of Oregon City and all who joined with them, should not be omitted; that on hearing of the innocence of the five Cayuse prisoners they began to circulate a petition to get them a respite; their sympathies increased much more on learning their declaration; but, the governor being absent, there was no one to sign it.

Rev. T. Mespl   was ordained a priest on May 25th.

In answer to the bishops assembled in council at St. Paul's in 1848, there arrived from Rome, on Sept. 29th, briefs bearing the date of May 31st 1850, to the effect of creating the district of Nisqually into a diocese, and transferring the bishop of Walla Walla to that see; and suppressing the diocese of Walla Walla, and passing its administration and those of the districts of Colville and Fort Hall to the archbishop, in consequence of which the bishop of Nisqually leaves the Dalles, visits St. Francis Xavier's mission of Cowlitz, and on Oct. 27th 1850, fixes his residence at Fort Vancouver.

Having thus brought our history of the Catholic Church in Oregon down to the present establishment of the three sees of Oregon City, Nisqually and Vancouver Island, we close our Sketches.

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF THE THREE PIONEER BISHOPS OF THE PROVINCE OF OREGON.

ARCHBISHOP F. N. BLANCHET.

Fran  ois Norbert Blanchet, missionary and first bishop and archbishop of Oregon City, U. S. A., son of Pierre Blanchet, a Canadian farmer, was born Sept. 30th 1795, near St. Pierre, Riv  re du Sud, Province of Quebec. After three years in the village school he went in 1810, with his brother Augustin Magloire, later to first bishop of Walla Walla and Nisqually, to the seminary of Quebec, where he was ordained priest July 18th, 1819. He was stationed at the cathedral for a year and was

then sent to Richilmeto, New Brunswick, as pastor of the Micmac Indians and Acadian settlers. In 1827 he was recalled to Montreal, and appointed pastor of Soulhuges. During the cholera of 1832 he attended the stricken so fearlessly that the Protestants of the place presented him with a testimonial. In 1837 he was appointed vicar general by bishop Signay for the Oregon mission, and he set out on May 3rd, 1838, accompanied by the Rev. Modeste Demers with the annual express of the Hudson Bay Company, and they arrived at Fort Vancouver on Nov. 24th.

For four years they labored alone. They were then reinforced, from time to time, by other priests, both secular and regular, and by Sisters of Notre Dame of Namur, Belgium. On Dec. 1st 1843, the Oregon mission became a vicariate Apostolic and Father Blanchet was named its first vicar. He was consecrated bishop in Montreal on July 25th, 1845. He visited Europe at different times in quest of priests and financial help. On July 24th, 1846, the vicariate was erected into a province and bishop Blanchet was made archbishop of Oregon City, his brother Magloire became bishop of Walla Walla, and Father Demers bishop of Vancouver's Island.

The archbishop was indefatigable. He held his first provincial council in 1848, attended the first plenary council of Baltimore in 1852, went in 1855 to South America and collected for two years in Chile, Peru and Bolivia; he went to Canada in 1859 and returned with 31 priests and sisters. He attended the second plenary council of Baltimore in 1866; on July 19th, 1869, he celebrated his golden jubilee of ordination, and in the following October set out for Rome to assist at the Vatican council in 1870. When bishop Seghers was made his coadjutor in 1879, he retired to the hospital of the sisters of Providence at Portland. He is the author of the "Historical Sketches of the Catholic Church in Oregon." In 1880 he resigned and died in Portland June 18th, 1883. He found on the Pacific coast a wilderness, both spiritual and material; he left, after 46 years of heroic work, a well organized ecclesiastical province. He will be known in American history as the Apostle of Oregon.