

CHURCH CHIMES.

The month of August was in great part devoted by His Lordship the Bishop of Ottawa to a visitation of his distant missions in the Upper Ottawa country. A very interesting narrative of the Bishop's tour was published some short time ago in a series of letters addressed to *Le Canada* of Ottawa by the Rev. Father Proulx, one of His Lordship's *compagnons de voyage*. We regret that neither time nor space permits us to transcribe in full the elegant productions of this reverend gentleman's pen. We cannot, however, deprive our readers of the pleasure of a brief recital based on Father Proulx's letters—of the principal incidents of a journey at once interesting and instructive.

His Lordship left Ottawa on Monday, the 25th of July, to reach that same evening, *via* the Canadian Pacific R. R., the station known as Mackeys', nearly fifty miles to the North West of the town of Pembroke. Here he was met by the Rev. Father Deleage, Superior of the Oblate Mission at Mattawa. The Bishop and companions met with marked attention and kindest hospitality on the part of the railway officials at Mackeys. The 26th, being the festival of St. Anne, His Lordship celebrated Mass in the presence of a small but devout auditory, and immediately after resumed his journey. It was not, however, till 7 p. m. that he reached Mattawa, a thriving village at the confluence with the Ottawa of the river from which it takes its name. Here, besides the residence of the Oblate fathers, there is a neat Catholic church, a convent and a hospital. It is besides the metropolis of the the Nipissing judicial district, and will soon in addition to its registry office enjoy the benefits of a commodious lock up. The Mattawa river is already spanned by a bridge six hundred feet long, the work of the Ontario government. With the extension of the Canadian Pacific R. R. the place must rapidly grow in importance. The arrival of the Bishop was the occasion of a pleasing demonstration on the part of all classes of the population of Mattawa. Proceeding to the Convent chapel, His Lordship addressed the people at length, basing his discourse on the festival of the day. He announced that upon his return from Lake Talon, twenty-four miles from Mattawa village, he would hold his regular pastoral visitation of their mission.

Through the kindness of Mr. Worthington, of the Canadian Pacific R. R., the episcopal party was enabled to reach Lake Talon the following evening. In this neighborhood there are about eighty French Canadian families settled. It is but two years since the work of colonization here begun, and already satisfactory progress has been made. The soil is fertile and the climate favorable to the cultivation of roots and cereals. The advent of railway communication—a matter of a few months—will give the settlers a market at their own doors, and thus largely increase the value of their lands. It were indeed difficult to point out a section of country more inviting to Catholic settlers. His Lordship in the course of his admonitions to the people at Lake Talon, urged on them earnestly and fervidly the necessity of their devoting their every energy to the clearing of their lands, and the cultivation of the soil. It is to be hoped that when he next visits this mission he will find it the centre of a large Catholic population. Needless to say that the exercises of the pastoral visitation at this place were eagerly seized on by the people to approach the Sacraments and hear the word of God.

It was not till Friday, the 29th of July, that the Bishop returned to Mattawa, when he was again received with every mark of respect. The two following days were devoted to the religious exercises observed on the occasion of the visit of a chief pastor. His Lordship preached frequently, and with his accustomed earnestness in both languages. Large numbers of persons took advantage of the blessings of the visitation, a fact made manifest by the crowded confessionals and numerous communions.

His labors at Mattawa concluded, His Lordship set out on the 1st of August for the mission at Lake Temiscamingue. The journey occupied the greater part of two days. A large bark canoe manned by eight stalwart redmen is the mode of conveyance placed at the disposal of the episcopal party to reach that place. It cannot be said, considering the distance covered, and the frequent debarkations made, owing to the numerous rapids, that any time was lost. The time was most agreeably spent during the journey. The magnificent scenery of this comparatively unknown region did not fail to attract attention. Father Proulx in his letters does justice to many of the most prominent features of this—one of the most picturesque portions of Canada. Prayer, reading and conversation occupied the time of the travellers, amongst whom was Mr. Colin Rankin, the estimable factor of the Hudson's Bay Co's post at Temiscamingue, till the Long Sault, a chain of rapids through which the waters of Lake Temiscamingue find their way into the Ottawa, is reached. Here the party remain under tent for the night. Next day His Lordship arrived safe at the residence of the Oblate Fathers, who have in charge the Temiscamingue district. Father Pyan is the zealous Superior of this mission. His coadjutors are Fathers Laverlochere and Mouriez. The bishop having resolved to proceed at once to Lake Abitibi before holding his visitation at Temiscamingue, left on the third of August for that place, distant from the latter one hundred and fifty miles. On the morning of the fourth, His Lordship celebrated Mass at Mr. Angus McBrides, and addressed a few words of exhortation to the faithful who had assembled there to meet him. It was not till Saturday evening, the 6th, that the mission of Abitibi was reached. The Catholic population attached to this mission is almost exclusively aboriginal. To these poor children of the forest, the Bishop's arrival was the occasion of general rejoicing. To the number of two hundred they came in their canoes to escort him to the neat little chapel of the mission. Here His Lordship was met by Father Nedelee, a veteran missionary, and made solemn entry as prescribed by the ritual. During his stay at Abitibi the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to no fewer than ninety persons—and besides addressing the Indians in their native tongue also delivered at their own request an interesting and well-sustained discourse to the Protestants of the Hudson's Bay Coy's post. The episcopal visit to Abitibi will long be remembered in that district and must leave enduring results of good as well amongst the white as the aboriginal population. It took four days on the return trip to get to Temiscamingue. But the journey was heartily enjoyed. A halt was again made at Mr. Angus McBride's and the Bishop once more celebrated the holy mysteries there. The country in this vicinity offers many advantages for colonization. The soil in many places is extremely fertile—as evidenced by the magnificent crops raised year after year by the Hudson's Bay Co's officers and by many of the lumbermen. Next year a steamboat will ply the waters of Lake