

No. 47. — MOST REV. CHARLES.
FRANCIS BAILLARGEON,
ARCHBISHOP OF QUEBEC.

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

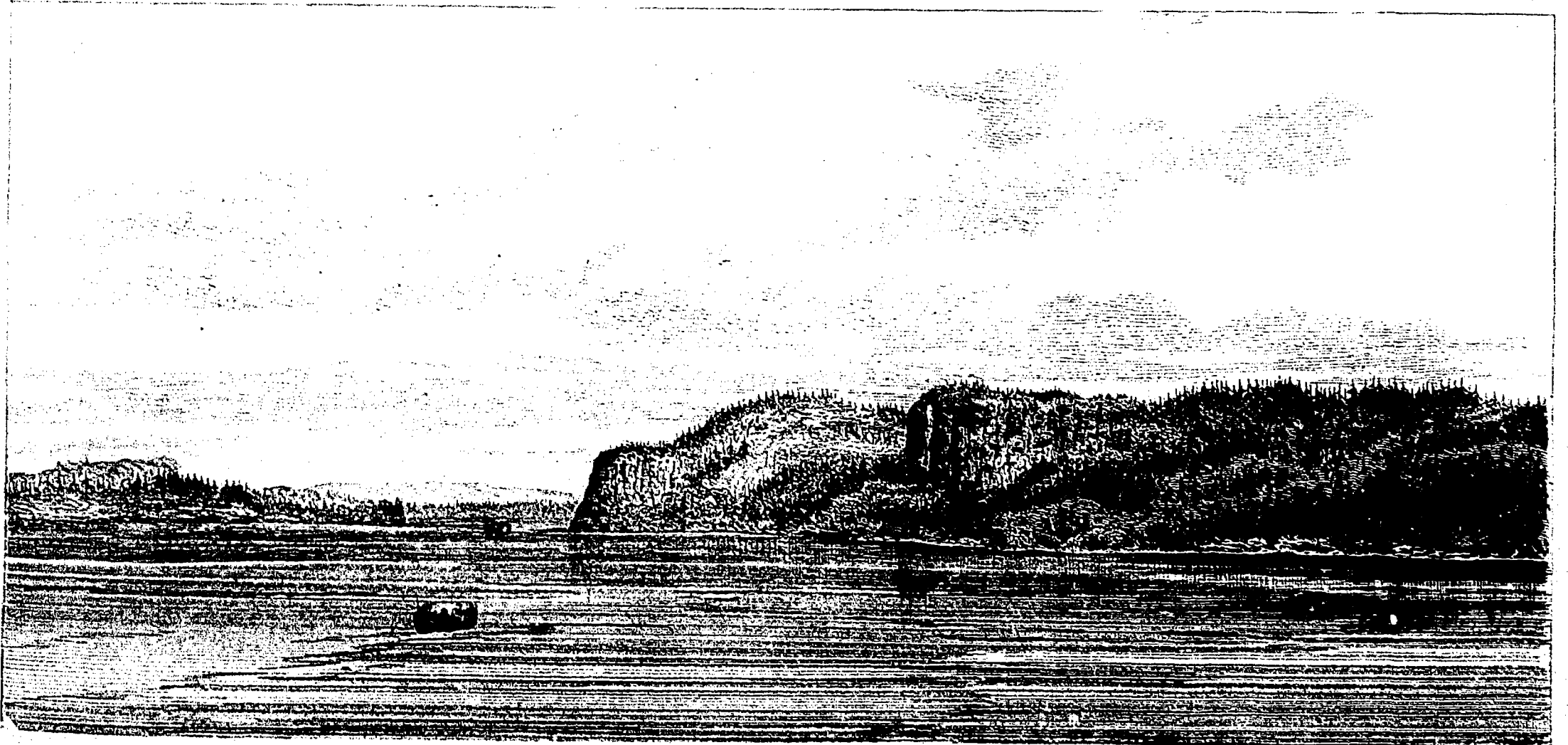
It had been generally known for many months that His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec was in very feeble health. He had on more than one occasion sought to be relieved of his office, from a sense of his inability through physical weakness to discharge its duties to his satisfaction, but His Grace's resignation had always been declined at Rome. He attended the Ecumenical Council, but was granted leave of absence and returned to Quebec in May last, since which time he continued gradually to sink, until Thursday afternoon, the 13th inst., when he died.

Charles Francis Baillargeon was born on the 26th of April, 1798, at Isle aux Grues, a place about thirty miles from Quebec. His father belonged to an ancient Canadian family, whose ancestor had come to this country about the year 1650. He was, however, in humble circumstances, and Charles Francis was indebted for the first education he received to the curé of St. Francois, Rivière du Sud, under whose care he remained for several years. When considerably advanced in his elementary studies, the good curé placed him in the little college of St. Pierre, where he remained for a year; and in 1814 he was transferred to the Seminary of Nicolet, where he passed a course of four years. During these years of study and preparation for the active duties of the calling towards which his desires had ever been directed, he displayed great aptitude for learning, and commanded, accordingly, the respect and admiration of his preceptors. In 1818 he received the tonsure, and was also appointed Professor of Rhetoric at the Seminary of St. Roch, the duties of which position he discharged with great ability and assiduity, at the same time continuing to pursue his Theological studies in order to qualify himself for the Priesthood. On the 1st of June, 1822, M. Baillargeon, being then in his 25th year, was ordained Priest by Bishop Plessis, who appointed him chaplain to the church of St. Roch. The following



THE LATE ARCHBISHOP OF QUEBEC.
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY LIVERNOIS & BIENVENU.

year he resigned his professorship at the Seminary, and continued at St. Roch until 1827, when he was appointed Curé of St. Francis de Sales, on the Island of Orleans. From this he was transferred the following year to L'Ange Gardien. In the year 1831 he was transferred to the parish of Quebec, where he laboured for many years with great zeal, winning the confidence of the hierarchy and the admiration of the people. In 1850, the Bishops, having resolved to send an agent to Rome to treat of certain ecclesiastical matters, selected M. Baillargeon for the mission, who left during the summer of that year for the Eternal City. He had not been more than three months in Rome when the then Archbishop died, and his coadjutor, Bishop Turgeon, succeeded to the Archiepiscopal See. Archbishop Turgeon was then in feeble health, and he at once applied to Rome for a coadjutor, recommending the elevation of M. Baillargeon to the Episcopate and his appointment to that office. The rev. gentleman was reluctant indeed to assume such grave responsibilities, and it was only at the earnest solicitations of the Pope that he accepted the mitre. He was accordingly consecrated as Bishop of Tloa on the 23rd of February, 1851. From that time until 1855 he laboured actively throughout the diocese, assisting the Archbishop in its administration until 1855, when Archbishop Turgeon's health having completely given way, Bishop Baillargeon became Administrator, and so continued for twelve years. The death of Archbishop Turgeon, in Aug., 1867, conferred upon Bishop Baillargeon the title as well as the duties of Archbishop. How well His Grace had performed the latter it is not for us to say; but the wide esteem in which he was held throughout the church and the honour paid to his memory show how well he had approved himself to his calling. He was a man of great learning, and even found relaxation from the fatigues of his episcopal duties in the study of philosophical or scientific subjects. In 1816 he had pledged himself to revisit the Seminary of Nicolet in fifty years if God should spare his life so long, and accordingly on the 24th of



NEEPEGON, No. 2.—RED ROCK, VIEWED FROM NEEPEGON BAY. FROM A SKETCH BY W. ARMSTRONG.

May, 1866, His Grace presented himself and delivered an address to the students, exhorting them to cherish the desire for knowledge in which the most elevating and healthiest relaxation could always be found. In 1846 he published a French translation of the New Testament, a revised edition of which, with additional notes, appeared in 1865. In 1862, Bishop Baillargeon made his second visit to Rome to assist at the canonization of the Japanese martyr, and on that occasion was appointed Assistant at the Pontifical throne and made a Roman Count. His third and last visit was, as we have said, to attend the Ecumenical Council, at which he acted as a member of the Committee de Fide.

His Grace's obsequies were of a most imposing character.

His mortal remains lay in state in the chapel of the Palace until Tuesday, and were visited by many thousands. On that day the funeral took place, and, besides the high functionaries of Quebec, ecclesiastical and civil, there were present six Bishops and nearly two hundred priests. The military also took part in the procession. The services at the Cathedral were attended with all the dignity and grandeur of ceremonial which the solemn occasion demanded according to the custom of the Church. It is reported that Mgr. LaFleche, Bishop of Three Rivers, will probably be His Grace's successor.

The new half-penny correspondence card seems to be fully appreciated by the English public. The number collected in

the E. C. district in London, the first day of its use, was 235,775; and 45,000 were posted at St. Martin's-le-Grand for the provinces.

There are very curious statistics about colour blindness, and they will astonish many folk. We are informed that one person in eighteen has this blindness, and that one in fifty-five is incapable of distinguishing green from red. Such of the Irish as believe that in a French Republic they behold a good omen for the flag of discontent at home, may be charitably assumed to be suffering under the colour blindness that leads men to take red for green.