

steeples of stately churches and the imposing cupolas of religious institutions of all kinds. But, as those remarkable monuments of Canadian Faith and Charity do not always cover the precise spot consecrated by Cartier's pious actions, it is highly desirable that the proper steps be taken to repair the omission. This restauration of the primitive symbols of Christianity and civilisation in this country is so self imposing that we cherish the idea that the day is nigh when all the citizens will consider it, not from a religious standpoint, but also as a matter of historical interest. If we erect statues and columns to statesmen, and it is but right, to perpetuate the souvenir of what they have done for their country, why should we not equally honor the Cross which has freed it from the state of barbarism, to deliver it as a rich field wide opened to civilisation and progress? Generations to come will not be less anxious to know the origin of their country, than the names of those who favored its development.

The Holy Cross, soon after the death of our Saviour, was buried with those of the two malefactors between whom he had been crucified, as the Jews were wont to do with all instruments of execution, looking upon them as detestable objects, and which for that reason ought to be removed out of sight. The heathens had, moreover, built a temple to a false deity to conceal the place. The Holy Cross remained thus buried for nearly three hundred years ; in fact, so long that no mark or tradition, even among the Christians, was left as to where it lay.

Such was the state of desecration in which St Helena found the places consecrated by the death of Our Saviour. From her childhood, she had cherished in her soul the laudable design of recovering the Holy Cross ; she consequently undertook a journey into Palestine in 326, though at that time nearly eighty years of age.

The pious empress, being willing to spare no pains to compass her pious design, consulted the most reliable persons in Jerusalem and its vicinity ; ordered the profane buildings to be pulled down, the rubbish to be removed, and excavations to be made : till, at last, the three crosses were discovered, with the nails and the inscription. But, whereas the title was found separate from the Cross, the question now arose which of the