

and finished with the highest honours his classic studies when only sixteen. Immediately afterwards, he left for Europe in company with M. l'abbé Holmes.

Before he was seventeen years of age, he became an ecclesiastic in Rome.

One can readily understand the nature of the sentiments that a prolonged sojourn in the city of the popes must have inspired in the bosom of this young levite, and the strength of the ties that must have formed to bind the sympathies of a heart, pure and exalted as his mother Church.

The illustrious abbé Guéranger was in Rome at this time, advocating the re-establishment of the Benedictine order in France. Young Taschereau, who made his acquaintance, showed a desire to enter an institution so suitable to his natural taste for a life of retirement and study.

But God had reserved him for a different *rôle* in his own country. M. l'abbé Holmes induced him to defer the execution of his pious design until he should return home and consult with his relations. The result was that he modified his intention and entered the seminary of Quebec, where, however, he led a life little different from that of a Benedictine.

Having finished his theological studies with the same brilliancy that marked his progress in the classics, he was ordained a priest on the 10th September, 1842.

From this period he became more and more identified with the history of the seminary of Quebec. For him it was a paternal mansion; and no one could speak more eloquently of its family, having successfully performed the duties of a son, a brother, and a father.

In view of this close relationship with the seminary, we are not surprised to learn from his biographer, Mgr. Têtu, that he has written its history at length, though still unpublished,—“a labour of love” that must have inspired a dual affection, the filial and the fatherly.

Up to 1871, when he was raised to the archiepiscopacy, he never quitted his beloved retreat but for a short time and for urgent reasons,—once, to take charge of Irish immigrants who lay fever-stricken at Grosse Isle, where he caught the contagion himself and narrowly escaped death; and, on another occasion, when he betook