

scampered home from school, carrying as a prize the works of Francis Parkman.

How I dodged each call of the household, safely hid in the barn reading those wonderful stories of the Indians, marveling at the superb heroism of the missionary pale-face. Some how or other there crept into my mind through the reading of Parkman's volumes a suspicion that the missionaries might have done better. It was one of those suspicions that lack proof, possibly begot by the author's prejudice. It clung to me, despite later readings. Its overthrow came from the subject of this paper, a busy, hard-working journalist, Dr. Foran in his masterly lectures before the summer school \* \* \*

Canadian history with this sidelight reveals the early Canadian missionary in a new light and one that adds but lustre. It is to be hoped that Dr. Foran will not rest here. Canadian history is a fascinating study, but hardly to be understood by those outside of the Catholic Church. The few who have attempted it were strangely unfit. Let it be said with emphasis that style, no matter how brilliant, unless it clothes facts, is not history. It may catch the ignorant and superficial for a time, but truth will ultimately right herself.

J. K. Foran, Lit.D., LL.B., editor of the Montreal *True Witness*, was born of Irish Catholic parents at Aylmer, Quebec, in 1854. Dr. Foran entered the Ottawa University in 1867, and taking its full course, graduated with highest honors in 1877. That year he went to Laval University to study law. He practised the profession until 1883, when ill health compelled him to retire. In the pursuit of health, he spent two years among the forests primeval of the north, living with the Indians, learning many a quaint and weird tale of their treasured long ago. To make the time less long a diary was kept, "which contains full and ample descriptions of the lumber operations, the shanties, the *modus operandi et vivendi* of the real back-woodsman, the habits and manners of the wandering Indian bands that prowl around the timber maker's little forest home, and finally, of the physical aspects of the country."

This diary was utilized lately in a series of delightful articles contributed to the

Ave Maria, full of the whiff and aroma of the woods. Another series is already written, dealing with the missions in those bleak, sparsely inhabited forests. The spirit of Brebœuf is not dead, as will be seen from Dr. Foran's graphic pictures of the Oblates, in those regions. Unknown, their lives of sacrifice pass, unknown to the canting, mad world, but lovingly known to Him, the Recompenser of all things.

In 1886, Mr. Foran returned, becoming secretary to the Speaker of the House of Commons. This office was relinquished in 1891 to accept the editorship of the Montreal *True Witness*, the only Catholic journal in the English language in the province of Quebec. Canada has not been sparing of her honors. Recently the University of Ottawa conferred on him the degree of doctor of letters. His address on that occasion dealing with that subject so dear to him—early Canadian history—was pronounced by Lord Aberdeen a masterpiece."

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#### A WORTHY OBJECT.

Among our recent exchanges there is one that for the noble object of its mission is entitled to the most hearty support and commendation of every true Christian. This exponent of religious zeal and fervor is called "The Flight" and is published in Baltimore by the Institute of Mission Helpers in behalf of the negroes. A more worthy object than that of Christianizing and instructing in home work the negroes of the South, would indeed be hard to find and to render assistance to this laudable project would be an act of the greatest charity.

The amount of good that can be accomplished by these saintly missionaries is more easily imagined than expressed in words. The OWL therefore, wishes to express the deepest sympathy with the faithful sisters who have devoted themselves heart and soul to this noble cause. And indeed it is a pleasure for us to acquaint our readers with the object and end so zealously sought for by the Mission Helpers. Perhaps we cannot do better than to submit the following paragraphs taken from their own paper "The Flight"