

Here also, was made the first attempt to educate and instruct the Indian children, an attempt followed with fair success. Laval himself founded the Seminary of Quebec for the education of clerics, he also established what was called the Little Seminary, in which lessons of "science and piety" were to be imparted. This modest little institution has since become famous under the title of Laval University of Quebec. Small schools were formed wherever a "Black Robe" was stationed. In such schools Indian children were accorded the same rights and privileges as the children of French settlers.

About 1670, five Jesuit Fathers, were actively engaged in spreading the Gospel, among the hitherto unapproachable Iroquois. A still greater number of priests labored amongst the tribes of the Ottawa and the lake regions of Illinois. One of the last mentioned was Marquette, the discoverer of the Mississippi.

Thus went on the good work of the Missionaries, firmly and more firmly, planting at each step, the seed of Catholic Faith, until in 1759 they had their little missions and chapels established everywhere within reach of the settlers and Indian encampments.

But the year 1759 marked the siege, fall, and surrender of Quebec, and the government of Canada passed into the hands of Protestant England. The treaty that ceded Canada to England, allowed all the French subjects to depart, within two years, should they dread their future treatment at the hand of their new masters. But the object of the new rulers, was not to destroy Catholicity. The laws which at first prohibited a Catholic from holding public office were amended, and one special article in the Treaty of Paris guaranteed the French inhabitants who should remain, all their former religious privileges.

Under the new *regime* the church continued to flourish, and her children became not only a credit to herself, but a very useful acquisition to the state. They at once settled down and lived at peace with their new Protestant neighbors; their incessant efforts helped not a little to bring about numerous reforms of immediate and lasting benefit to the

young colony. Side by side Catholic and Protestant struggled manfully against the abuses of the Family Compact. To a man they refused aid to the Americans in their war of Independence. Shoulder to shoulder we find them shedding their blood in defence of Quebec, against Montgomery. Hand in hand they succeeded in driving out the American invader in 1812-13-14. Catholic and Protestant alike followed Papineau and Mackenzie in 1837-38, and though defeated in rebellion, lived to see and enjoy the benefits that resulted from their uprising.

About the year 1790, M. Plessis became Bishop and under his wise government churches, schools, and convents, sprung up and flourished everywhere. This Bishop and his flock, united with their fellow citizens shortly afterward in welcoming the first Anglican Bishop to Canada.

In 1759, the number of Catholics in Canada was 65,000, but at the passing of the Union Act of 1841, that number had increased to 585,000, and by this time Ontario, or Upper Canada as it was then called, claimed her share of toiling papists. Even the walls of the legislatures resounded in echo to Catholic voices, as often as they echoed back the applause of Protestant speeches. Everywhere now the sounding Angelus proclaimed the spread of our Holy Faith, to the very day when the great and let us hope the last change of our constitution proclaimed the Dominion of Canada.

Too much space would be filled, in minutely marking each step of the onward stride of Catholicity in Canada. A few statistics with a short account of ourselves in Protestant Ontario will fully suffice to show our present position.

In all Canada we have 1 Cardinal, 7 Archbishops, 23 Bishops, nearly 2,000 priests, and about one third of the population Catholic. In 1783 the Catholic population was 113,000; priests, 135; and nuns, 234. Only 4 priests were stationed in Western Canada (Ontario) to administer to the wants of 4,000 Catholics.

Canada is now divided into seven ecclesiastical provinces: Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, Halifax and St. Boniface. To these Archdioceses are