

Indeed, some of those who have written of the Recollets and their efforts to establish schools in Canada, have been more inclined to wring their hands over the seeming sacrifice of the property they once held, than to preserve in writing their good deeds. As was hardly otherwise to be expected, considering the exceptional methods of all nations when they are in a position to force a treaty upon the vanquished, the improved lands of the Recollets, like those of the Jesuits, were confiscated at the time of the Conquest, with the life-rent of them secured to the order, however, as long as any of their number survived. This treatment, which, no doubt, seemed harsh to them, just as the behaviour of Germany towards Alsace and Lorraine has appeared cruel and vindictive to the inhabitants of these conquered provinces, the religious order that had its origin in a vow of poverty might have survived. But the brethren were also forbidden by edict to add to their number, and it was this, more than the loss of wealth that enfeebled their several communities or convents in Canada. The last great misfortune that befell the Recollets was the destruction of their church and convent in Quebec. This happened in the year 1796. In 1692 they had given up their property at Little River, which the bishop of the diocese had purchased from them for hospital purposes, and had built for themselves a chapel and place of residence near the site of the modern Place d'Armes. In 1818 their property in Montreal seems to have passed into private hands, while their convent at Three Rivers was made use of up to 1810, as the court-house and jail of the district. One of the last of the schools conducted by a Recollet was Brother Paul's in Montreal; it was attended chiefly by the children of the working classes, who were accustomed to receive within the limited space of its old-fashioned school-rooms daily instruction in the catechism, and in singing, reading, writing and arithmetic. This school was not closed until 1826. Another of the Recollets conducted a school in St. Vallier's street, Quebec, for over forty years. He was known as Brother Louis. His school was in operation up to the year 1840. The last superior of the order in Canada died at Montreal in 1800, while the last of the fathers ordained in the province died in the same city in 1843, at the ripe age of eighty-two. Thus passed away, after the labours of over