

THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD.

DEVOTION to the Most Precious Blood is widely diffused throughout Canada. In the Upper Province, where the Confraternity was established some time ago, with a centre at Toronto, it has spread with astonishing rapidity. General interest is manifested in its growth and new members are being steadily admitted. For the benefit of our readers who may desire to know the origin of the Canadian Confraternity, we give a short sketch of its rise and development.

Monseigneur Prince, the first bishop of St-Hyacinthe, had long cherished the desire of establishing the devotion to the Precious Blood on a solid basis in his diocese. He even conceived the design of founding an institute of contemplatives destined to render It perpetual homage by adoration, prayer, penance and good works. Death prevented him from executing his pious project. Still, he trusted that this desire would be realized by his successor and, almost with his last breath, he exclaimed : " I bequeath to my diocese the devotion to the Most Precious Blood." This precious inheritance was received by the saintly Bishop Joseph LaRocque, who succeeded to the episcopal chair of St-Hyacinthe. In 1858, Very Rev. J. S. Raymond, Vicar General of the diocese and, later on, Domestic Prelate of His Holiness, solicited officially the erection of the Confraternity of the Precious Blood in that city. Special reasons impelled him to believe that Our Lord desired that general and loving homage should be rendered to His Adorable Blood in this land. The mandate and diploma authorizing its establishment were granted the same year, on the Feast of the Precious Blood which is kept on the fifth Friday of Lent and which fell that year on the 19th March, Feast of Saint Joseph.

A remarkable event which occurred on the same day is recorded in the Register of the Association, by the Venerable Director, himself. A Sister of the Hotel-Dieu had been hopelessly ill for some time and was apparently nearing her last hour. Fervent prayers were offered for