

UN PRECIEUX TRIBUT D'HOMMAGES

A LA GRANDE FORCE CATHOLIQUE AU CANADA

THE CASKET, journal catholique d'Antigonish, N.-E., aux vues larges et élevées, a publié, dans son numéro du 7 décembre dernier, un article non moins juste que remarquable. Comme les vérités qu'il contient — prouvant si évidentes — sont rarement écrites en anglais, nous le reproduisons dans son texte original.

We are glad to see in "The Catholic World" for December, a fine article on the establishment of the faith in Canada, suggested by the recent tercentenary celebration at Quebec of that glorious event. The article is from the pen of Anna T. Sadlier; and it is particularly gratifying that such a tribute should be paid by an Irish writer; for, unfortunately, friction has been all too common between Irish and French in Canada. But all tributes to the French race must necessarily be inadequate and incomplete. The whole of what they have done for the Faith has never been, and never will be told. No man can write the whole of the wonderful story, because no one knows it all. There is no land where Christianity has had to break new ground in which the French priests have not led the way or been well up with the leaders. Ninety times out of a hundred they have been themselves the leaders. We cannot tell what it is in the Frenchman that has made him so ready to be a pioneer in unknown, difficult, painful and dangerous wilds. But Africa, Asia, the isles of the Pacific, America, North and South, have the same story to tell; the French, the French, always the French. Always in the first line of trenches in the warfare with paganism and darkness. They have always seemed to have a particular love for the posts of hardships and danger. Pessimists sometimes say that France will never again be as Catholic as she used to be. We think differently. Even at this day, she is doing as much missionary work in money, and in men, as all the rest of the Catholic world; perhaps more. The tree cannot be rotten at the heart which brings forth such fruit. As for the French in Canada, it makes a man shiver to think of what the position of Catholicism in this country would be without them. If those 60 000 Frenchmen had not been left on the banks of the St. Lawrence when France surrendered Canada to England, we wonder how many rights would have been reserved for Catholics when the Provinces agreed to go into Confederation. That solid block of Frenchmen is the greatest human safeguard the Church has in Canada. Some people think there will never be any more persecutions of the Church. Some people were sure there would never again be a great war. But we have the makings of a promising lot of freethinkers and devotees of "modern progress" in Canada, as.