

obstacles of nature. Amongst a people so radically opposed to every tenet of Christianity as often to provoke a belief that they were not altogether human, were consummated, in the fierce baptism of fire and blood, martyrdoms as glorious as any of old. The "noble army of martyrs" received during that brief and remarkable period, which witnessed the utter extinction of one of the most numerous aboriginal tribes of this continent, a new and brilliant accession to its ranks. The scions of nobility, and the offsprings of luxury and wealth, sacrificed every personal consideration; every prospect of future fame and affluence; every tie and endearment which bound them to kindred and home; and surrendered themselves, voluntary and even eager exiles, to all the danger and misery, and finally, torture and death, of a country unknown save to its savage inhabitants, or the few hardy adventurers who, allured by curiosity, or avarice, had penetrated into its pathless wilds.

Brébeuf and Garnier and Lalemant are names inseparably interwoven with the history of our past as pioneers and priests and martyrs. Theirs was a great work, which was not to affect their brief and meagre present alone, but the ages to come as well. Whether beneath all lay the craft of state-policy we need not now enquire. To common sight the labourers in that great vineyard had only the extension of Christ's kingdom in view. The conquest of the Hurons, and their national destruction, thwarted any other motives, if they had ever existed. We are too apt to be blinded to the true character of these holy priests and martyrs, as well as to their important part in the early scenes of our historic drama, by our prejudices against the peculiar order to which they belonged. We cannot easily separate *their* virtues and *their* labours from the strange pantomime of good and evil, of sanctity and profanity, at the same time enacted in other countries, and at a later period, perhaps, in our own, by the disciples of Loyola. We have, indeed, but to behold them with candour and charity to recognize and acknowledge their deep piety and holiness of life, their intense earnestness and righteousness of purpose.

Thus far we have spoken in general terms. For the rest we shall confine ourselves to a brief, and therefore necessarily imperfect sketch of the lives and labours of the illustrious priests and martyrs whose names we have already mentioned.

First on our list, as also first in the annals of history, stands the name of Jean de Brébeuf, that strange compound of the stern warrior and the tender missionary, of the dispassionate man and the enthusiastic devotee. He was descended from a noble family of Normandy, and possessed of all those graces of person and excellent qualities of mind which are requisite to great worldly fame and prosperity. But, from an early age,