

native town and the kind familiar faces from which I had been separated for a time. Need I say how thankful I felt to Almighty God, who, in his mercy, conducted me in safety over the dangers of the deep, and shielded me from all the perils incident to so long a journey. I have not forgotten that my safe return was entirely due to the powerful intercession of our Blessed Lady of Lourdes, Blessed St. Joseph, and the prayers of my good friends in Guelph and other places. I cannot close this sketch without expressing my gratitude to God and to His Holy Mother for granting to me, all undeserving as I am, the singular privilege of being amongst those who constituted the first American Pilgrimage; amongst those who were the chosen few to carry from the Western World to the venerable Pontiff, Pius IX., the conviction that the faith of Peter lives and burns in the hearts of millions in this far-off land, that they share in the sufferings and persecutions of their common Father, the Pope, and that they have all united with one accord in transmitting to him by those good pilgrims their expressions of condolence, of deep affection, and undying tenacity to the same holy faith which Peter taught. I will conclude with the hope that the holy pilgrimage which I have performed will enure not only to my own spiritual welfare but to that of every member of this parish, that all may share in the abundant graces and blessings which I am confident will flow through the merit of America's First Pilgrimage.