

to settle in this locality by the offer of free grants of land. The hardships which in the earlier days of the settlement had to be endured were far more severe than those which usually befall the emigrant in Canada. And even now so difficult is the cultivation of the land that, though the soil is naturally fertile, yet the most industrious can do little more than raise food for the wants of themselves and their families. The fields are so broken up by rocks that on large portions of the farms, the work of cultivating them is carried on by the hoe and the spade, instead of the plough. In a country of this character the residents are necessarily widely scattered, and the roads are such that it is no easy task to travel from one small settlement to another, except in the winter when the snow renders travelling in all parts of Lower Canada easy and rapid.

About nine years since, the Rev. Joseph Griffin, was appointed by the Bishop of Montreal to take charge of the mission in this District. On his arrival he could find no other place of residence for himself and his wife, than the miserable apartments of a small tavern, destitute not only of comfort and cleanliness, but frequented by those who at that time were in the habit of meeting there, and that even on Sundays, for drinking and fighting. From circumstances, which it is not necessary to relate, the position of the Church was as low as it well could be; neither her ministers nor her services were regarded even with respect. The work which lay before the missionary was consequently one that required no little patience and self denial, much more so even than that which awaits the laborer in countries whose inhabitants are avowedly heathen. Separated almost entirely from his brethren, without any one to sympathise much less to assist him in his labours, an object of indifference to well nigh all his flock, and of positive enmity to not a few, the newly ordained missionary was left single handed to "search and seek after" the sheep of Christ who had "wandered through all the mountains and upon every high hill." But he had undertaken the work in dependence upon the promised presence of the "great Shepherd and Bishop of souls," and amidst hardships and discouragements neither few nor light he persevered from day to day in his labour of love. It pleased God to bless his labours. A numerous congregation was gathered at the church situated in the centre of the mission; five stations were opened at different outlying settlements; a Sunday school was established, the people were diligently visited from house to house, the younger members were carefully prepared for confirmation and every means that a zeal guided by prudence suggested was employed to bring back to the fold those who had wandered. The results were visible in the improved habits of the people; the taverns were all closed, the Lord's day was regarded with reverence, the house of God was regularly frequented, the number of communicants steadily increased. One of the first efforts following upon this improved state of things was the interest which the people took in providing a residence for their minister. Through their exertions aided by the Church Society of the Diocese a small glebe was reclaimed from "bush and rock," on which a comfortable parsonage has been erected, occupying an elevated and beautiful situation, overlooking a small lake, as well as the valley in which the Church is situated.