

DEVOTION TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE COLONY.

IT is pretty well known amongst us that Saint Francis Xavier honoured the Blood of Jesus with the most tender devotion ; and with His promise to lend a favourable ear to all those who should have recourse to It, in invoking Him, few are unacquainted. But there are probably many who do not know that the first missionaries to Canada had the same particular and fervent devotion to the Precious Blood, as their glorious brother, the Apostle of the Indies.

Of this fact many touching proofs are found in the " Relations des Jésuites."

" My God and Saviour,"—wrote Father Gabriel Lallemant, before leaving for the mission where those long and terrible tortures were awaiting him—" it is but just that I should leave everything for the sake of the salvation of the souls who have cost Thee Thy Blood. Yes, my Jesus and my Love, Thy Blood, shed for the savages no less than for us, must be applied for the effect of obtaining their salvation, and it is for this purpose that I intend to cooperate with Thy grace and sacrifice myself for them. Thy Name must be adored—Thy kingdom must be extended throughout the nations of the world, and my life must be given up to withdrawing from the enemy's hands those poor souls who have cost Thee Thy Blood."

" He who understands the value of the Blood of Jesus understands the worth and the price of a soul," wrote another of those heroes—" Looking on these poor savages and remembering that, for a single soul, Jesus gave all His Blood, one has an incredible longing to draw them into the Church and toward God, and, truly, one would rather accomplish the conversion of one of these miserable savages than the conquest of an entire empire. The trouble that one takes about it is so gratifying, that one does not count it as trouble at all, but as one of Heaven's most choice favours."

Father de Brébœuf, that strong magnanimous soul