

# The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

*Reddite quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.*—Matt 22: 21.

Vol V

Toronto, Saturday, Aug. 8, 1891.

No 26

## THE HOSPICE OF MT. CARMEL AT NIAGARA FALLS.

BY REV. PHILIP A. BEST O. C. C., *in Messenger of the Sacred Heart.*

A NEW offshoot from the old trunk of the Order was, a quarter of a century back, transplanted to American soil. During these twenty-five years Carmelites have come from different European Provinces. They settled wherever their services were most needed: their life was more that of missionaries than that of regulars, and each house was independent of the other. In 1881 at the request of the scattered religious a union was made and the different houses were formed into a Commissariate, the Rev. Anastasius J. Smits being appointed Commissary General.

At the general chapter held in Rome in 1889, the American Commissariate was formed into a "Province," the Very Rev. Pius R. Mayer being made first Provincial. The new Province is known as the "Province of the most Pure Heart of Mary." It embraces six houses; viz., the Priory of St. Cecilia, Englewood, N.J., Holy Trinity Convent, Pittsburg, Pa., Convent of St. John, including scholastic and novitiate, New Baltimore, Pa., Priory of St. Joseph, Leavenworth, Kansas, and Monastery of Mount Carmel, Scipio, Kansas. The sixth is that at Niagara Falls, the only Canadian house of the Carmelites.

The Carmelites are about to build a "Hospice," and have wisely chosen Niagara Falls as the most suitable spot on which to erect it. The word "Hospice" explains itself. Monasteries have been renowned for their hospitality, and Mount Carmel was, and is, no exception. From the day on which St. John the Baptist sought its shelter while fleeing from his persecutors till now, it has never lost its reputation as an asylum wherein were found not only rest and food for the weary body, but peace and solace for the troubled soul. How many would wish to withdraw from their distracting surroundings and seek refuge in such a haven of rest! But distance, expense and want of time prevent it. The want of such an institution in this country has been deplored. We have retreat-houses, but a Hospice is something more. It, too, is a retreat house, but possesses many other advantages peculiar to itself.

"All of us, priests and people, want a Carmel in London," said Father Faber, and what the great Oratorian said of the busy metropolis of his country can be said of America. The Hospice of Mount Carmel at Niagara Falls will soon be a reality, and the hope of His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons (in his beautiful letter approving the undertaking) that such an institution will "contribute to the diffusion of religion in the Western Hemisphere" will soon be accomplished.

To reproduce in this country a faithful copy of the Hospice of Mt. Carmel proper, three things are needed; viz., the monks, the locality and a house. As regards the first, let it suffice to say that the religious now at Niagara Falls are identical with the Order outlined in the foregoing sketch. We re-echo the popular verdict when we affirm that no better locality could have

been thought of than the one selected. If there is any place where nature more lavishly unfolds its beauty and grandeur, or a place where the hand of the Creator is more manifest, it is surely Niagara Falls "where," to use the words of Archbishop Walsh of Toronto, "nature itself invites to solemn thought, and serious reflections, and where in very deed one hears *The voice of the Lord upon the waters.*" But nowhere are the religious thoughts suggested by the great cataract and its surroundings better expressed than in the beautiful Pastoral Letter of the late saintly Archbishop of Toronto, Dr. Lynch. His Grace says:

"We have for many years searched for a fervent congregation of men to found a monastery and church worthy of the place and its destination. Enthusiastic pilgrims of nature's grandeur come here to enjoy its beauty; others, alas! to drown remorse. We desired to have a religious house where those pilgrims would be attracted to adore nature's God in spirit and in truth, and who would there find, in solitude and rest, how great and good God is.

The Fathers of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the most ancient in the Church and dear to the heart of our Blessed Mother, have commenced this good work. Our Holy Father Pius IX. has been graciously pleased to confer upon the present little church Plenary Indulgences and other favours granted to the most ancient pilgrimages of the old world. The Fathers also propose, when a suitable house is built, to receive prelates and clergy of the church as well as laity to make retreats; and to provide priests, worn out in the service of their Divine Master, with a home where they can quietly prepare for eternity."

The building to be erected by the Carmelites will in many respects rival their mother-house in Palestine. Besides the natural beauty of the place, the extensive grounds in the immediate vicinity of the house will

be artistically adorned. In addition to this it must be remembered that between the grounds of the monastery and the Falls is the Park, which is kept in order by the Ontario Government.

At stated periods retreats will be given by the Fathers. These spiritual exercises will be adapted to all classes—clergy and the laity of both sexes, not excluding non-Catholics.

The Hospice of Mount Carmel will be of easy access from all parts the country. It is but an hour's ride by rail from Buffalo, N. Y. Niagara Falls is also the terminal point of the great trunk lines, the New York Central, the Erie, West Shore, Lehigh Valley and Grand Trunk. The Michigan Central brings its passengers almost to the doors of the monastery. Its station, "Falls View," is but a stone's throw from the Hospice.

Who will defray the expense of such an undertaking? The best answer to this question is to ask, Who will not help such a noble work? Surely no one devoted to Our Lady of the Scapular. All those contributing receive a certificate entitling them to a perpetual share in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which is twice a week offered for them, but a monthly Mass is celebrated those who collect the donations of others.



HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL TACHEREAU.