

and in due time, entered the Grand Seminary, where he took his course in theology. He was seventeen years of age, when, accompanied by Abbé Holmes, he went to Rome. In 1837, he received at the hands of Mgr. Piatti, Archbishop of Trebizonde, the tonsure, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran. A few months afterwards, he returned to Quebec, and resumed his theological studies, and other branches of learning, devoting in all, six years to them. Though under canonical age, his proficiency was so great that he was ordained priest. On the 10th of September, 1842, his ordination took place, at the church of Ste. Marie de la Beauce, in the presence of Mgr. Turgeon, then coadjutor, and finally successor to his grace, Archbishop Signay. Soon after this, the chair of philosophy in the seminary, became vacant, and M. Taschereau was appointed to fill it, which he did with much acceptance, for twelve years. This was not his first experience as a professor, however, for in 1838, the departments of Greek and Latin were placed in his charge, and in 1841, he held the chair of rhetoric. As a teacher, he was highly successful, and though his manner was a little cold, his pupils advanced rapidly under his care.

The year 1847 was a memorable one on two sides of the Atlantic. In Ireland, the population was rapidly decimated by famine, and thousands of emigrants flocked to Canada to escape death. When they landed at Grosse Isle, the Government quarantine station, thirty miles below Quebec, they were weak and ill. Want of food and exposure to privation, left them but poorly equipped to grapple with the battle of life in a land very different from their own. Their vitality was gone, and the malignant fever, from which they suffered, carried them off by hundreds. The pestilence raged with fearful violence, and the island became a loathsome graveyard, a veritable pesthouse. Most of the unfortunates belonged to Ireland, and the Roman Catholic faith. The chaplain and his assistants on the island, found their work so arduous and unremitting, that it was soon evident that help must be sent down to them. Volunteers were

called for, and the first to proffer his services, was Father Taschereau, then just entering upon his twenty-seventh year. The offer was gladly accepted. He landed at Grosse Isle when the malady was at its height, and his familiar figure was seen going about often among the stricken and dying ones, affording comfort and consolation to many a heart. He toiled on, until he himself fell a victim to the fever, and it was for several days, that the life of this devoted servant of God, literally hung upon a thread. His services to the cause of humanity, and the sacrifices he made for his religion, at once endeared him to everybody, especially to the Irish Roman Catholic population of Canada, and his work of 1847 stands out as a monument which will keep his memory forever green.

In 1851, Father Taschereau was appointed professor of theology in the seminary, which office he held until 1854, when he was sent to Rome on an important mission, which was to submit for the approval of his holiness, the pope, the decrees of the second provincial council of Quebec. He passed two years in the Eternal City, at this time, studying the Canon Law, which he so completely mastered, that just before his return to Canada, in 1856, the Roman seminary conferred upon him the much-coveted degree of Doctor of Canon Law. Immediately upon his arrival in Quebec, he entered upon his duties as director of the little seminary, which office he gave up in 1859, to take the directorship of the greater hall of learning. He held at the same period, a place in the Council of Public Instruction for Lower Canada. The next year, we find him the superior of the seminary, and rector of Laval University. Again in 1862, he journeyed to Rome, accompanying Archbishop Charles François Baillargeon, whom he was destined to succeed on the archiepiscopal throne, eight years later. Dr. Baillargeon was a man of great ability. He was born on the 25th April, 1798, at the Isle Aux Grues. In 1850, he became coadjutor to Mgr. Pierre Flavien Turgeon, then Archbishop of Quebec, and succeeded him in August, 1867. On the occasion of his visit to Rome with Father