

be expected from its establishment: object lessons, lessons with demonstrations, mental arithmetic, book-keeping, and, in fact, the whole programme of studies shows that much care will be taken to inculcate a good, practical and commercial education; and no person in this city, aware of the exigencies of the population, and reflecting at the same time on its future prospects, will say that such an institution is not needed.

It is true that out of the number of teachers trained in this establishment, but few will ever teach in this city. But a great writer once said: "It is the country which makes a State, and the people of the country, a nation." This is so true, that cities are obliged to recruit from amongst the population of the country, and cannot, in fact, subsist without, from time to time, obtaining aid in this respect from rural districts. This can be easily understood in Quebec, where few of the citizens of any note, whether professional or following mercantile pursuits, are not either the sons or grand-sons of farmers; and where few families in this city

can go back many generations without tracing their ancestors to some of the beautiful villages which surround it. (Applause.)

There is no person among you who must not have remarked, with surprise, the great number of men of note following both commercial and mechanical pursuits, who, coming when quite young to Quebec, without either education or resources of any kind, and consequently much less able to acquire a collegiate education, whose industry in acquiring the knowledge absolutely necessary to enable them to carry on their business, and whose subsequent endeavours have been crowned with the most brilliant success. Do you imagine, gentlemen, that, had these young men come here possessing the rudiments of a good commercial education, acquired in their own villages from teachers such as it is our desire and the intention of this institution to form, they would have been less successful in their business? Do you not think, on the contrary, that the number of these men and the success of their enterprise would have been considerably augmented under circumstances such as I have just mentioned?

Without a doubt, this is but one of the many favorable features presented by the institution we are now about to inaugurate; and I can imagine I hear you say—at any rate, I know that you think that there are many others equally important. These, the name alone which we give to the institution sufficiently indicates, for it must tend to awaken in every mind those high moral and religious feelings which should govern such an undertaking.

I will not now undertake to make the panegyric of the first Canadian Bishop—the immortal François de Laval Montmorency—of that holy and intrepid man, who, as is so happily expressed by his historian, wore on his head a mitre filled of thorns, and, like another Atlas, carried on his shoulders the burden of a new world. A few words, taken from the funeral sermon preached on his remains by Mr. de la Colombière, most faithfully pictures him to our imagination, and this with an artless energy far beyond my powers of expression.

"We seek," he says, "a person to found a church in a country so vast that, for two hundred years, since it was first discovered, its limits have never been established; so cold, that scarcely any other season is known besides winter; so waste, that until the

"present time it has produced nothing but unfruitful trees,—a person equally capable of forming and conducting a flock, of feeding both sheep and lambs: of changing the nature of the most ferocious animals into that of sheep and lambs; in fact, a person destined to work without intermission for the conversion of a race of men, who, with the exception of their face and form, have nothing in common with the other men, and who only hear the voice of their shepherd through the means of a few missionaries who follow them and track them through the woods as if they were bears, and with nearly the same certainty of being devoured. This person is not to be found in a Court; he must have been brought up in a desert like another St. John the Baptist, mured to fatigue like him—without ambition, without scruples, without worldly fear, preaching penance more by his actions than by his words, solely occupied with his task of preparing the way of the Lord, and of finding the means of planting the Cross throughout the whole of the northern portion of this new world."

And for the text of his eloquent discourse on this occasion, from which we have made the foregoing extract, Mr. de la Colombière took the words of the promise made to Abraham: *Egreder de terrâ tuâ et de cognatione tuâ, et de domo patris tui....., et veni in terram quam monstrabo tibi, et faciam te in gentem magnam.* Nothing, in fact, could be more prophetic in either case; and when we contemplate, to-day, the work of Monseigneur de Laval, happily arrived at a state of maturity, having sent forth many branches surrounding the venerable educational establishment which he founded, we must admit that the promise which was made by the orator has been fulfilled; and that from the bosom of this institution have gone forth all the strength, all the science and all the desires of a new people daily increasing on the shores of the noble Saint Lawrence, faithful to the traditions of the past and full of faith in its future; *faciam te in gentem magnam.* (Loud applause.)

In the long career furnished by this institution, the oldest in America, what venerable names may we not quote? What acts of voluntary sacrifices submitted to by many of its members, almost as exalted as that of its founder; what brilliant talents, what instances of modest but at the same time profound science, could we not signalise? You will permit me, however, to recall to your memory two individuals whom you have all known, and who, having been only lately called away from this world, are

still present to our minds,—and to break that silence which ever reigns over the tombs of these two benefactors of my country!

Where, gentlemen, will we find a man more universally revered, more intimately known in society generally, over which he exercised a most salutary influence, dear alike to both poor and rich, the great and the learned, to the lowly and to the ignorant, than was the late humble-minded Jérôme Demers—whose mind was a fountain of knowledge, and whose heart was a fountain of charity, free and open to every one desirous of drawing therefrom. (Reiterated applause.)

Where shall we find a more elegant scholar, a more powerful preacher, a man more amiable, more gifted with the power of imparting his knowledge, than the late Mr. Holmes, who first introduced a new method of teaching, and who added so much lustre to this institution, and so materially assisted in improving the

