

P R E F A C E

When, in March 1911, Mgr. Charlebois took possession of his vicariate apostolic of Keewatin, Father Turquetil, who had the good fortune to be present, described, with his ready pen, the ceremonies of the enthronization, and the visit which the new Bishop paid, shortly thereafter, to his former mission of Cumberland. Last summer, Mgr. Charlebois visited all the other missions under his charge. He had the happy inspiration to take almost daily notes of his journey, intended for his relatives and benefactors. It is these notes, preceded by Father Turquetil's account, above referred to, which we now offer to the public under the title of "First Efforts of a Missionary Bishop."

Mgr. Charlebois did not, however, confine himself in this diary of his journeys, to a mere description, such as only missionaries can give, of the thousand and one events of an apostolic visitation of more than four months, he also gives us most interesting particulars concerning each mission visited; population, the dispositions, manners and morals of the Indians, the good done, the needs of every kind; he makes known to us the intrepid Oblate Missionaries, who are engaged in evangelizing these inhospitable regions; he speaks, in a fatherly fashion, of their labors, their zeal, of their spirit of sacrifice; and lastly, he reveals to us, quite unconsciously, all the weariness, the privations, the cares, that are implied in his noble title of "Missionary Bishop."

These "First Efforts of a Missionary Bishop," then, are obviously of unusual interest; they form a page in the religious history of our country which is as glorious as it is important. Nor can they fail to convey an eloquent lesson to those of our contemporaries who are given up to sensuousness and to selfishness.

THE EDITORS.