

will support them under any trial, still He does not always subject their faith to so severe a test. On the contrary, He not unfrequently vouchsafes to them manifest tokens of His presence and favour, and enables them to apply to themselves, in its spirit, the argument of the wife of Manoah, "If the Lord were pleased to kill us, He would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would He have shewed us all these things, nor would, as at this time, have told us such things as these," (Judges xiii. 23). And having, brethren, in a preceding part of this discourse, alluded to some of the local discouragements with which we have to contend in this Diocese, you will permit me briefly to advert also to a few of those cheering indications of the Divine blessing, which are so well adapted to make us thank God and take courage

Of the state of the Church in Canada, previous to the period when the humble individual who now addresses you entered this Diocese, he cannot of course speak from personal observation; though, from oral histories of the Canadian Church, he has learned to honour as well the faithful men who preceded him, as those in whose ranks he was permitted to take a place; and he will ever esteem it a cause of thankfulness that his entrance into the Diocese was sufficiently early to gain for him the acquaintance and honoured friendship of two Right Reverend Fathers in God,* one of whom has long since entered into his sainted rest, and the other, faithfully fulfilling his course in a neighbouring Diocese, is still journeying towards the same bright and glorious inheritance. But taking the period of which I have spoken, let me contrast the then condition of this portion of the Church, with the state in which, by the providence and grace of God, it is at the present moment. Well then, brethren, fifteen years ago the Clergy were but few (about forty) in number, so widely scattered and dispersed, that personal communication was rare indeed, and the existence of many known to the others only from a printed report. Nor were they only few in number,

* The late Bishop of Quebec and the present Bishop of Montreal.