

last time, an honorable retreat was offered to him on the part of the monarch, where his old age would have come to a close amid universal respect and veneration. They could not propose to him a more painful sacrifice : " it was, as he said, asking him to renounce what he " held most dear upon earth." He therefore besought Louis XIV to permit him to come, and spend the last years of his life in the midst of the young nation he had loved so well. Touching spectacle which carries us back to the biblical scenes of the first ages ! *I was in the presence of the King, says Nehemias, and I was as one languishing away before his face, and the King said to me : why is thy countenance sad ? And I said to the King : Why should not my countenance be sorrowful, seeing the city of the place of the sepulchres of our fathers is desolate ? If it seem good to the King, and if thy servant hath found favor in thy sight, thou wouldst send me into Judea to the city of the sepulchre of my fathers* (II Esdras, II. 2, 3, 5.). The monarch was moved by so noble a stand and by so deep an attachment, or rather, Divine Providence did not permit that a strange land, as it were, should possess the mortal remains of bishop de Laval. They were ours by right ; and if this devoted father, this signal benefactor, this hero of sacrifice, this great man, animated with the purest love of country, had become so identified with us, as to persuade himself that his bones would rest more peacefully in our midst : what an immense consolation for us to be entrusted with the sacred keeping thereof ! We have treasured them as an inalienable deposit, which recalls to us a past stored with innumerable and fond memories, and which is for the present generation, as well as for posterity, a sure pledge of the divine protection !

But, O. D. B. B., one institution did Bishop de Laval cherish above all others : he was wont even to style it the soul of the church of Canada ; an institution

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