

in this case ; but it will readily be seen that the charge brought by the Church against the Government is by no means as grave as that which Mr. Bradley brings.

The last paragraph contrasts the wealth of the Roman Catholic Mission at St. Albert with the poverty which prevails among the *habitants* in the neighborhood and says that last year "663 people at St. Albert—this nursery of Catholicism—received Government rations. This is virtually a case of the Government supporting a Roman Catholic Mission. The few dollars that the *habitant* may earn he takes out in prayers for the removal of purgatorial coals from the body of some dead relative. * * * Every year this state of affairs exists to a greater or less degree among the French half-breeds of St. Albert."

For six years I lived within a few miles of St. Albert and since then I have had many opportunities of knowing the condition of affairs there. The case quoted by Mr. Bradley may, in great measure, be accounted for by considerations different from those he alleges, by the facts, viz.: (1) That during the previous year a large number who had a preponderance of native blood in their veins, and who had, up to that time, been reckoned as Indians and received rations as such, withdrew from treaty relations on the opportunity being afforded to them, and during the following winter, as was to be expected, many of them were in such distress that they needed help, but less help than they had previously received as Indians. (2) The soup-kitchen having been opened for these, a number of shiftless creatures, sufficient to make up the large total quoted by Mr. Bradley, applied for and received assistance, although not in distressingly indigent circumstances, but regarding the opportunity as too good to be lost. Help of a similar kind, but in a much less degree, was given to some of the same people during the following winter, but these are the only years in which any charitable assistance has been given by the Government to the St. Albert half-breeds. It may be true that the fees exacted by the Roman Catholic Church for special services are high and are exacted in an unfeeling manner, but the idea that the average half-breed would deny himself, much less reduce himself to beggary and allow the Church to be enriched by such means savors of the ridiculous. The Mission is for him an institution from which he *gets* material assistance, rather than one to which he *gives*.

I find myself occupying a position to which I am little accustomed when I take sides with the Roman Catholics rather than with a writer in the MONTHLY. I do so, not because I sympathize with them nor because I think that the condition of Indian affairs or of education in the North-West affords no examples of their aggressive scheming, but because I believe the attacks are so insidious, so deep-laid and so persistent that it is hopeless to fight against them with any weapons except those forged from the purest truth. I am, etc.,

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