

FIFTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Grande-Ligne Mission.

A change in the time of holding the Annual Meeting having been thought advisable, this Report will embrace the account of less than eight months of labor, the last Annual Meeting having been held on the 18th of February.

In our last Report we said, "we look upon the closing year as one of the most remarkable in the history of this Mission"; and to-day we add: it is doubtful if there has been such an eventful eight months in our whole history, though that history, not yet fully written, contains many an eventful epoch, often lost sight of in the ordinary dull drudgery of every day duties, or in the swift current of events in our modern life. It may be encouraging and inspiring to recall a few of those events as proofs that at times they have been greater than our faith expected, and were surprising answers to our prayers. The first convert in this Catholic domain was an event, for the Catholic clergy had often boasted that a French Canadian had never left the faith of his fathers, and that none had died without the ministrations of the priest. The first converted priest was a greater event for the priesthood here, where conversions had always been the other way, some Protestant ministers having joined the Roman Catholic church. The conversion of Dr. Côte, a prominent member of Parliament, a noted patriot chief, a voltairian, but a Catholic nevertheless, was another remarkable event. The conversion of the most noted priest in this country, the great apostle of temperance, as a priest, was a most unexpected event, because Father Chiniquy was an open enemy of the Protestants, as well as of intemperance. Though not residing then in Canada, he was ministering to French Canadian Catholics at

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