

was the child who had never been baptized. He followed the lumberman, the voyageur, or the shantyman upon his adventurous course, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated where the name of God had scarcely before been heard. The extent of his labors, his self-abnegation, the privations he endured almost surpass our imagination.

Mgr. Plessis of Quebec was then the only bishop in the British North American possessions. Father Macdonell was one of his vicars general, and finally coadjutor, being appointed Vicar Apostolic for Upper Canada. The difficulties put in the way of this appointment by the English Government were trifling to those attendant upon the foundation of the see of Regiopolis or Kingston, of which Father Macdonell became the first bishop. His history, it has been well said, was the history of his section of the country. His vigorous and active mind saw what was essential for the good of religion and the glory of God, and he allowed no obstacles to stand in his way. Despite the magnitude of such an undertaking in those days, he made more than one visit to England, treating with the Colonial Office concerning the spiritual interests of his diocese. He brought thence with him some co-laborers, notably Father Peter Macdonald, who became his Vicar-general, and assisted him in the foundation of St. Raphael's Seminary. This institution, for the education of priests, was followed by the foundation of the College of Regiopolis, of which the corner-stone was laid on the 11th June, 1838. Within the walls of this institution many a learned and devoted priest received his classical and theological training. Some went forth to adorn the ranks of the secular clergy, others the regular orders, and many more to carry the torch of learning and religion among a prejudiced population. Education was a work which the good bishop had much at heart, and not content with the propagation of secular