

## The Church in Canada.

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THE activity of the Catholic Church in Canada from its earliest times to the present has been a vigorous and fruitful one.

The first to step on Canada's virgin soil were missionaries of Holy Mother Church. The brave French Jesuits appeared with the first discoverers and settlers in Canada, erecting the big black cross emblematic of Christ's Church. There their labors among the savage Indians was begun, and was successful, but at what a terrible and cruel cost. These men gave up their homes, friends, everything for the Church, and suffered bloody martyrdom at the hands of the savage red men. Then these missionaries assumed a dual role of discoverers and preachers of the word of God. The Mississippi and other rivers were discovered by the intrepid Jesuit, Pere Marquette. Towns and villages were founded at the instigation of these holy men; churches were erected; colleges, convents, hospitals, home., and asylums were founded, and into them came those holy women of the church, who ministered to the sufferings and wants of the early settlers.

Bishop Laval established his college at Quebec, and did wonderful work for the church in both religious and educational matters.

The teaching office of the church was never for an instant neglected; no matter what were the hardships and privations attending it. Wherever a few were gathered together as Catholics, there went the Catholic priest to plant the Holy Cross of Christ and teach His doctrines, minister to the sick, comfort the dying, and pray for the departed.

Be it the Eskimo in the frozen north; the Indian in the wild and unexplored West; the French-Canadian settler in Quebec, or the Irish and Scotch immigrants of Ontario, all had and still have their priests and their churches, their hospitals and their schools.

As the country grows the responsibilities of the Catholic church arise, and are being met with the same wisdom and courage as were the hardships of the early Catholic church in Canada. The western part of Canada, with its vast stretches of prairie land, and its hundreds of thousands of new settlers, now offers