

The

Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

Reddite quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22. 21.

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CARMEL IN AMERICA.

There are doubtless quite a few among the many who wear the Brown Scapular who are not aware that this devotion comes to the faithful through the most ancient Order in the Church—viz., the Carmelites, or, as these monks are sometimes called, "the White Friars." This religious body has existed in an unbroken chain since the time of the Prophet Elias, who, whilst on Mount Carmel, trained his disciples to a life of prayer. His followers, true to their vocation, resided on the holy Mount for many years. The abode was always an open hospice to all who begged to tarry there and reap some spiritual nourishment. Times have changed. The Turk now holds sway over those places, and access is thereby closed to the pious pilgrim.

Would that like the Holy House of Loretto these other time-honored sanctuaries could be likewise moved! Neither does this wish seem altogether a dream. The monks are here, and who shall likewise transplant their Hospice—not merely over the blue waters of the Mediterranean but far beyond it across the Atlantic to a more congenial clime—to America! It will doubtless be our American Catholics, whose generosity will be prompt when appealed to on behalf of so worthy an object.

The Carmelites were induced by the late saintly Archbishop of Toronto, Dr. Lynch, to settle on the banks of the Niagara River. They did so. Being mendicants they are content with their lot of poverty. They need only one thing and that is means to erect an edifice suitable to accommodate their many guests that are annually attracted to this beautiful spot. There already stands at Niagara Falls a little church dedicated to our Lady

of Peace, and is enriched with all the indulgences of the European sanctuaries. When such a suitable Hospice is built what a consolation to our American Catholics to have such a beautiful retreat where they may retire for a while.

In a Pastoral the late Archbishop Lynch has said: The Catholic Church, or to speak more plainly, the sublime religious souls under her influence, always sought the most beautiful and romantic places to erect monasteries and churches to the service of God. Christ Himself retired to the mountain to pray, and He sought the solitude of Thabor to manifest His glory, and Gethsemani to pour forth His sorrows into the bosom of His Father. The soul, withdrawn from the din and the noise and the bustle of this world, breaks from its tension and soars towards God. The Fathers of the desert sought the wilderness and the mountain caves, there to adore their God. Our forefathers in the faith also peopled the islands in the Atlantic, erecting their monasteries in clefts overlooking the mighty ocean, where the Monks sat and contemplated God in the fearful storms and in the raging waves that dashed over the rocks; and admired the works of His

providence in the flight and screech of the ravens and gulls. In a storm they would imagine souls in distress crying out, "Where is my God." See them also on the islands of the blessed Lough Erne. They beheld the serenity of the sky above and the peaceful waters below, and were led to sweet and calm repose in God. Again, they sought the clefts of the mountains overlooking the smiling valleys, where they could feast their eyes on the riches and bounties of God in the fertile fields below, and pity busy mortals in their incessant toil after the things that perish. Behold the lilies of the field, the birds of the air. God clothes and provides for all. He fills the soul that is empty of this world.

In Europe there are many sanctuaries, but few in this new world. Niagara will be one, and first of the most famous where God will be adored on the spot in which He manifests Himself in such incomparable majesty and grandeur. The festivals that will be most religiously celebrated in this sanctuary, besides the first-class Festivals of the Church, are the ninth of July, called

Our Lady of Miracles or Peace; the sixteenth, Our Lady of Mount Carmel; twenty-ninth of September, the Festival of St. Michael; fifteenth of October, St. Teresa; twenty-first of November, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin; and the tenth of December, Festival of Our Lady of Loretto.

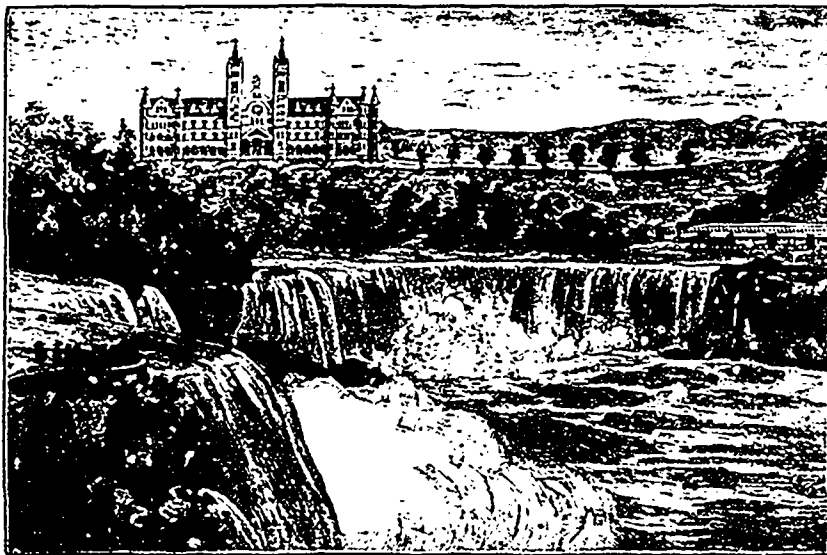
We desire to have a religious house where pilgrims would be attracted to adore nature's God in spirit and in truth, and who would there find, in solitude and rest, how great and good God is.

The Fathers of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the most ancient in the Church and dear to the heart of our Blessed Mother, have commenced this good work. Our Holy Father Pius IX., has

been graciously pleased to confer upon the present little church Plenary Indulgences and other favors granted to the most ancient pilgrimages of the old world. The Fathers also propose, when a suitable house is built, to receive Prelates and Clergy of the Church as well as Laity to make retreats; and to provide Priests, worn out in the service of their Divine Master, with a home where they can quietly prepare for eternity."

His Grace Archbishop Walsh has also said as follows:

I am glad to hear that you intend to begin, as soon as means will allow you, the construction of a house for spiritual retreats at Niagara Falls, in this archdiocese. I sincerely hope that your appeal to a charitable public for the furtherance of this most praiseworthy and meritorious object will meet with the success it so eminently deserves. A Retreat House, conducted by your zealous fathers, could not fail to do much good for the salvation and sanctification of souls, especially in a place and amid surroundings where nature itself invites to solemn thought and serious reflections, and where, in very deed, one hears: "The voice of the Lord upon the waters, the God of majesty hath thundered; the Lord upon many waters." (Psalm xxxviii.)



PROPOSED HOSPICE OF THE CARMELITE FATHERS, NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.