

I Go to Form a Colony with the French.

The bishops had given me great power and authority, and the Pope had raised me above many others, and I had the hope with others that little by little we might reform the Church in many things. In 1851 I went to the State of Illinois, at the request of the bishops, to found a French Colony. I took with me about 75,000 French Canadians, and settled on the magnificent prairies of Illinois, to take possession of the country in the name of the Church of Rome. Chicago, now a magnificent city of more than half a million of men, was then a very small town. After I had begun my great work of colonisation my mind received many lights. I was a rich man, and I bought many Bibles and gave one to almost every family. The Bishop was very angry at me for giving away these Bibles, but I did not care. I had no idea of giving up the Church of Rome, but I wanted to guide my people as well as I could in the way in which Christ wanted me to lead them.

The Bishop Dismissed by the Pope.

Now the Bishop of Chicago did a thing at that time which we Frenchmen could not tolerate. It was a great crime, and I wrote to the Pope and him dismissed. Another Bishop was sent in his place, who deputed his Grand Vicar to make his peace with us.

The Grand Vicar said to me, "M. Chiniquy, we are very glad that you have got the former Bishop dismissed, for he was a bad man; but it is suspected in many places that you are no more in the Church of Rome. It is suspected in England that you are a heretic and a Protestant. Will not you give us a document by which we can prove to all the world that you and your people are still good Roman Catholics?" I said, "I have no objection," and he rejoined, "It is the desire of the Bishop whom the Pope has sent to have such a document from you."