

portant mission had been confided?—the Most R. v. F. N. Blanchet, now Archbishop of Oregon City, and my humble self;\* and when we look to the time when we arrived in a country almost as wild as nature had made it, and seeing what has been done in a point of view both religious and material, a feeling of legitimate pride forces itself upon us; but we thank God for it, giving all glory to Him who is the author of all perfect gifts. We humbly acknowledge the manifold favors He has been pleased to bestow upon us in our unremitting efforts in carrying out the object of our mission.

Its beginning was small indeed; it was the mustard-seed sown in a vast field, but which has grown and become a tree. You would no longer see the two first missionaries constantly travelling, and principally myself, over the whole country, visiting the almost numberless Indian tribes, and teaching them the first rudiments of Christianity, being at times separated, one from the other, by hundreds of miles. Another state of things has succeeded; other laborers were called into the field, who, with one mind and one soul, as their faith was one, joined us in the common cause, and are now reaping up the fruits of our first labors; and, to tell all in a few words, from the boundary line of California up north to the Russian possessions, the whole country is divided between an Archbishop, two Bishops, and one Vicar Apostolic. The labors, privations, self-sacrifices, and hardships of the Missionaries have been rewarded a hundred-fold by the conversion of thousands of Indians. The Bishops have established schools among them, the boys being taught by clergymen, the girls by Sisters of different orders, who at the same time are conducting schools in the principal cities and towns, in which young ladies of all classes and denominations can receive as liberal and finished an education as anywhere else.

Such are the principal traits of the whole tableau, and the brief statement of which I hope will not be deemed out of place, before I come to the object I have in view, and to which I take the liberty to call public attention.

\* I had come to the Mission of Red River the year before, 1837. This Mission was also founded by two Canadian priests, in 1817.