

PART II.



THE CALL TO VICTORIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA



THE VOYAGE



HE young Order, being the work of God, soon became favourably known, and was invited to open branch houses in several parts of the Province of Quebec. It was to extend beyond. As early as 1858, Rt. Rev. Modeste Demers, Bishop of the country lying north of the State of Washington and west of the Rocky Mountains, with his See in Victoria, Vancouver Island, made application to the Order to assume missionary work. It was to be a literal setting out without scrip or purse. Salary, or a fund, however slight to begin with, or to look forward to, was not to be thought of. The most the Bishop could do was to defray the travelling expenses of the first four Sisters, selected from forty-five who, with one accord, had volunteered for that poorest portion of the Church's vineyard.

The names and birthplaces of these Sisters, to whom British Columbia owes the highest examples of devotion to God and mankind, should be forever chronicled. They are:

Sr. M. Sacred Heart - - Salome Valois, Vaudreuil, P.Q.

Sr. M. Angele - - - Angele Gauthier, Vaudreuil, P.Q.

Sr. M. Lumina - - - Virginie Brasseur, Vaudreuil, P.Q.

Sr. M. Conception - - - Mary Lane, Rawdon, P.Q.

Leaving Montreal, April 14, the Sisters arrived at Victoria, June 5. Their route had taken them by rail to New York, then down the Atlantic to Aspinwall, across the Isthmus of Panama by train, up the Pacific to San Francisco, then on to Vancouver Island; in all a two months' trip for what would now take only one hundred hours on the C.P.R. Imperial Limited.

From the pleasant and uneventful voyage there remains the memory of an incongruous but amusing incident, which is still recalled with laughter.

After crossing the newly-laid Panama railroad, the Sisters had to bide their chance to embark on one of the steamship's tenders. One thousand seven hundred passengers, all men, with an immense amount of baggage, and many cattle, were here waiting to board the steamer John Ellis, then bound for San Francisco. These men had joined the mad rush to the recently discovered gold fields in Cariboo.