

the Norman Conquest. He came to Niagara in 1818.

The first entry in the old Niagara Register in the hand writing of Father Campion, reads as follows—The first day of June, by me Roman Catholic Missionary for Niagara, Dundas etc., has been baptized Mary Ann Hughes, born the 2nd day of January, 1827, of the lawful marriage of James Hughes and Mary May."

Jas. W. Campion,
M. Pt.

Here is another entry in the old Register—"The 12th August, 1827—By the Right Rev. Alex. Macdonell has been baptized Mary Harris, born the 11th July, 1827, of the lawful marriage of John Harris and Margaret Grey, who is not a Roman Catholic, the sponsors being Patrick McArdle and Mary Fegan, also McArdle—Alex. Macdonell, R. Ep"

The following is an extract from the same register of a marriage, which shows how careful and conscientious the early Catholic Priests were to guard the sanctity of the marriage tie. "The 8th day of October, 1827—Cornelius Calahan and Mary Carrol both from Ireland, having solemnly declared and given a certificate of their not being married or contracted before with any person, and not being able to discover any impediment to prevent them from getting married, I, the undersigned Roman Catholic Missionary for Niagara, Dundas etc etc. have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given the benediction according to the rules of the Holy Roman Catholic Church in presence of Patrick Cullen, Patrick Handy, Andrew Boylan, Patrick Flynn and Mary Kelley."

Jas. W. Campion,
M. Pt.

Father Campion remained in charge of the Niagara Mission until 1830, when he was recalled by Bishop Macdonell to Kingston to act in the capacity of his Secretary. He died in 1841.

At the date Father Campion was removed, the Catholics had no church, no church property of any kind, not excepting a graveyard, and their dead were buried in St. Mark's Episcopal Cemetery. Services were held at one time in a hall over the brick store on Queen St. now occupied by Mr. Doyle, at another time, in the house now owned and occupied by Miss Catholine. At that period it was one large room but was apparently of sufficient capacity to embrace the congregation that gathered there to be present at the celebration of the Mass.