

their knowledge of Christianity from the Oblate Fathers, among whom we cannot refrain from mentioning Bishops d'Herbomez and Durien, Fathers Chirouse, Sr., Pandosy, Jayol, Baudre, Lejacq, Blanchet, Fouquet, Richard, Marchal, McGuekin, Coccola, Lejeune, Morice, Carion, Horris, Peytavin, Chirouse, Jr., and Guertin; Brothers Surel, Vernet and Burns.

The labors and zeal of these pioneers of the Gospel were crowned with success, for they have converted over 15,000 natives, who, for piety and regularity of life, are behind no other neophytes; while, for industry and obedience to the laws of the country, they are second to none. They are self-supporting, and compare favorably in skill and intelligence with the natives of any other part of the American continent. They have their defects, no doubt, and it requires heroic patience and devotedness to handle them with success, but to their credit it must be said they have, since their conversion, given very little trouble to the authorities and have advanced in civilization in proportion to their progress in the knowledge and practice of the Christian religion. This result is most striking when it is contrasted with the degraded condition of pagan Indians, who still resist the call to Christianity. The labors of the Oblate Fathers among the various Indian tribes, though done in a quiet, unostentatious way, cannot be overestimated, when it is considered how, through their untiring and self-sacrificing efforts, they practically solved the Indian problem, which has perplexed the Canadian Government and has caused seemingly insurmountable difficulties to the United States authorities.

The work of conversion, however, was far from being an easy one. The success of the Oblates is due, after the Grace of God, to their indomitable zeal and self-sacrifice.