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**Sisters of Charity of Montreal, “Grey Nuns”**

**Archives & Collections:**

**Annals of the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns).**

***Ancien Journal*, volume I, 1847.**

p.491 No2, p. 474, 475, 476):

#### TYPHUS EPISODE (1847)

There has been an extraordinary emigration this year, the likes of which had never been seen. During the voyage, an outbreak of the plague declared itself in all the vessels carrying the poor Irish to Canada, so that upon arriving at GROSSE ILE where they were to be quarantined, a great number of plague victims died upon exiting the vessels, in addition to those that had been dumped at sea during the voyage. Those that had not yet been struck down by the sickness were sent to Montreal where hundreds of them would arrive every day. The pestilential disease, of which they carried the seed, usually manifested itself on the way, so that when they did arrive here, they were as sick as those that had remained on GROSSE ILE.

On June Seventh (7), our mother Superior heard that

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there were a great number of sick people lying outdoors along the docks and that they found themselves in the saddest of shape. Before undertaking anything for their relief, she went to the SEMINARY to consult Mister Superior. Mister Superior being on the Mountain, our mother came back without having seen him. Later on the day, the Venerable M. JOHN RICHARDS, P.S.S., [“known as Jean Richards” written in margin] came to the Order accompanied by M. Connolly, to ask for the sister’s assistance with these unfortunates. At that moment, our mother superior, who was only waiting on the permission and approbation of the good Fathers of the Seminary to go help these unfortunates, left with sister St Croix for the Emigrants' Office to obtain the AGENT OF GOVERNMENT'S consent so as to be able to act more freely. The Office's gentlemen welcomed them very politely: they were granted full liberties to act as best they could. They authorized them to hire men and women to help them in the burdensome TASK they were to undertake. Our Mother was not surprised by the gracious welcome she had received when she learned that the venerable M. John Richards (Jean Richard) had

preceded her. This good father, seeing that the Office's gentlemen were somewhat embarrassed by the great number of sick individuals that came in endlessly, and did not know how to provide them with the care that their state imperiously required, had suggested that they ask the SISTERS OF CHARITY to care for the sick. MISTER THE INTENDANT, a protestant, welcomed the suggestion of M. John Richard (Jean Richard), for whom all these gentlemen had a singular veneration, most graciously; but they apparently did not know where to go

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to find the Sisters that M. Richard had mentioned; great was his joy when he saw us come in to offer our services.

Our Mother was immediately lead by an employee of the office to the main hospital (if we can give it that name). GOOD GOD! What a spectacle. Hundreds of people, most of them lying naked on planks haphazardly, men, women and children, sick, moribund and cadavers; all of this confusion hit the eyes at once. Our Mother there met MISTER THE SUPERIOR of the Seminary as well as the good M. MORGAN who, at the moment, was occupied trying to lift from the ground a sick person who was choked up by his own vomiting in order to place him on a near-by cot.

Our Mother and my sister St Croix, their hearts broken by the spectacle they had just beheld, headed back to the Order incapable of rendering all the horror that the sight of these infected emigrants, recalling a vast tomb, has inspired in them.

On the eve of that same day, after dinner, our Mother, after having depicted the deplorable state of these unfortunates, called upon the Order to help them since she did not wish to force anyone to do so. She did not need to do so more than once, since our dear Sisters came in large numbers and put themselves at the service of our Mother to be sent there, when she would deem it fit.

JUNE 9 1847.- Consequently, on JUNE 9, EIGHT (8) of our

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Sisters, accompanied by FIVE (5) hired women to assist them, made their way to the SHEDS and began on this day their strenuous function. However, the number of Sisters was far from sufficient, as new ones would go every day, so much so that on Sunday, the 13th of the month, we found ourselves TWENTY-THREE (23) caring for the plague victims.

The number of hired, men and women, did not suffice since every day, due to the great number of incoming sick people, new sheds had to be erected, and we came eventually to have EIGHTEEN (18) of them. We think it suitable and of the highest order, to come to an agreement with the gentlemen of the OFFICE regarding the price we would offer them before increasing the number of hires so as to avoid the intrusion of any suspicious character, our MOTHER SUPERIOR alone is authorized to HIRE or FIRE employees. These gentlemen willingly granted what our Mother requested. A wage was established. We gave men £3 to £3.10 for... and women £ 2.1. Our Mother, overloaded with tasks, immediately designated a Sister whose primary occupation would be to monitor employees' conduct, to keep the books for each of them; when it was time to get paid, they would come to the Office with a note from the Sister and were immediately paid. The Sisters enjoyed a considerable influence upon the AGENTS of the Government. They obtained all they requested for the sick from the Office.

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Each Sister held her post and supervised exclusively the department that our Mother had given her. She had the necessary men and women to assist her.

The government simultaneously had SOUP prepared and distributed it to emigrants and convalescents, per its order. Only Priests, Sisters and Doctors could provide emigrants with tickets required to receive this help.

After having cared for the plague victims all day, the Sisters headed back to the Order in the evening, leaving behind them trustworthy individuals that were paid to watch through the night.

In the evening, upon their arrival at the Order, the Sisters changed their habits in one of the hangars. In the morning, we would reprise the habits we had cast off the previous day.

The situation was different for our good fathers of the Seminary who, after having breathed the sheds' pestiferous air all day, usually remained by the sick at night. The good M. PIERRE RICHARD spent many nights acting as a nurse, especially in the first few days, where the service had yet to be organized. When we came in in the morning to begin the day, we would encounter him in a shed, M. CAROFF in another, pale and exhausted from the previous night's work; yet calm and sweet merriment always upon their faces. The angelic behavior of those two saintly priests while we were with them at the sheds will never be erased from our memory, and the examples of

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all the virtue they gave greatly contributed to our courage in lieu of the most lamentable of disasters to be seen.

Additionally, in order to go from one shed the other, we had to cross the area that separated them, often with mud up to our knees, sometime under heavy rainfall; several days in a row ... One day, one of our sisters who was making her way to a more remote shed, decided, so as to not get stuck in the mud, to climb up on the hill that bordered the shore. As she was painstakingly making her way, a great gust of wind toppled her over and made her tumble to the bottom of the hill. It is unnecessary to relate in detail the state

in which she found herself. Scenes of this nature occurred often, but our good Lord gave us the strength and the courage to bear all of this gaily. In fact, as we had mentioned before, the example of our dear Fathers supported us and the words of encouragement that they mercifully addressed us whenever the occasion presented itself, singularly excited our devotion. One day, one of our sisters, drenched by the rain, and covered with mud, encountered, while crossing the courtyard, M. PIERRE RICHARD who himself was not in his best state. Since the rain was falling heavily at that moment, this SISTER said to him: "Father, what awful weather, will this rain last forever? ... Eh! Sister, he answered kindly with his usual tranquility, these are but pearls that are falling. Let us not let them get lost." ...

What transpired at the SHEDS where the plague victims lodged was soon known throughout the town; while they had no desire  
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to frequent these infected sites, several people sent sweets for the sick. The Sisters of the congregation were not the last to display their generosity for the relief of the unfortunate. The commiseration for the poor victims of this tragedy was so wide, that even soldiers deprived themselves of part of their rations and came to deliver them AT THE GATES every day, without fear of contracting the contagion.

Words are lacking to express the hideous state in which the sick found themselves, up to three of them in the same bed, or cots to be more exact, that had been hastily fashioned and gave the impression that they were caskets. When touring the SHEDS, we would find cadavers exhaling an insufferable infection, lying in the same bed as those that still breathed; the number of sick was so considerable, that we at some point counted ELEVEN HUNDERD (1100) of them, some of whom had been dead for a few hours before we had noticed. One day, a Sister, passing one of those sheds, saw a poor afflicted that appeared restless; she came near his cot and saw that he was attempting to push off two dead bodies between which he was lying down. In spite of the delirium that deprived him of some of his faculties, the sight of those cadavers, one black as coal, the other, in

contrast, yellow like saffron, caused him such fright that it momentarily brought him back to his senses; once delivered from his two companions, he fell back in his previous state of insensibility, and the next day, it was his turn to join the ranks of the dead ... we could cite a thousand

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traits of this kind; but it is impossible to report all of them. Before we could build a hangar to store the dead bodies as the sick expired, we would take them outside of the sheds and the bodies would be left in the open air on planks prepared to that effect in a courtyard, and since the CEMETERY was some distance from here, we waited until there was a sufficient number to fill up the cart that conveyed them to the tomb. What a spectacle when entering the courtyard, to see on one side all these inanimate CORPSES, and on the other all the caskets ready to receive them ... One day came a man from GROSSE ILE, where he had remained upon his arrival, being too sick to be transported to Montreal, where his wife, who was in good health, was sent with everyone else who had yet to be infected with the contagion. This poor man was looking everywhere for his wife without being able to find her; he enters the SHEDS and looks on every cot to no avail. Finally, he goes out to pursue his search; while crossing the courtyard, he sees a great number of dead bodies. He comes nearer to examine them more closely. What does he see? ... The inanimate body of his wife whom he was looking for all this time. He takes her in his arms, seeming to doubt that she is in fact dead; he wants to bring her back to life, talks to her, calls her by her name, kisses her tenderly; but for all these demonstrations, the only answer he receives is death's silence. Once he is convinced that she no longer exists, he abandons himself to his pain, the air is filled with his cries and sobs, the spectacle was most heart wrenching. Scenes of this nature occur several times a day. What is even more

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heart wrenching is to see little children, only a few months old, abandoned due to the death of their mothers. When arriving at the SHEDS in the morning, we looked in every corner to make sure of the number of deaths that had occurred during the night; the Sisters were expected to deliver to the Doctors a daily report of their respective departments. During these visits, we found more than one young child lying with mothers who no longer existed, suckling their breasts, to find some nourishment.

The venerable M. Jean Richards, filled with compassion upon seeing the fate of these little innocents, the number of which was considerably increasing, and fearing that the Protestants would seize them, did not rest until the Commissary agreed to build a SHED exclusively for CHILDREN. He put them all together and, like a good father, tended to their more urgent needs. Realizing that these children were almost naked and that we did not have anything to change them, he allows the SISTERS to clothe them using rags that belong to orphans from the seminary. We could see this venerable priest, almost every day among these little afflicted, searching for ways to improve their fate. While we went to the sheds, we would cease to attend the OFFICES OF THE PARISH and on June 17, the Fete du Sacre Coeur, the Sisters, too tired, and absent in great numbers, were unable to sing the Offices. We used EULOGISTS for the Great Mass and the Vespers, and orphans sang the Salvation; which they continued doing so all the while that the sickness persisted.

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We continued so until the TWENTY-FOUR (24) of JUNE. At that time, exhausted Sisters began crumbling under the weight of their tasks; already two of them were victims of the contagion. Our Mother Superior, seeing the pestiferous disease enter the house, warned us that we could not go on for long supporting the care of the SHEDS. She alerted Mister Superior of the state of our Sisters stricken by the epidemic evil as well to her fears she bore concerning the others. This revered Father thinks it best to confer with



his Eminence Monsignor of Montreal [Bishop Bourget] who, after having talked with our Mother Superior, decided that the Sisters of Providence would come to our assistance; that the GENERAL INSPECTION would remain in our care, that we would have to deal with all of the affairs with INTENDANTS, DOCTORS, and employees of the Government: finally, that the Sisters of Providence would only act as helpers. During a small assembly held in order to organize our work at the SHEDS, over which Monsignor presided, his Eminence expressed the desire to establish regulations for the occasion. However, our MOTHER humbly objected that there was no possibility to restrain ourselves to Regulations in the current state of things. His Eminence did not insist further.

On the TWENTY-SIX (26) of JUNE, TEN (10) Sisters of Providence came to our assistance. The apartment serving as a pre-novitiate was offered to them as a dormitory. They attended exercises of piety with us, and those of them that were novices followed the exercises of the novitiate.

When our Sisters returned from the sheds in the evening, they washed themselves and changed clothes; despite these hygienic precautions, they were infected by the odor they brought back from the SHEDS.

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In order to continue caring for the sick, it was decided that a portion of the Sisters would spend half of their day at the House of Pointe-Saint Charles and, after having rested there, would take the place of the others so that they could then rest as well.

JUNE 29, THRITTEEN (13) of our Sisters were stopped by the disease. ELEVEN (11) of them HAD THE TYPHUS that they contracted at the SHEDS.

The day after, THIRTIETH (30) of the month, the Governor General, LORD ELGIN CAME WITH HIS LADY AND A BRILLANT PROCESSION, to offer condolences to

the Order. He appeared quite moved upon learning that a great number of our Sisters were grievously sick, being victims of their devotion to serving the plague victims. His Excellency was accompanied by Monsignor PHELAN, Bishop of Kingston, who was currently in Montreal.

At this time, the Monsignors of Saint-Sulpice that had tended to the plague victims, were also becoming ill from TYPHUS. We then saw his EMINENCE Monsignor of Montreal himself, who had returned from his trip to Rome but a few days before, visit, administer and tend to all sorts of cares for the poor victims of the epidemic. On JULY 3, he spent the night at the sheds with Monsignor Phelan, to help the sick and at day break, being exhausted, the two saintly bishops went to our house in Pointe Saint Charles to rest a little. Since the number of our Sisters present at the sheds was decreasing from day to day, due to the number of sick people at the Order, which increased every day,  
Monsignor

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of Montreal called upon the NUNS of the HOTEL-DIEU, allowing them to exit the cloister in order to help the Sisters of Providence who were about to be left alone ... We saw these good NUNS, SIX (6) of them, come as well, endangering their own lives to relieve their brothers.

On JULY FIFTH (5), TWENTY-THREE (23) of our Sisters were bed ridden; of them, SEVENTEEN (17) were victims of the horrors of the plague. Those who were still standing collapsed from exhaustion in caring for their Sisters, before

having to rely on seculars in order to care for them; but everyone avoided our house that now seemed like a tomb, and we were able with difficulty to gather but a few devoted individuals to come and expose themselves by performing this service. However we must not forget the devotion and sincere affection that a few respectable LADIES displayed for our Order during these days of gloomy memories.

Despite this terrible ordeal that struck our house, a good deal of young people came to ask admittance in our novitiate. FOUR OF THEM were admitted and ENTERED DURING THE PINNACLE OF THE EPIDEMIC. The courage of these good POSTULANTS was heroic to us. One of them came to replace her sister, who at the moment, gave no hope of recovery.

On JULY SIXTH (6), ONE of our Sisters received the last rites. We deemed it prudent to isolate the sick, putting together those that showed a more severe affliction. We carried a portion of them in the CHAMBER OF STATUES, leaving those less sick in the infirmary. The novitiate was converted into an infirmary for novices who were cared from by their Mistress, aided by those that were not victims

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of the disease. At the same time, with Monsignor's approval, we called in a second doctor to assist Doctor CHARLEBOIS in caring for our sick sisters.

Our Mother Superior, stricken with the exhaustion that came with overseeing the sheds, which she visited regularly every day, and burdened with a thousand cares from issues that arose at the time, succumbed under the weight of this dual burden. A disease of the entrails, coupled with total exhaustion, caused us to worry for her for several days.

On JULY SEVENTH (7), OUR SISTERS STOPPED GOING TO THE SHEDS , and FIFTEEN (15) of our sick received the holy Viaticum; several of them were in great danger of dying.

On the EIGHTH (8), our Mother's birthday, death entered the Seminary and the Reverend Mister MORGAN, after having caught a fever while caring for the plague ridden, was the first victim. This good gentleman was struck by the contagion after just a few days with the sick. He endured horrible sufferings before dying and was delirious nearly the whole time. He was THIRTY-SEVEN years old.

On the 10th, at 9.30 in the evening, our good little sister ADELINE LIMOGES, after a few days of suffering, passed away amidst the most horrible pains. This dear Sister, having donned the saintly habit a mere two months earlier, had distinguished herself through great obedience. Of a merry and constant humour, she endeared herself to all of her companions through her sweet gaiety and her

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considerate manner for all. When her Mistress announced to her that she had been designated to go care for the plague victims, her happiness was so great that she immediately went to Church to thank the good Lord. She was TWENTY years, ONE month and TWENTY-FOUR days old. She was buried the following day at one (1) in the afternoon. Her LIBERA was sung by eulogists.

On JULY ELEVENTH (11), our Mother gathered the Sisters in the Sisterhood after dinner, to propose that we all do a novena at NOTRE DAME de BON SECOURS Church... Two Sisters would go to attend Mass on behalf of the Sisterhood every day. Moreover, our Mother suggested we give this Church a STATUE of the Virgin Mary, made by our sisters. This novena was made in the hope of STOPPING this scourge. The proposal was accepted with joy by all the Sisters. It was not possible to have mass at Bonsecours; Monsignor, upon approving the novena, told our Mother that mass would be held in our Church and that candles would be lit at Notre-Dame de Bonsecours; and that once the disease had been stopped, we would all go on a pilgrimage to this Church where he would say Holy Mass himself ... With the same intention, we kept candles lit in front of the Virgin Mary's altar, in our chapel.

The same day (11), bore witness to the TRAGIC DEATH of the priest M. J.-B.S. GOTTOFREY, p.s.s. He departed at HALF PAST SIX in the evening, after having confessed himself to a postulant that did not speak French. He appeared merrier than usual; a few of our sisters came to see him, he told them with his

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natural vivacity: "Courage, my dear Sisters, our sufferings are short-lived, but our reward is eternal." Saying good night to our Mother, he told her: "Take care not to kill yourself!", meaning not to exhaust herself caring for the sick. This dear gentleman was unaware of the accident that was to befall him AN HOUR AND A HALF LATER. He left to go visit a few sick people that called for him and, having gone to the Church of NOTRE-DAME de BONSECOURS to get the Holy Viaticum, he went up on the side of the Sacristy, which was on the third floor, wanting to go out on a balcony where we would often go, but that had been demolished in order to construct other buildings. He firmly opened this poor door that, foolishly, had had not been nailed shut, and fell to the pavement on pieces of stone that were to be used for the buildings. His body was taken to the HOUSE OF THE VERGER and later to the HOTEL-DIEU. He was buried on the 12th.

On the TWELFTH (12), we began the novena at SAINT ROCH. The statue of this saint had been placed on the altar of the chapel of the Virgin Mary. At ONE in the afternoon, we went to the Church, in the same order as for the MISERERE, low habits. The poor and the children attended with us.

On the THIRTEENTH (13) after a few days of horrible suffering due to the epidemic disease that he had caught caring for the plague victims, died M. REMI CAROF, a priest at the Seminary. His limitless devotion and charity with which he helped the sick were truly moving. On more than one occasion we had seen him lie down between two dying individuals, to hear their confession; since, as we have previously said, they were lying TWO or THREE per bed, and these cots were so close to one another that one could not pass between them. It is important to note that an insufferable odour emanated from the sick, that they were covered in vermin, and surrounded by the most repugnant dirtiness. In this shameful position, we saw him take in the confession of a dying woman, hold in his arms the small child that was preventing her from confessing. Other times, he would himself go get stacks of hay so that the sick who were lying naked on the floor could

climb onto them. Finally, this priest would stop at nothing to contribute to the salvation of their souls and the relief of their body.

During this time, we noticed, with a singular edification, the sweet joy that accompanied all of his gestures. Every time we would meet him, he would always have a few encouraging remarks to address us. This dear Gentleman, whose memory is dear to us, was but THIRTY (30) YEARS and three months old.

On the FOURTEENTH (14), our good Sister ANGELIQUE CHEVREFILS, known as Sister PRIMEAU, having donned the habit only EIGHTEEN DAYS prior, died at FIVE in the evening. She experienced the joy of pronouncing her vows before dying, being sane of mind. Sister MATHILDE DENIS (SAINT JOSEPH) who was, at the same time, in mortal danger, also pronounced her vows conditionally. Our good Sister PRIMEAU was a promising candidate, she displayed great punctuality in all little observances, was

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thoughtful of her companions, she was always willing to do what disgusted others. The good Lord contented himself with the willingness she had shown while caring for the sick, since she caught the contagious disease as soon as she began to do so, and endured it with admirable patience and resignation. She was buried the next morning. One of her sisters who was a teacher, was also victim of th scourge at the time; we kept the news of her sister's death hidden and she learned of it only after her recovery.

It is difficult to have an idea of the pitiable state of the house during the epidemic. The regular spots were deserted, or rather nonexistent, since we had put up beds in the communal room. However, our elder, Sister HARDY, who was a stickler for rules, was always punctual in ringing the exercises, and those that could afford to leave the care of the sick at that time would not miss them; sometimes there would be only THREE or FOUR attending, sometimes only TWO. The service of the poor in the rooms was interrupted for almost the entire duration of the epidemic. However, the Hospitaller

Sisters constantly kept their offices, or if they came to miss them, were replaced by others. As we have said before, everyone fled the house; with the exception of Monsignor of Montreal, M. the Superior of the Seminary, and our good father Larré who would sometimes come up to three times in a day. We will never forget the paternal care

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that Monsignor deigned grant us in those difficult circumstances. Every time his eminence would enter the house, it's as if he would bring us life. One of our Sisters that had been on the brink of the tomb, had begun her recovery but had yet to recover her senses; this poor Sister pursued Monsignor and implored him to cure her. "If you would wish it so, Monsignor, she would tell him with an air that clearly showed she was still under the delirium's influence, if you wish it so, you could cure me." This good Father could help but laugh.

Every one so abhorred our house that we had trouble finding someone to come and wash the clothes of the sick; even our hired help abandoned us and, a poor young gentleman that we had taken in was the only person willing to nail the coffins of our Sisters. We had taken the care of filling the coffins with lime and, as soon as the body of a Sister had been removed, we would cleanse the apartment where she had died immediately.

On JULY FIFTEENTH (15), died the good M. Pierre Richards. P.S.S. whose conduct at the SHEDS seemed to us more angelic than human. The Lord only knows all the acts of charity that this saintly Priest did for the plague victims during his laborious ministry at the SHEDS.

He always seemed preoccupied with the elements of eternity, and on every occasion, his words would support this interest. One day, we pointed out to him that his cassock was filled with vermin, he gently replied: "that is nothing, leave them, soon they will be jewels."

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The last day we saw him at the sheds, we noticed he was more pensive and slightly more exhausted, the disease beginning to take a hold of him; one of our sisters came near the window where he standing, contemplating a heap of COFFINS which were piled up in the yard. She asked him if he was sick. After answering that he was not well, he said to her: "do you think our coffins are already made?" She answered him with an air of certainty: "They are yet to be made, but it is certain that their planks have already been sawed." She then told him that a great number of Sisters were victims of the contagion. "That is good, he continued, they will go to heaven, and I hope I will not delay in joining them..." A few days later, this dear Gentleman, along with Sister Ste Croix with whom he also spent time, were among the dead...

M. PIERRE RICHARD and SR STE CROIX, we recall, greeted each other with these words: "Is today the day where we'll meet the Eternal father?"

SISTER REID'S REFLEXIONS.- "Seeing the Sisters go by each morning on their way to the sheds, the people were enthusiastic. Miss E. KOLYMER, a young protestant, was determined to embrace Catholicism and to enter our noviciate. The Typhus era was the starting point of the development of our religious family and of our undertakings; in sacrifice as well as in fecundity..." The Sisterhood was composed of THIRTY-EIGHT (38) Sisters, when my Sister REID entered, on November 8th, 1845.

The next day, July 16th, our good sister JANE COLLINS, a novice for THREE months and EIGHTEEN (18) days, succumbed to the pestiferous disease following the cruelest of sufferance, accompanied

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by a near-continuous delirium. This dear Sister had laboured tremendously while caring for the sick. Her main task was to exhort them and prepare for their imminent deaths.



When she would see them with Protestant ministers that had entered our hospitals, she would not let them out of her sight even for an instant, for fear that they would attempt to pervert these poor unfortunate; and on more than one occasion, she had to fight off these ministers of error; but through the wisdom of her reasoning, would always manage to confound them. She was TWENTY (20) years, NINE (9) months and EIGHTEEN days old. She was buried the next day, at half past SEVEN (7) in the morning.

On the TWENTY-FIRST (21) our dear Sister MARIE-ROSALIE BARBEAU, known as SR MARIE, died at midnight and was buried the next day at FIVE (5) in the evening.

According to the doctor, to stop the disease's progress (contagion), it was decided that those in recovery needed fresh air and a change of locale. The idea was to find a house in a convenient location, after several days of fruitless search, our fathers at the Seminary offered their house at the GREGORY FARM, situated in a very beautiful location, and in proximity to the town, with all the desirable advantages: ISOLATION, FRESH AIR, EASY AND SPACIOUS LODGING; nothing was lacking of all that could make the stay suitable for the sick. Our good Sisters of the Congregation were thinking of offering us their house in Ile Saint-Paul. Their hired help, upon hearing

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that our sick would be transported to the island, all wanted to leave, fearing they would contract the sickness. Our good Sisters of the Congregation were disposed to lose the entire harvest for the year; they brought it up with Monsignor who refused to have them expose themselves to such a considerable loss.

After a few difficulties, Monsignor allowed the Sisterhood to transport our recovering SISTERS to the GREGORY farm (or ST GABRIEL). The sisters of the Congregation took upon themselves to clean the house and even the furniture. They set up EIGHTEEN or TWENTY good beds, and got the house ready to welcome our Sisters. Monsignor allowed us to have a chapel in the house and to hold the Holy Sacrament. These dear

Sisters, whose devotion we will never forget, paid for everything, and all was set up perfectly.

On the TWENTY-THIRD (23), at SIX IN THE EVENING, our good sister ALODIE BRUYIERE, a postulant for EIGHT months and EIGHT days, passed away at the age of TWENTY (20) years, ELEVEN months and FIVE days, after THREE weeks of sickness, Typhus contracted at the sheds, which presented all of the most serious symptoms. Before dying, her entire body was but a wound which produced an insufferable infection. She was a good person who would have made a saintly nun. She only appeared at the sheds, where she has been sent to care for the sick and subsequently contracted the disease.

The same day, a victim of his devotion for the sick, died the venerable M. Jean Richards (M. JACKSON-JOHN RICHARDS, P. S. S.).

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A few days before his death, TWO of our Sisters went to see him at the Hotel-Dieu where he was sick. This good father insistently recommends to them the care of poor little children, for which he had taken great pains... "Do not lose sight of them," he said to them, "for Protestants will seize them."

To properly praise this venerable priest is beyond all expression. The wisdom of his advice and the caution he exercised in his proceedings rendered him singularly respected by employees of the government who went to him with all their difficulties. So, the slightest of his desire was for them an order. As soon as the venerable Mr Richards had pronounced himself, regardless of any divergence of opinion, all yielded to his word. One day this good father sent to the Mayor a request to receive an order of hay for a shelter which lacked some. The Mayor responded to the request: "An order of hay for the reverend Father Richards. Ah! Had I an order of gold to send him." A few days later,

both had gone where gold and hay are of equal worth since the Mayor was struck by the contagious disease and soon followed Mr. Richards into the grave.

On July 26th, THIRTEEN (13) of our recovering Sisters were transported to the GREGORY house (ST GABRIEL FARM). My sister MALLETT, an assistant, accompanied them there.

On JULY 27, our Father LARRE went to hear their confessions and blessed the house. On the TWENTY-EIGHTH (28), M. CONNOLLY went to perform holy mass, and gave them communion. After mass, he blessed them with the HOLY ciborium and the holy sacrament remained in the tabernacle. Therefore, our sister has the joy of keeping the good Lord in the house the whole time they occupied it, which was until September ELEVEN (11).

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On the TWENTY-SIX (26) we began a novena to Saint Joseph. HIS statue had been exposed and was covered with flowers, and we kept THREE CANDLES burning continuously before it (exposed in the Church). During the novena, the priest, after holy mass would recite litanies of Saint JOSEPH; and after the rosary, we would recite the LITANIES OF SAINTE ANNE.

On July 31, DEATH of our dear Sister Sainte Croix.[25] AUGUSTS 4TH, death of our dear sister NOBLESS.

On August ninth (9), we began sending to Châteaugay the sisters that were strong enough to get there: SEVEN (7) left GREGORY house. With the authorisation of Mgr BOURGET, the priest of Châteaugay left the holy sacrament in our chapel, and was kind enough to perform holy mass there from time to time. The holy sacrament remained there as long as our recovering Sisters did.

On August TWELFTH (12), we began celebrating the services of the late sisters and they were successively sung by eulogists from the parish.

September 13.- Finally, on September 13, all of our Sisters having come back from the countryside, we began the service of the poor in the rooms once again, which had been suspended since the beginning of June.

On the eve of that day, a few of our Sisters went to our house in Pointe Saint-Charles, to help dressing an altar in the refectory, which was going to serve as a chapel for the employees at the sheds, who would come in to hear the holy mass.

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On September 14th, we celebrated the holiday of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross with much solemnity.

On September 16th, we began a novena to the Virgin Mary, so that the entire house could be under her protection. This novena took place in every room.

On September 19th, a Sunday, the entire Sisterhood being reunited after the MISERERE, our Mother began singing the TE DEUM, to thank the good Lord for the cessation of the disease.

During this time, though with much less intensity, the disease raged on at the SHEDS, and the good Sisters of PROVIDENCE also began to succumb from exhaustion. Consequently, when the Sisterhood has just started getting over the terrible crisis it had just faced, Mgr BOURGET came to ask us if we would return to the SHEDS. His request was met with eagerness, and on Sunday September 26th, FOUR of our dear Sisters went onto the battlefield once again; they are Sisters DESCHAMPS and BLONDIN; and Sisters DALPEE and MONTGOLFIER novices ...

## SECOND PERIOD AT THE SHEDS

This second period of our stay at the SHEDS offered us more difficulties than the previous one did, most likely because of the change that happened in most of our employees. Therefore, our Sisters, upon arriving there, were not greeted with the same enthusiasm as previously. The departure of the Sisters of Providence, whose good manners had gained the esteem of the people, was met with much regret, for a little while, our Sisters had to overcome several obstacles from the DOCTORS and the

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employees. Only EIGHT (8) days had passed when the one designated as FIRST (Mother Deschamps) caught the Typhus fever and became seriously ill; those that had been sent with her contracted it subsequently. One of them had barely recovered that she was sent to the SHEDS once again (Sister DALPEE), and fell victim to the contagion a second time, nearly succumbing from it. Typhus entered the house once again, but with a much less pestiferous character than the first time; since none of the afflicted Sisters died from it.

When our mother Superior saw that the Sisters were beginning to fall once again, they asked for the help of our good Sisters of BYTOWN, who sent Sister PHELAN to assist us with caring for the sick at the SHEDS. This dear Sister rendered us many services since she was designated as FIRST at the SHEDS, where she behaved with admirable caution and discretion.

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