

**MEMOIR OF THE REV. C. H. O.
COTE, M.D.: WITH A MEMOIR OF
MRS. M. Y. COTE, AND A
HISTORY OF THE GRANDE LINGE
MISSION, CANADA EAST**

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MEMOIR
OF THE
REV. C. H. O. COTE, M. D.

WITH

A Memoir of Mrs. M. P. Cote,

AND A HISTORY OF

THE GRANDE LIGNE MISSION,
CANADA EAST.

BY THE REV. N. CYR.



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THE Memoir of Dr. Cote, and the History of the Grande Ligne Mission, were both prepared by the Rev. N. Cyr of that Mission, at the request of the American Baptist Publication Society. Several additions have been made to both, by the Editorial Secretary, for which Mr. Cyr is not responsible. They will be found chiefly in the latter part of the two works, particularly in the concluding reflections of the Memoir, and the events of the last year in the History of the Mission, which the Society was anxious to have brought up to the present stage of its prosperous progress.

No Evangelical Mission of modern times, it appears to us has been from the beginning to the present moment, more distinctly marked by the blessing of God. It has indeed been emphatically a "work of faith and labor of love"—carried on with "the patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." The little grain of mustard seed, growing rapidly to a majestic tree, with hundreds gathered beneath its refreshing shade, and grateful melody on all its boughs, is truly its fitting emblem. When we see a feeble woman, and she a widow—self-exiled from her native land,—opening a school among an ignorant and bigoted population in a small garret—with but one friend and fellow-laborer near for counsel and support—and then behold the glorious results—we seem to hear a voice saying as of old, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." The whole history is full of instruction—especially to those who wish to do good to a Roman Catholic population.

For the Memoir of Mrs. Cote, the Editorial Secretary is alone responsible.

J. N. B.

MAR 20 1900

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Dr. Cote's ancestral family was one of those that had been obliged to leave Acadia (now Nova Scotia,) in 1755, after having been shamefully treated by the British rulers, and no doubt he often heard them relate their numerous trials and severe sufferings, and it is very likely that the narrative had some influence in leading him to the course he took in regard to the English government. The remembrance of the past, and the sight of present wrongs done to his fellow-countrymen, inspired him with dislike, not to say hatred, of the colonial government. He began to take an active part in politics, and was elected member of Parliament, in 1834, for the county of Lacadie. He was at that period only twenty-four years of age.

Seeing the conduct of the Romish clergy, and the support they gave to the government, he placed it on the same footing with the latter, and resolved in his heart to do his utmost to rescue his fellow countrymen from their ecclesiastical as well as political oppressors. He joined the *patriot* party, at the head of which was the well-known Papineau, at the time, the Speaker of the House.

In 1837 the political agitation became more and more general. Numerous public meetings were held during the summer, in which the Doctor took a very active part. He became exceedingly popular, and was considered by the French Canadians as one

of the future liberators of his country. Serious troubles were brought about in the autumn by this agitation, but the field of the principal battles was at a considerable distance from Dr. Cote's residence, and he was not immediately concerned in them. However, such was his ardor in the cause, that he by his conduct and the bold expression of his sentiments, had very decidedly assumed, in common with other leaders, the responsibility of these disturbances, and he was consequently obliged to flee for his life into the United States. A price had been set on his head by the Governor, and no doubt he would have been severely punished had he been arrested.

He settled at Plattsburgh, N. Y., where a great many of the Canadian refugees had repaired. There, still possessed of the same great principles, feelings, and resolutions, he interested the Americans in favor of his fellow countrymen, and devised plans for their political emancipation.

In the beginning of 1838, an attempt was made by the Canadians residing in the States to enter Canada disciplined and equipped as an army; but it was opposed by the United States government, and failed. Dr. Cote was the principal leader of this expedition.

In November of the same year, the insurrection broke out about Napierville. The village, and an

extensive region in the vicinity, was in the power of the "patriots" for a time. Dr. Cote was one of the commanders, and decidedly the most active. After two battles, in which he showed himself a brave and able general officer, the revolutionists were defeated, but there were sad losses of life on both sides. Those who happened to be near the frontier were able to flee and find refuge in the United States. Dr. Cote was one of the number.