

My primary document is a letter written by Marie de L'Incarnation in 1640 in New France. What really fascinated me about the Jesuits and their ways of educating people in New France was their profound belief in religion. Marie's religious beliefs influenced her perspective. The era also had an impact on Marie's perspective, because religion was heavily influencing societies way of life in this period. Marie wrote letters to relay the progress of New France. This document shows how her belief in faith was starting to change the lives of the first nations people in New France. Marie's main priority always relates back to religion.

Marie writes about how the Jesuit priests and nuns are saving the "savages" by educating them about god. "We have every reason then, Madame, to praise the father of mercies for those he has so abundantly poured upon our savages since, not content with having establish themselves" (L'Incarnation, Marie. Word From New France: The Selected Letters of Marie De L'Incarnation. Oxford University Press, 1967). This document argues and stresses over how well the church is helping to establish New France, and restructuring the First Nations lives.

Marie de L'Incarnation was an Ursuline nun from France. Her perspective definitely influenced her take in this primary document. Marie was pro religion and pro positive. She came to the New world and wanted to portray it positively in her letters, to attract more people to come inhabit New France. "What we saw when we arrived in this new world has made us forget all our travails, for to hear divine Majesty praised in four different tongues, to see a great many savages baptized, to hear the savages themselves preaching the law of Jesus Christ to their compatriots and teaching them to praise and love our God to see them give thanks to heaven for sending us to their barbarous country to all this I say, enough to make us forget our crosses and our weariness, had they been a thousand times greater than they were?" (L'Incarnation, Marie. Word From New France: The Selected Letters of Marie De L'Incarnation. Oxford University Press, 1967). From Marie's perspective the Europeans were above the First nations. The first nations were seen as savages, and uncivilized. Marie saw her work as a nun to be successful by converting and changing the first nation people. Her perspective sheds a light on the one sided

Canadian history through a heavily religious angle.

This Letter was written in 1640. Back in 1640 majority of recorded history of pre confederation Canada was written by European men. The fact that Marie was a nun gave her more flexibility to write her letters. Due to her devotion to religion she had more education than most women. Religion played a major role in European lives. The influence from the religion is shown in the letter. "We were within a hair's breadth of shipwreck, but the One that commands the winds and the seas preserved us with his all-powerful finger" (L'Incarnation, Marie. Word From New France: The Selected Letters of Marie De L'Carnation. Oxford University Press, 1967).

The purpose of this letter was to send information back to France of the status and life in New France. I believe that Marie accomplished her purpose. From what I depicted from her letter was a response. She was informing the lady of rank (whom this letter was addressed to) what had been accomplished in New France, what life was like there, and a bit about the journey to get there. Marie wrote in a very persuasive manner relaying only the best parts of her journey. The letter does not tell us information that would detail any difficulties, or hardship. She makes life in New France seem as desirable as possible by describing New France as a glorious new society. Her goal was to attract more people, and to live up to the expectation that she could help educate people of god. "Your letter has brought me a consolation I cannot express or sufficiently acknowledge" (L'Incarnation, Marie. Word From New France: The Selected Letters of Marie De L'Carnation. Oxford University Press, 1967). Marie made a point of responding to send back more information to France about the state of the new settlement.

I wanted to get to the roots of Jesuit and Ursuline nuns and education. The Jesuits started education in pre confederation Canada in new France. Marie was a big part of helping to establish an educational system in New France. She was dedicated to her god, she was so dedicated that the majority of her letters were about either her educating others, or her helping other religious people teach the first nations the way of their God. Marie felt very strongly about religion which is displayed in her letters. I can see through her lense into the world she was living in. Her perspective although different, was very interesting. "We have come with workers for the Gospel, who will try to win them to the knowledge of his name and holy law. In short, we are all here for the

same design. May it please God to fill us with his spirit, so that we may obtain success for the greatest glory of the Master of the vine, Jesus in whom I shall be for all my life” (L'Incarnation, Marie. *Word From New France: The Selected Letters of Marie De L'Incarnation*. Oxford University Press, 1967).

My conjecture from this letter is that the only thing that Marie wanted to educate was religion. I am still appalled by the fact that Marie believed so strongly in a faith that she let it lead her life. “More than five hundred, including both Hurons and Montagnais, have been baptized this year. I beseech you to pray for the conversion of the others, who are in very great numbers, since there are almost infinite nations that do not know Jesus Christ” (L'Incarnation, Marie. *Word From New France: The Selected Letters of Marie De L'Incarnation*. Oxford University Press, 1967). Over everything Marie wanted religion to be number one.

This letter reflects a big part of history. These types of ordeals and beliefs trigger a lot of significant events in pre confederation Canada. These events are so big that they still have impacts on today's world. Marie's main consistent point throughout her article has her dedication to her faith.

Bibliography :

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