

FIRST LECTURE  
DELIVERED  
IN ST. ANN'S CHURCH

BY

REV. J. A. McCALLEN, S.S.,

On the occasion of the Celebration of Father Mathew's  
Centenary by the Irish Catholic Temperance Convention  
of Montreal.

October 12, 1890.

*"This day shall be for a memorial to you, and you shall keep it a feast to the Lord in your generations with an everlasting observance."*—(Exodus, ch. xii. 14.)

Very Rev. Administrator, My Lord, Rev. Fathers, Beloved Brethren: We are gathered here to-day to celebrate the centenary of Father Mathew's birth—a man raised up by God to deliver our people from the modern Pharaoh of Intemperance, just as Moses was selected for the deliverance of the Israelites from the tyrant Pharaoh of Egypt. It is consoling to reflect that God approves of such celebrations, for they serve to make us remember the blessings which in all times He has deigned to confer by the ministry of His chosen servants upon the human race. The world itself, though generally so cold and heartless and ungrateful, is not unmindful of the birthday of its heroes, of the men who, in the dark hours of the nation's trials, have nobly sacrificed time and health and talents, even life itself, for the nation's welfare.