

The Late Hon. James O'Brien.

Within the past two or three years it has been repeatedly our painful duty to record the deaths of good and tried friends of the Irish Catholic cause, and now we are in presence of another loss, and one that will be long felt in our community. It would be a difficult task for any one to write a fully appreciative account of the successful, exemplary and honorably Catholic career of the late Senator Hon. James O'Brien. If the severe and fatal illness that came to him in such an unmistakable manner a few months ago, had not given every indication that the end was certainly death, the shock would have been much greater; but even as it is, and prepared as so many were for the sad news, the void caused by the painful event is nonetheless felt in all ranks of the community.

A contemporary speaking of him, the day after his death, styled him, one of the merchant princes of Montreal. Such he was, in the true acceptance of the term; but, as we will attempt to show, gleaned our information from experience of the man and knowledge of his great and fine qualities, there are other claims far beyond those of wealth, station, influence, and commercial as well as political success, which entitle the deceased Senator to rank amongst the princes of merit—far more important than the princes by birth—among his fellowmen.

The late Senator was only in his sixty-seventh year when death put an end to his active and useful career. A native of County Tyrone, Ireland, he came to Canada a youth, and began his career. Having passed through every grade of probation and experience, he was enabled a few years ago to withdraw from active business and to command a princely income. On the death of the late Senator, Hon. Edward Murphy, there was no hesitation as to whom should fall the mantle of his succession. Hon. James O'Brien was selected for the vacant seat in the Upper House. That was in 1895. During the past two sessions he was unable, owing to failing health, to attend to his legislative duties. Last year, at the advice of his medical attendant, he took an extensive trip around the world, and had the honor and hap-

piness of a personal audience with the Holy Father, when in Rome.

We have a vivid recollection of having published at the time an extensive account of Senator O'Brien's most interesting voyage, as we had taken it from his own lips. However, the trip did not seem to have all the beneficial effects that had been anticipated, for, no sooner had he returned home, and again settled down to the extensive interests which he still held in various institutions, financial and otherwise, than a return of the fatal and dreaded malady sent him to a bed of sickness from which he was destined never to rise. It would be a long list were we to tell of all the establishments, associations, works of charity, and societies, national, religious, benevolent, athletic, educational, and financial with which he was intimately and actively connected. We might, however, mention a few:

He was a director in the Royal Victoria Life Insurance Company, and the Montreal City and District Savings Bank, and was the sixth largest individual shareholder in the Bank of Montreal. He was a life governor of the Montreal General Hospital, the Western, as well as the Notre Dame Hospital. He was vice-president of the Board of Governors of Laval University, trustee of St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum, a member of the Montreal Board of Trade, and a vice-president of the Bel-Air Jockey Club.

So far we have dealt briefly with the rank that the late Senator won for himself in the eyes of the community in general, but we have yet to tell of other qualities and other characteristics that go largely to make up the souvenir of respect and regret in which he will long be held, that contribute to the consolations that a memory of him shall bring to those near and dear to him, and that help in the assurance that we all feel of the fulfillment to him of the promise made to the "good and faithful servant." To mourn his loss he leaves three sons, Messrs. James, Edward and Henry O'Brien, and three daughters, Mrs. Amos, Mrs. Whitney and Miss O'Brien. To these we extend the sincere expression of our heartfelt condolence.

Senator O'Brien's great success in business, to which we have referred above, was due to a perseverance in the path of duty and rectitude that was proverbial amongst all who knew him, or had dealings with him.

equally important character. We are not speaking of those domestic obligations, those duties of husband, of parent, of head of a household that he fulfilled with such care and Christian fortitude, as well as unbounded

they are sacred to the home, and there alone are they to be cherished as they should be.

But outside his immediate family, and beyond the extensive range of his business affairs, Senator O'Brien found time and opportunity to do good to the community, to his Church, to her institutions, to his co-religionists, to his fellow-countrymen and fellow-countrywomen.

During the greater part of his life he was associated with St. Patrick's parish and successive pastors have borne kindly and grateful testimony to all he had done for the advance-ment of its interests. It would be difficult to tell of his private charities. They were not recorded in the press of the day, they were written in the hearts of those who were the objects of them, and a faithful copy of each act was kept to his credit by the Recording Angel above. What a host of those even living to-day could step forth and tell each a chapter in that unedited story.

The young men whom he aided silently in their efforts to reach the priesthood; those that he helped into the professions; the hundreds less fortunate than he who knew by experience the seriousness of his desire to have them succeed; the educational institutions that he aided, in order to give to others that complete instruction which circumstances prevented him from receiving when a boy; the parish works which he helped along; all these, and a hundred more evidences of his silent, unostentatious benefactions, can arise to-day and tell to the world what sort of man he was.

Then personally he was a practical Catholic. The light of faith which he received in the land of his fathers and which he preserved unshaken through all the distractions of a business career, illumined his pathway and shed a radiance of hope around his life. Attentive to every duty prescribed by the Church, exemplary in attendance at all her services and in the participation of her sacraments, his entire social life was swayed by those same religious principles. Unlike many who drift away from the Church according as the world smiles success upon them, he only clung the closer to the bark of

Peter and drew nearer to the altar of God. The unsullied name that he had established in the commercial world, and that was known from Atlantic to Pacific, as well as over large sections of the American Republic, was the outcome of the steady practice of those same Catholic principles which he carried into the practice of daily affairs.

Gifted with great judgment, keen insight into men and things, he had the splendid gift of stability—in all matters, social, commercial, political, and finally religious. His word was his bond, and he could say "no" with a kindness that took away any feeling of resentment, even when an answer of another kind were anticipated.

The funeral, which was held on Monday morning last, from his late residence, Sherbrooke street, to St. Patrick's Church and to Cote des Neiges Cemetery, was attended by all classes of the community. The chief mourners were: Messrs. Jas. O'Brien, Edward M. O'Brien, Wm. C. O'Brien, Thos. Guerin, Jas. O'Brien, Jr.; Ed. Amos, Jr.; Hon. Dr. Guerin, E. C. Amos, Dr. C. S. Murray, of Toronto; Wm. McKenna, Jas. Quinn, and Ed. Quinn.

At the Church door, which was surrounded by hundreds of the late Senator's fellow-citizens, in all walks of life, the levee du corps was performed by Mgr. Archambault, of the Archbishop's Palace, and rector of Laval University. The celebrant was Rev. Father Turgeon, rector of St. Mary's College, assisted by Rev. Dr. Luke Callaghan, and Rev. M. J. McKenna, as deacon and sub-deacon respectively.

Rev. Dr. Gerald McShane acted as master of ceremonies, while Rev. Martin Callaghan, parish priest of St. Patrick's, Fathers Ouellette, McGrath, and other members of the clergy were also present.

The sacred edifice was heavily draped in mourning. A large choir, under the direction of Prof. J. A. Fowler, rendered the musical portion of the services in a most impressive manner.

After Mass the remains were transferred to the cemetery where they were interred in the family plot. May his soul rest in peace.



LATE HON. JAMES O'BRIEN.

Yet all that absorbing labor, that close attention, that unceasing, untiring energy, did not exhaust his resources of mind nor time, nor did it usurp his life to such an extent as to exclude other interests of an

love for those dependant on him. Those are matters that are more easily understood than described, and that lie naturally beyond the sphere of the journalist, outside the reach of even the most friendly pen — for

Damages by Fire and Water

It is many years since this continent has been the object of such a variety of visitations as those which seem of late to have come upon the United States and Canada. Some of them amount to actual catastrophes. While one section of the country is positively suffering from lack of rain, other sections are flooded out of existence. High winds, cyclones, tornadoes, fires and other afflictions have multiplied to an extent that has become alarming. Elsewhere we refer to the prayers that are being offered up for rain, on behalf of the farmers whose crops are suffering to a menacing degree; but we must also remember that for lack of rain we are threatened with a still more dangerous visitation. Already whole sections of the country have been burned; property to an immense extent has been destroyed; forest fires not only lay low the woods, but carry away and scatter in ashes entire settlements. Villages, towns and cities are not exempt. Ottawa, Hull, St. Hyacinthe and other centres have heart-touching stories to tell. Along the tributary rivers of the Ottawa entire settlements have been wiped out; and still the danger, like the sword of Damocles, hangs by a thread over the head of the country. And while we are thus suffering for need of rain, elsewhere the rivers overflow their banks, entire sections of country are deluged, human lives are lost, and ruin is in the track of

the waters that sweep on, even as it is in the track of the fires that leap in other parts. The records of all the damages caused and all the sufferings endured are too extensive to admit of reproduction; but we cannot refrain from indicating some of the most extensive of those visitations.

From Gainesville, Georgia, on the first of June, comes an account that we may thus summarize:—

A cyclone of terrific force struck this city recently, causing fearful loss of life in this city and New Holland and White Sulphur. As near as can be calculated the results are eighty-five men, women and children dead, and perhaps forty more fatally injured, with a property loss of something like \$300,000. The death list is yet imperfect not all the bodies having been recovered, and identified. Many of them were mangled beyond recognition. The storm appeared little before 1 o'clock, and within two minutes it had killed nearly 50 persons, torn two storeys from the five-floor brick factory of the Gainesville Cotton Mills, demolished almost two hundred cottages, razed two brick stores to the ground, and blown down innumerable outbuildings. By what resembles a miracle the cyclone's fury was confined to the outskirts of the city, the main business and residence portion not being touched. Torrents of rain accompanied the wind, but within five minutes after its first onslaught the sun was shining upon a scene of fearful desolation.

On the same day comes another and more astounding account of the fight for life, against rising waters, that marked the last days of May and first of June, in Kansas City, Mo. In this case we feel that we

should give some more extended details, owing to the awful losses sustained, and the dangers that still menace. The account says:—

With gas and electric lights extinguished, the water works shut down, and the city practically at the mercy of the first fire that shall break out; with railroad transportation feeble, and uncertain, Kansas City may, if the waters do not recede within the next two or three days, be compelled to fight for her life, and to-night the skies are dark, and threatening, the rain is falling heavily, more stormy weather is sweeping up from the west and the insatiable river is holding its own. It is practically stationary to-night, but what the flood has it keeps, and there is no certain promise of when it will recede.

The first authentic information from Kansas City, Kansas, was received. In that district, 20,000 people are homeless, many have been drowned, and the number cannot be really estimated. The property loss has been heavy. The situation here is a parallel to the situation here—apparently no better and no worse.

It is utterly impossible to form any estimate of the number of dead in Kansas City. There have been manifold stories of how boats laden with people have been seen to sink—there have been reports without end of bodies seen floating by on wreckage, of men who have tried to drive waggons laden with their household effects against certain death in the swift current, and gone down in the field.

Topeka, Kas., has suffered equally, yet there are hopes for it, as the latest reports say:—

To-night at 8 o'clock the water in the Kansas river had gone down

fourteen inches, and is falling at the rate of half an inch an hour. From Manhattan, up the river, comes the report that the water there is falling. At Wamego the same condition prevails, and it is now reasonably certain that the waters here will steadily recede.

It is estimated that the property loss in the residential portion of North Topeka will reach \$500,000, in addition to the loss to the Santa-Fé, Rock Island, and Union Pacific rail-ways, which will aggregate \$200,000.

There are about 2,000 homeless people who are without money or helpful friends.

Thus it is with the waters, the rain and the wind on the Missouri. While such havoc is taking place from Tilsonburg, Ont., comes this story:—

The worst conflagration in the history of Tilsonburg occurred recently, when eleven business places and twelve residences were razed to the ground and as many more considerably damaged. The fire started about noon at the rear of Buckborough's blacksmith shop, being caused, it is supposed, by children playing with matches.

Glinders were carried for miles into the country, and caused great havoc on the farms of Mr. F. Sanders, at least two miles away. His barns and sheds were destroyed and his house was only saved by hard work. The wide street, Broadway, saved the west side of the town from being wiped out also. Several places were on fire at different times.

Many pitiful scenes were witnessed as the fire leaped from building to building. Women and children were crying at the thought of losing their

homes. Hundreds of willing hands were carrying out furniture, and many thoughtless ones dumped precious articles on the streets and boulevards which were smashed into atoms. The goods were carried hither and thither and as the flames followed them they had to be removed to new quarters. In this way many articles were lost. The homeless ones are searching in vain for their goods and some are still hunting for places to store what is not lost or burned.

Comments seems superfluous in presence of so many calamities, and yet we cannot but be grateful to God that they are not worse, and more numerous. It is decidedly a season when the feebleness of man to struggle unaided with the elements is made manifest. It is a time when all thinking and serious people may well address the incredulous in the language of Holy Writ, and ask if they will always have eyes and be unable to see. Men do not care to give up their narrow conceptions and to admit of a Power that is beyond their comprehension, but nevertheless visible; yet such overwhelming catastrophes should serve as so many lessons to bring them to an acknowledgment of their impotence and of God's Omnipotence.

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COMING EVENTS.

MOUNT ST. LOUIS.—The oral examination of the graduating class of this Institute will take place on June 4th, at 7 o'clock, p.m. Very Rev. Canon Dauth, of the Archbishop's Palace, will preside.

DRAMA.—The dramatic performance by the dramatic section of the Young Irishmen's L. and B. A., in the Monument National, on Tuesday next, in aid of St. Michael's parish, to which reference is made elsewhere in this issue should be well attended.

AN ENTERTAINMENT.—On Monday next the Reading Circle of St. Patrick's Academy, Alexander street, will give their annual literary evening. The subject will be "An Hour With Nature, Through Nature's Poet, William Cullen Bryant."

FETE DIEU.—The parishes of Notre Dame, St. James, and St. Patrick's will unite in the celebration of the Fete Dieu procession on Sunday, the 13th of June.

The procession will leave Notre Dame Church at 9 a.m., and proceed by Place d'Armes, St. James, St. Lambert Hill, St. Lawrence, St. Catherine, St. Denis, Champ de Mars, Gosford, and Notre Dame.

A PILGRIMAGE.—Arrangements have been made by Rev. Martin Callaghan, P.P., St. Patrick's for a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre. Special train will leave by the C. P. R. from Windsor Station on Saturday, July 18th at 9 p.m., returning to Montreal on Sunday evening at 8.30 p.m. The tickets are now on sale at the presbytery.

Movemen Of Our Clergy

Rev. Dr. Gerald McShane according to the daily press his last sermon at St. Patrick's Church, on Sunday last. Father McShane has been with St. Patrick's since he came from Rome, some time ago, and during that period he has discharged his duties, amongst which of director of the sanctuary that office he has introduced notable and practical changes, added much to the devotion of the services, and advanced in the ranks of the clergy which is calculated to exert a beneficial influence during the important stage of their transition from boyhood to manhood's estate.



REV. GERALD MCSHANE

Of course, it was quite a kindly young Sulpician, for to the tender memories which had taken root in his connection with the parish. His remarks in were brief, yet touching, in the minds of his auditors, and of regret that will be forgotten.

Father McShane in St. Patrick's will carry with him sincere wishes of all the for his future success in the field of labor he may be exercising his holy calling, during his connection with St. Patrick's for many years, and heart which lead us to the earnest hope that he will be a worthy follower in the footsteps of those saintly and cultured men whose memory we cherish and whose homes of our nationality real.

Father Ouellette, another is also on the eve of bidding adieu to his parish, and is going up his residence in this Order. He has been with St. Patrick's for many years, and like his predecessors, race, Fathers Toupin and



REV. J. B. OUELLETTE

has won a lasting place in the hearts of the parishioners with health and youth period of his office as Vicar of St. Patrick's, Father Ouellette, a tireless worker, performed which included, besides his regular work in the Church, at educational and charitable institutions under the supervision of the parish. Of an amiable and with a fervor and ear-