

ADRESSE DES IRLANDAIS

Présentée par M. Guérin, M. D.

To His Grace, Paul Bruchesi,

Archbishop of Montreal.

May it please Your Grace :



WHEN, from the lips of Leo XIII, there came to us, flashing over wires, the great decree—there was rejoicing in the Flock that a Shepherd had been chosen, there was joy among the people that the choice had rested on one so worthy, that you had been named by the Sovereign Pontiff to wear the Mitre and bear the Crozier of the Archdiocese of Montreal.

To-day, when the faithful gather around you to behold your second Consecration to the Eternal One, among the thousands of voices that arise in chorus to proclaim their allegiance to the Holy See and to Your Grace,—one note rings out as clear, as true, as reverential as ever it has resounded through Ages in Christ's Church, and it comes from Irish hearts.

When thousands of knees bend in unison to receive your first Episcopal benediction, Irish heads will bow with loving loyalty beneath your uplifted hand, proud indeed to proclaim themselves your children.

A dauntless devotion to our Priests and Prelates is an honoured tradition of the Irish race ; but we of Montreal are bound by more than ordinary ties of gratitude. We have known your Sainted Predecessors, we have felt from our childhood the fatherly care, the tender friendship, the gentle authority of our late beloved and lamented Archbishop Fabre.

His was the same spirit which greeted our fathers when first they came to this, their chosen home.

And we have heard at our Mother's knee, tales of heroic devotion as when the Venerated Bishop Bourget risked life itself to help fever and famine-stricken Irish exiles when they were cast, dying, upon these hospitable shores.