

OBITUARY.

"*Consummatus in brevi, explevit tempora multa.*"
—*Sup.*

THESE words of Holy Scripture may well be applied to the young priest, who, after only fifteen years of missionary life, and at the age of thirty-eight, was called to his reward on the 22nd of last month. We refer to the Rev. Father McBride, who died in St. Michael's hospital, Toronto. This devoted priest was born of Irish parents in Scotland, and was brought to this side of the Atlantic while an infant in arms. His mother experiencing a call to the religious life, left the child to the care of her sister, who faithfully carried out the wishes of the pious mother in his regard. She gave him the benefit of a thorough religious training and formed his bright young mind to pious habits, before committing him to the school room. At an age when many a child is fit only for the nursery Joseph McBride was far advanced in scholarship, and at the Streetsville Grammar School he easily led the oldest boys in the school, rapidly developing a special taste for the higher mathematics. At sixteen he began to read rhetoric and philosophy, proceeding for that purpose to Quebec and later to Montreal. He was ordained a priest at St. Paul's old church, Toronto, by Archbishop Lynch in 1878, when he was twenty three years old. He was immediately appointed assistant to Bishop O'Mahony, and with all the work that large parish entailed he found time to devote to the choir. Music was indeed a passion, not a pastime with this young and brilliant priest. His talents in this line were well known in Toronto, particularly in St. John's choir, which he organized fully. From St. Paul's he was transferred to St. Michael's Cathedral, thence to Adjala for a few months, to Penetanguishene as Chaplain to the reformatory, and after three years to St. John's church, Toronto, where he was rector, and secretary to Archbishop

Lynch. He introduced into the secretary work a degree of order that was characteristically charming, thus facilitating the transaction of business between the Ordinary and his priests. When the present Archbishop took up his residence at St. John's Grove Father McBride was given the choice of two country parishes. He accepted the one that offered most work, Dixie, but was obliged to resign in less than a year, duties for which his highly sensitive organism never fitted him. He then accepted the position of assistant rector with Dean Cassidy at Brockton, but even here the obligation of driving seven miles over a bad road to say mass every other Sunday, (as might have been foreseen) overtaxed his powers. But while his friends saw him failing, his active mind would give no rest to the overfreighted body. For two years he edited *The Review*, '91 and '92, and during twelve years he compiled the "Ordo" or guide to the Divine office of the Church for the whole ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. He also corresponded with the *Liturgical Review*, and was a member of the Toronto Astronomical Society. Many a time I have known him to take up a problem in Algebra as an after dinner recreation, and while at Penetang, secluded from the world and associating for the most part with convicts and their wardens—a not too inviting position for a man of genius—he would go out into the woods and survey the country, proving or adjusting the old landmarks set up by government engineers half a century ago.

His private life? Vivacious, witty, subtle, surface readers might pronounce him frivolous. The contrary was the fact. Never idle, he read everything in reach, and the comments he would make, on atheistical literature particularly, showed how deep was the habit of faith which entered into and informed his every act and word. He was ever ready to help on a good work by suggestion