

THE LÆTARE MEDAL

CONFERRED ON MRS. MARY A
SADLIER, OF MONTREAL.

CEREMONY OF PRESENTATION—HIS GRACE
ARCHBISHOP FABRE PRESIDES—AD-
DRESSES DELIVERED—HISTORY OF THE
LIFE AND WORKS OF THE RECIPIENT—
CANADA HONORED THROUGH THE DIS-
TINGUISHED LADY.

The parlors of the Archbishop's palace, on Monday last, witnessed a distinguished assembly of Montreal's leading citizens, on the occasion of the presentation of the "Lætare Medal," given by the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, to the gentle and noble Irish-Canadian lady, Mrs. Mary A. Sadlier. His Grace Archbishop Fabre presided, accompanied by the Vicar General, and Canons Martin and Leblanc. Amongst some of those invited were:

Rev. Dr. McGarry, C. S. C., Superior of St. Laurent College; Rev. V. Geoffrion, C. S. C., Superior of Cote des Neiges College; Rev. Father Carrier, C. S. C.; Rev. Father P. F. O'Donnell, parish priest of St. Mary's; Rev. Father Donnelly, parish priest of St. Anthony's; Rev. Father Quinlivan, S. S., P. P., St. Patrick's; Rev. Father Doherty, S. J.; Rev. Father O'Brien, S. J.; Rev. J. Conden, Rev. Father Lefebvre, O. M. I., Provincial of the Oblats; Hon. J. J. Curran and Mrs. Curran, Hon. Senator Murphy, Dr. W. H. Hingston and Mrs. Hingston, A. Kavanagh, Q.C., and Miss Kavanagh, Dr. Foran, Editor of the TRUE WITNESS, and Mrs. Foran, Deputy Sheriff Leblanc, Mrs. Leblanc, the Misses Leblanc, Dr. Leprohon, Mrs. Smythe, Gustave Lamothe, Q. C., Wm. Kearney, Miss Anna T. Sadlier, Mr. Jos. Sadlier, Mrs. R. Masson, Mrs. Thibaudeau, Mrs. Crathie, Mrs. Bacon, Mrs. (Dr.) Pelletier, Miss Drummond, Mrs. de Bellefeuille Macdonald, the Misses de Bellefeuille Macdonald, Dr. Guerin, Miss Guerin, Mr. M. Guerin, Mr. McCabe, manager of D. and J. Sadlier and Co., Mr. and Mrs. Burnstall, and several others.

The medal is a handsome specimen of the jeweller's skill. It is a heavy gold piece, pendant from a bar and appropriately inscribed. On the obverse side it bears the legend, "Magna est veritas et praevaleret," together with "Lætare Medal." The reverse side is inscribed, "Presented by the University of Notre Dame to Mrs. Mary A. Sadlier in recognition of distinguished services rendered to the American Catholic public." Accompanying the medal was the poem, printed on the rarest water silk, and ornamented with an appropriate design in painting from the brush of Signor Luigi, a celebrated Roman artist, who spent many years renovating the paintings at the Vatican.

When the honored lady of the occasion had taken her seat beside His Grace, the Rev. Father McGarry, Superior of St. Laurent, and representative of Notre Dame University, spoke as follows: "Most Rev. Archbishop; Rev. Brethren of the Clergy; respected Ladies and Gentlemen.—The University of Notre Dame confers every year, upon some person distinguished in Literature, Arts and Science, or by the benefits they have conferred on our common humanity, the highest honor in its gift, the "Lætare Medal." This year it has been awarded to the gentle, venerable Christian lady, the gifted writer, the benefactress of her race, Mrs. Mary A. Sadlier of Montreal. The presentation would have taken place on Lætare Sunday, when the Church calls on her children to rejoice, were it not that His Grace, the Archbishop, was absent at St. Boniface. It will now be presented on a Monday, that is, for us, a Lætare Monday, it being the twenty-second anniversary of the election of His Grace to the sacred office of the episcopacy. The Most Rev. Archbishop will present

the "Lætare Medal" after I, in the name of the President of Notre Dame University, shall have read the address that accompanies the medal."

Rev. Father McGarry then read the following, addressed to Mrs. Sadlier:

Friend of the friendless, lady, peace to you.
You that in past days fought our fight alone.
Benignant and firm-hearted, while the moan
Of your poor race in exile upward flew.

And found its answer,—fresh as morning dew
After parched days, as scent of lilacs blown
When snows are gone,—that answer, all your
OWN.

Gave sad hearts joy, and kept the tempest true.

Doubt feared the nimbus lucent of your pen,
You showed the exiled race their golden past,
In dreams you raised them from the sordid
Dross.

Of daily toil; you made them live again
In splendor—o'er their lot you cast
The light of Hope, and kept them near the
Cross!

Dr. Hingston, on behalf of Mrs. Sadlier, said:

Your Grace; Ladies and Gentlemen,—The advanced age and the enfeebled health of the lady who is the recipient to-day of the Lætare Medal are the reasons why she does not acknowledge, in person, this signal mark of appreciation. Mrs. Sadlier bids me thank Your Grace for presiding—you, Rev. Father McGarry, for the presentation of the address—and you, ladies and gentlemen, her personal friends, for having assisted at the ceremony. She is grateful to the Rev. Director of Notre Dame for seeking her out in her retirement in her Northern home. Mrs. Sadlier also wishes me to say how unequal she is to the merit implied in this presentation. Here my mission ends. And let me say for you, ladies and gentlemen, that Mrs. Sadlier's appreciation of her own shortcomings is not yours—it is certainly not mine. In your name I congratulate the University of Notre Dame on the wisdom and discrimination of its choice. For nearly sixty years Mrs. Sadlier's works are to be found in many homes. She began to wield the pen at the age of eighteen, and she has continued for almost sixty years, to furnish to the reading public works of fiction or of history at the rate, on an average, of a volume a year. And if the writings of an author are to be measured by their influence upon the public—or a section of the public mind, then the works of Mrs. Sadlier have been of incalculable advantage in making virtue more attractive and vice more hideous and loathsome.

I wish I could add that Mrs. Sadlier had received, in a tangible form, the reward of her labors, but as it too often happens, the brain worker here is the worst requited, save in the gratitude of her readers, while publishers have profited largely by her labors. The presentation of to-day, which no money could secure, is, to some extent, compensatory.

FORMER RECIPIENTS.

The first recipient of the honor was John Gilmory Shea, the distinguished historian and scholar. It was then successively conferred on the architect, Patrick Keeley; on Elisa Allen Starr, the well-known art-critic, and on Gen. John Newton, the engineer of the Hell Gate explosions. Other recipients were Commandatore P. V. Hickey, Anna Hanson Dorsey, W. J. Onahan, Daniel Dougherty, Henry F. Brownson, Patrick Donahue, and, last year, Augustin Daly.

MRS. SADLIER'S LIFE AND WORKS.

The following sketch of the useful and Christian life of the honored lady is adapted from the Ave Maria:

Mrs. Sadlier, whose maiden name was Mary Ann Madden, is a native of Cootshill, in the County Cavan, Ireland, and was born on the closing day of the year 1820. Her father was Francis Madden, a man of refinement and literary tastes, and a highly respected merchant. Her mother, who died when her talented daughter was still a child, shared her husband's love for poetry and the legendary lore of their native land. Business embarrassments and financial troubles hastened Mr. Madden's death; and in 1844 his bereaved daughter came to this country, bringing with her, among other treasures and relics, a goodly number of old and valuable books, including some rare editions of the English poets which had formerly belonged to her father. In November, 1846, Miss Madden became the wife of Mr. James Sadlier, one of the original partners of the well-known publishing house of D. & J. Sadlier & Company, and went to Montreal to reside, her husband being then the representative of

his firm in that city. For the ensuing fourteen years Mr. and Mrs. Sadlier remained in Canada, and it was during that period that several of her most successful stories were written; while, in addition to her literary work, she contributed copiously to the columns of the New York Tablet and other publications. In 1860 his business interests compelled Mr. Sadlier to return to New York, to which city he accordingly removed his family; and he continued to reside there until the date of his untimely death, nine years subsequently.

In return for all the aid which Mr. Sadlier rendered his devoted wife in her literary labor, he received much useful assistance from her ever ready pen and versatile talents. Not alone did she gladly help him to keep the Tablet true to the lines on which he thought a Catholic journal should be conducted, but she furnished its columns with much of the original matter they weekly offered their readers; was now its editor, then its sub editor; and securing for it contributions from many of the prominent Catholic writers of the day, won it the distinction of being one of the leading and most intelligent exponents of Catholic thought and sentiment. It may be mentioned here that among the highly distinguished men who edited the Tablet, while that publication remained the property of the Sadliers, were Dr. Brownson, Dr. Ives, Dr. Anderson and the lamented John McCarthy. It would be no easy task, even now, to select four more illustrious names from the whole catalogue of American Catholic journalists.

Mrs. Sadlier's first literary ventures were sent, while she was still in her teens and a girl at Cootshill, to La Belle Assemblee, a London magazine of that time, of which Mrs. Cornwall Baron Wilson was the editor, and Mrs. Norton, the poetess, one of the chief contributors. After her marriage, and during the period of her residence in Montreal, Mrs. Sadlier wrote for many Canadian and American publications; frequent articles from her pen appearing in the Literary Garland and the TRUE WITNESS, both Montreal papers; and in the Boston Pilot, the New York Freeman's Journal, then controlled by James A. McMaster, whose death is still deeply deplored; and the American Celt, the editor of which was the brilliant Darcy McGee, who during his life was one of our novelist's warmest friends and admirers. The simple fact that such editors as these not only accepted, but gladly welcomed and persistently sought her writings for their papers, is of itself sufficient proof that they possessed high literary merit. And in addition to the articles she sent these journals, Mrs. Sadlier was at this time a regular contributor to the columns of the Tablet.

The first book to appear with Mrs. Sadlier's name as author was a collection of short stories entitled "Tales of the Olden Time," which issued from the press of John Lovell & Co., Montreal, and met with a very flattering reception from the critics. After this first venture, which proved a financial success, came: "The Red Hand of Ulster," "Willie Burke; a Tale for the Boys," and "Alice Riordan," a companion story for girls. The late Dr. Brownson was always a great admirer of "Willie Burke"; and readers of Brownson's own writings do not need to be told that it was no easy accomplishment for a woman to win his praises as a story-teller. "Alice Riordan" first appeared as a serial in the columns of the Boston Pilot, Among Mrs. Sadlier's other best-known works are: "The Confederate Chieftains," "The Blakes and Flanagan's," "Confessions of an Apostate," "Daughter of Tyrconnell," "McCarthy Moore," "Maureen Dhu," "The Hermit of the Rock," "Bessy Conway," "Elinor Preston," "New Lights; or, Life in Galway," "Con O'Regan," "Aunt Honor's Keepsake," "The Heiress of Kilorgan," "The Old House by the Boyne," "Old and New," and "Father Sheehy and Other Tales." There were many others; her novels and translations numbering upward of sixty volumes.

Not a few of her books were written at the request, or upon the suggestion of eminent ecclesiastics or distinguished laymen, who, recognizing what a potent agency for good her writings were, naturally desired to see new additions made to the number of her books. "Aunt Honor's Keepsake," for example, was undertaken at the instance of Dr. Ives, with reference to the then vital issue of the New York Protectors, in which, as

the prime mover of the institution, that distinguished convert took an intense interest. "Bessy Conway" was prompted by some conversations the author had with the late Father Hecker; and it was at the request of Archbishop Hughes that our author translated the Abbe Orsini's "Life of the Blessed Virgin," as a companion volume to which she subsequently rendered into English De Ligny's "Christ." Among her other devotional works, the greater part of which were translations, may be named: "The Year of Mary," "Collot's Doctrinal Catechism" and "The Catechism of Examples." Mrs. Sadlier also compiled a "Catechism of Sacred History," which is still used in Catholic schools.

And it is when her writings are viewed in this light that Mrs. Sadlier stands, eminently forth, and is justly regarded as one of the greatest benefactresses of her people in this and other English-speaking lands.

TWENTY-TWO YEARS A BISHOP.

HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP FABRE COMMEMORATES THE EVENT BY A SOLEMN DEMONSTRATION.

His Grace Archbishop Fabre, on Monday, commemorated the twenty-second anniversary of his appointment as a Bishop, and the event was celebrated on a grand scale at the St. James Cathedral, Dominion Square. At nine o'clock His Grace, escorted by a large circle of priests and representatives of the Catholic communities of Montreal and suburbs, solemnly made his entrance in the sanctuary to the sweet pealing of the church bells and that of the large organ, under the able direction of organist Pelletier.

Pontifical High Mass was sung by His Grace Archbishop Fabre, accompanied by Grand Vicar Bourgeault as Priest Assistant. The deacons of honor were Canons Leblanc and Bruchesi, while the deacons of office were Rev. W. C. Martin and Canon Louis Cousineau.

A choir composed of over one hundred voices, under the direction of Brother Symphonian and Prof. Oscar Martel, executed, with full orchestral accompaniment, one of Fleck's German Masses in "C." The choir was chiefly composed of the students of Mount Saint Louis Institute, and this Mass was executed for the first time at the Cathedral of Montreal.

There was a very large concourse of citizens present at the ceremony, including the students of nearly all the schools and colleges of the city and outskirts, and the Grey Nuns, the Congregation of Notre Dame, the Providence, the Little Sisters of the Poor, and representatives from the following Orders:—The Seminary of Montreal, the Jesuits, the Order of the Holy Sacrament, the Redemptorists, and others. After Mass His Grace held a reception in the parlors of the Cathedral. There were no official addresses read to His Grace, but all present warmly congratulated him on the event, and wished him many years more as Administrator of this archdiocese.

"THE VISION DANCE."

A POEM THAT IS DESTINED TO LIVE.

A few moments ago the mail brought us the March number of the Ottawa University Magazine, The Owl. We have not had time to glance over its contents, but on the first page we found a poem entitled "The Vision Dance." We read the three stanzas on that first page, then reread them. On turning the leaf we found the first line of the fourth stanza, a model of alliteration, description, beauty. We glanced at the foot of the page and saw the name of the writer, "Maurice W. Casey." Back again to that top line—it ran thus:

"Across the starry spangled sky slow steals the silvery moon."

Those scenes by the Suir are so charmingly portrayed, the versification is so novel and attractive, the sentiments are so touching and noble, that we felt for a time, like Ruskin in presence of a masterpiece from Raphael's pencil, "dazed with delight." No wonder we closed the magazine; that was a feast for one day. There are hundreds who produce good verses, but this time the world has been given a poem.

Familiar household words—"Shut the door."