

could have done the work he did in harmonizing relations between them. He succeeded to the See of Halifax at a time, when religious strife was a burning political issue between Catholics and Protestants and in a short time his influence removed all friction disappeared, externally at least. The Public School question required the most careful handling and none involved vaster public interests. It was he who obtained for Catholics the present school conditions, tho' not to be called a system, because it depends largely, if not altogether, on good will of the General School Board.

He, the champion of Confederation, took an active part in politics, believing that Nova Scotia would be rendered more prosperous and that the Catholics would become more powerful by being united to its Canadian brother. Archbishop Connolly vehemently denounced Fenianism in its relation to the Catholics of this country. In his friendship for D'Arcy McGee there was as much of political sympathy as of kindred impulse of genius. On the melancholy death of his friend, the archbishop had services in St. Mary's and delivered a panegyric of the life and labours of that gifted Irishman which was looked upon as the ablest effort of his life.

At the Vatican Council, he was one of the twenty-eight American, English, Irish Bishops who supplicated the Holy Father, giving their reasons that the questions on the definition of the Infallibility of the Pope as a dogma of faith, may not be proposed at the Vatican Council. But after the Council had defined the Dogma, he, with the other bishops, accepted it with a logical consistency, which was true of his great intellect and of the Catholicity of dutiful son of the Church. Upon his return to Halifax from Rome he received a great ovation from all the citizens of that city.

On the 27th day of July 1876, the bells of his beautiful Cathedral, St. Mary's, tolled over the mid-night city and apprized the weeping people and his friends throughout Halifax that the great beloved Archbishop was no more.

In his death, a Presbyterian clergyman said, that Canada lost a patriot for in all his big-hearted Irish fashion he was ever at heart and in mind and indeed a true Canadian.

The words of his most appreciative friend, D'Arcy McGee can most fittingly close this sketch.

"His Faith was as the tested gold,

"His Hope assured, not overbold,

"His Charities past count, untold

Miserere, Domine!