

The Church in Canada.

Under this heading will be collected and preserved all obtainable data bearing upon the history and growth of the Church in Canada. Contributions are invited from those having in their possession any material that might properly come for publication in this department.

BISHOP MACDONELL.

(Conclusion.)

The Bishop and his party landed at Liverpool on the 1st August, 1839. Soon after his arrival the Bishop went to London, where he communicated personally with the Colonial Office regarding his plan of emigration and other matters. He also visited the Highlands of Scotland, and in October of the same year passed over to Ireland, intending to be present at a great dinner given to the Catholic Prelates in the City of Cork; but a dense fog in the Clyde and adverse winds prevented him from arriving in time for the festival. Nevertheless he visited the Bishops, and being unable to obtain, in the west of Ireland, any other conveyance than a jaunting car, he was exposed, during the entire day, to one of the drizzling rains so common in that region. This exposure brought on inflammation of the lungs, accompanied by a severe cough; and although he placed himself under the care of the President of Carlow College, and afterwards with the Jesuits at Clongowes Wood, and received much benefit and every attention, he still continued so indisposed on arriving at Dublin as to be obliged to keep his bed for nearly a fortnight. From Dublin he went to visit the Earl of Gosford, at his mansion Gosford Castle, near Market Hill, Armagh; where, under the roof of that kind-hearted nobleman, he appeared to have recovered entirely. The Earl of Gosford, it may be mentioned incidentally, was Governor General of Canada from 1835 to 1838, and immediately preceded the Earl of Durham. Lord Gosford's return from Canada was signalized by a curious episode, which some of our readers may remember: The Pique frigate in which he had embarked lost its rudder in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and was steered across the Atlantic by a gun carriage, rigged for that purpose. After remaining a short time at Armagh with the Catholic Primate, the Bishop resolved to return to England, being anxious to prosecute his negotiations with the Government and Parliament. On his way to London he arrived at Dumfries, in Scotland, on the 11th January, 1840, and stopped with his old friend and college companion, the Rev. Mr. Reid, then pastor of Dumfries. The Bishop appeared in good health, and celebrated mass next day; he passed the evening of the 13th in conversation with a few friends, and retired about 12 o'clock. About 4 o'clock in the morning of the 14th, he called up his faithful attendant, Mr. Hugh McPhee, complained of being cold, and requested him to make a fire, and give him some articles of clothing. Suspecting there was something wrong, Mr. McPhee asked the Bishop if he was unwell; receiving no answer he became alarmed, and called up the Rev. Mr. Reid, who administered to the dying prelate the last rites of the Church. After receiving the final benediction, the Bishop expired without a struggle.

His remains were buried in Dumfries, and subsequently removed to St. Margaret's Convent, Edinburgh, of which institution the Rev. Dr. Dawson, now of Ottawa, was the first chaplain, from 1842 to 1846. On the arrival at Kingston of the melancholy intelligence, a solemn requiem mass was sung by Bishop Gaulin, who took formal possession of the See on Passion Sunday, 1840. The funeral oration on the deceased prelate was pronounced from the text, "*Beati mortui*," &c., by the Bishop's old friend and Vicar General, Mr. W. P. Macdonald. The requiem was attended by all the clergy of the diocese, which comprised the entire Province of Canada West. Several priests from abroad also assisted, among whom was the Rev. D. W. Bacon, parish priest of Ogdensburg, fellow student with the writer at Montreal College in 1830, and in 1855 first Bishop of Portland, in the State of Maine. The Bishop's knell was tolled on the historic bell of St. Joseph's, by the

veteran, Thomas Cuddihy, who had been bell-ringer and grave-digger from time immemorial, and whose frame, bent by constant and honourable toil, had assumed very nearly the shape of a hoop. The successors of Bishop Macdonell, in the see of Kingston, always cherished the intention of bringing his remains to Canada, for interment with suitable honours in the Cathedral of his diocese, where, by right, the remains of a Bishop should always be deposited. Bishop Phelan, who built the present Cathedral, pointed out to the writer the spot where the interment should be made, but he was not spared to carry out his intentions. It was not till 1861, during the Episcopate of Bishop Horan, that the removal took place. Bishop Horan went to Edinburgh, and was cordially received by the Vicar Apostolic of the Eastern district of Scotland, the Right Rev. James Gillis, who gave him every facility for the accomplishment of his mission. Of Scottish extraction, Bishop Gillis was a native of Montreal, and was at one time spoken of as co-adjutor to Bishop Macdonell. The funeral cortège arrived at Kingston on the 25th September. On the following day a solemn requiem mass having been celebrated by Bishop Horan, and a panegyric pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Bentley, of Montreal, the earthly remains of the much-loved and venerated prelate were consigned to their last resting place, in the land of his adoption, among the people whom he so loved and cared for, and among whom he had spent the greater part of his active, laborious and self-sacrificing life.

From one of the secular papers of the day (the *British Whig*) we extract the following notice:—"Of the individuals who have passed away from us during the last twenty-five years, and who have taken an interest in the advancement and prosperity of Canada West, no one probably has won for himself in so great a degree the esteem of all classes of his fellow-citizens than has Bishop Macdonell. Arriving in Canada at an early period of the present century, at a time when toil, privations, and difficulties inseparable from life in a new country, awaited the zealous missionary as well as the hardy emigrant, he devoted himself in a noble spirit of self-sacrifice, and with untiring energy, to the duties of his sacred calling, to the amelioration of the condition of those entrusted to his spiritual care. In him they found a friend and counsellor, to them he endeared himself through his unbounded benevolence, and greatness of soul. Moving among all classes and creeds, with a mind unbiassed by religious prejudices, taking an interest in all that tended to develop the resources or aided the general prosperity of the country, he acquired a popularity still memorable, and obtained over the minds of his fellow-citizens an influence only equalled by their esteem and respect for him. The ripe scholar, the polished gentleman, the learned divine, his many estimable qualities recommended him to the notice of the Court of Rome; and he was elevated to the dignity of a Bishop of the Catholic Church. The position made no change in the man: he remained still the zealous missionary, the indefatigable pastor. His loyalty to the British Crown was never surpassed; when the interests of the Empire were either assailed or jeopardized on this continent, he stood forth their bold advocate; by word and deed he proved how sincere was his attachment to British institutions; and infused into the hearts of his fellow-countrymen and others an equal enthusiasm for their preservation and maintenance. Indeed, his noble conduct on several occasions tended so much to the preservation of loyalty that it drew from the highest authorities repeated expressions of thanks and gratitude. As a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, his active mind, strengthened by experience acquired by constant associations with all classes, enabled him to suggest many things most beneficial to the best interests of the country and the peace and harmony of its inhabitants."

If we have refrained from noticing some of the most trying difficulties of the Bishop's Episcopal career, it has been simply because we did not wish to revive at this remote day, the recollection of unpleasant events better buried in oblivion—the actors therein having long since