

FATHER STRUBBE PASSES AWAY.

St. Ann's Parish Suffers Severe Loss in Death of its Pastor.

BRIEF SKETCH AND ACCOUNT OF THE OBSEQUIES.

Rev. Father Strubbe, C.S.S.R., the well known priest of St. Ann's Church, breathed his last at the Hotel Dieu on Thursday morning, October 26th, at 10.15. Though his death was expected for some days yet it came as a shock to the community at large, as the deceased priest was a prominent figure among the Montreal clergy. At the time of his demise Father Strubbe was in his 57th year.

The remains were removed to St. Ann's Presbytery of Thursday afternoon, and there lay in state until Sunday evening, thousands taking a last view of the devoted priest they knew so well. The countenance like marble, but wasted away, told of his sufferings, which, though short, must have been great. Young and old, rich and poor knelt at the tier of the loved priest and offered to God a prayer for his eternal rest. On Sunday afternoon, St. Ann's Young Men marched from the hall in a body to the presbytery and recited the bands for their best friend. As they gazed on that familiar face they recalled to mind his great life work for them, his struggles and sacrifices in their behalf, his fatherly admonitions. But all was now ended—that work which speaks volumes for his zeal and interest for the young generation of St. Ann's parish.

At seven o'clock Sunday evening the remains were removed to the church. St. Ann's brass band headed the mournful procession, playing the Dead March in Saul, followed by St. Ann's Young Men's Society, St. Ann's Total Abstinence and Benefit Society, the Christian Brothers of St. Ann's school, the sanctuary boys and the Brothers and Fathers of the Redemptorist Order of Hochelaga and St. Ann's. The remains were placed outside the altar railing and the office of the dead recited, at which Very Rev. Father Lemieux, C.S.S.R., vice-provincial of the Order, presided. The chapters were Rev. Fathers Rioux, P.P., and Flynn, St. Ann's. In the sanctuary were Rev. Fathers Guillot, master of Novices, Hochelaga; Thout, Hochelaga; McPhail, Holland, Retivelde, Simard and Trudel, St. Ann's; Rev. Father Cullinan, St. Mary's, and a large number of Redemptorist students from Hochelaga novitiate. The church was heavily draped, while the high altar was illuminated with an electrical motto: "Dona eis requiem." Around the catafalque hundreds of tapers were burning, the church being crowded to the doors, while hundreds stood in the aisles gazing on that familiar but now silent figure, and uniting their prayers with those inside the sanctuary. The organ pealed forth its mournful sounds, the service was over, but the crowd kept coming and coming until a late hour at night.

Rev. Edward Strubbe was born in Bruges, Belgium, on the 22nd of September, 1848. After finishing his classical course, he entered the seminary of his native place and was ordained as a secular priest by His Lordship Right Rev. Dr. Faict. After his ordination he did parish work for a few years and was then appointed director of the College at Thelt. He had become a great favorite with the students and his field of labor during his years of college work was vast and his work lasting. He seemed to have a great regard for the young, possessing special qualities which won their affections, and which stood out so prominently in his after career with the young men of St. Ann's parish. Feeling himself called to the religious life, he chose the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, and resigning the directorship of the college he entered the novitiate in September, 1882. At the close of the probationary term he made his solemn profession on the 15th of October,

1883. In 1884 Archbishop Fabre requested the Belgian Redemptorist Fathers to take charge of St. Ann's Church, and in September five Fathers arrived from Belgium, Fathers Castelle, Superior; Godts, Capelle, Caron and Strubbe. Father Caron, now at Ste. Anne de Beaupre, is the only surviving Redemptorist of the pioneer band who came to the city twenty-one years ago. Father Strubbe not being conversant with the English language, set to work and shortly mastered it. He soon became noted as a preacher in the French tongue, and his services were always in great demand. His work as a missionary bore abundant fruit. His name is known throughout the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia, as well as in many parts of the United States, and his sermons preached in those places will long be treasured by the thousands who attended. Father Strubbe saw the need of the hour in St. Ann's parish. It was a Young Men's Society. He organized the present St. Ann's Young Men's Society, built St. Ann's Hall, which is one of the finest in the city, and he spared no pains nor trouble to make the young men of the parish a credit to themselves and to the whole city.

In the educational line Father Strubbe was not idle. He renovated St. Ann's Christian Brothers' School obtaining a large sum of money for that purpose from the Catholic School Commissioners, the balance being supplied by the parish. He was a director of the Catholic High School.

The deceased was a great temperance advocate, his sermons during the missions at St. Ann's Church and his work in the parish in stamping out the curse of liquor bore much fruit. If St. Ann's parish is a model one today in temperance and morality, a great part of it is due to Father Strubbe's indefatigable work, for he was a power for good and he wielded it in every direction to good advantage. He left no stone unturned to crush out evil. Being possessed of an indomitable spirit, he feared no foe, yet he followed the counsel of the Apostle of the Gentiles. "He made himself all to all, in order to gain all men to Christ." Father Strubbe was also a kind and loving father to the poor and a great administrator and wise counsellor. Today the parishioners of St. Ann's mourn his loss, for a great priest has yielded up his trust, and a noble warrior has fallen in the fight.

Father Strubbe's popularity was shown on several occasions. In 1899, when he was ordered to Belgium to rest for a few months, he was the recipient of a purse from the parishioners of St. Ann's. At the time of the silver jubilee of his priesthood in 1898, he was presented with a purse of money, which he used to defray the expense of decorating St. Ann's Church. When he was removed to Belgium in 1902 the love and reverence of the people for the zealous priest knew no bounds. The many gifts and farewell reception, when over three thousand people assembled to wish him God-speed and good-bye, spoke volumes for the life-work at St. Ann's of the priest who was the "Soggarth Aaron" among the people, and he bade them farewell amidst the tears and sobs of a grateful people, a people possessed of that old Irish faith which shows itself on all occasions for the priest of God. The last wish of Father Strubbe has been granted, it was that his bones would rest near the people he loved and labored with so long. After being a little more than a year back from his native place, the people of St. Ann's are called upon to mourn his loss. His remains will rest near Rev. Fathers Cote, Capelle, Savard and Scenles. In Father Strubbe's death the Church in Canada has lost a valiant war-

rior, the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer a true son, zealous in all things for its welfare, and a faithful imitator of the saintly Alphonsus, the Archdiocese a noble missionary, and the parishioners of St. Ann's a true and loving father. Truly the words of St. Paul may well be applied to him: "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. There is laid up for me a crown of justice; which the Lord will render to me. (II. Tim., iv, 7.)"

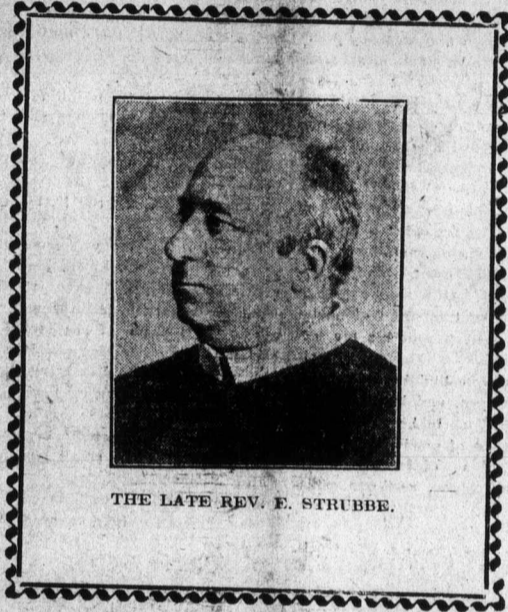
The obsequies took place on Monday morning at nine o'clock. The church was thronged with representatives from all over the city.

The solemn requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Lemieux, vice-provincial of the Redemptorist Order, assisted by Father Corbell as

you eloquent exhortations and teaching. He was still a young man. Can it be that he has already accomplished his life-work?

"You are all grief-stricken at the loss of one whom you justly regarded as your spiritual guide and father, but I have also to regret the devoted and intimate personal friend. Others might to-day pay more eloquent tribute to his memory, but I wish to give public expression to my affection and my gratitude."

Referring to the return of Father Strubbe to his native land three years ago, he said: "Zeal is a noble and necessary qualification of the priest, but a still nobler and a still more necessary one is obedience. After seventeen years of labor in your midst, after he had grown to love



THE LATE REV. E. STRUBBE.

deacon, and Father Retivelde, of St. Ann's, as sub-deacon.

His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi and His Lordship Bishop Racicot were present in the sanctuary, and the following members of the clergy: Rev. Dom. Antoine, mitred abbot of the Trappists at Oka; Fathers Rioux, director of the Redemptorists, Trudel, C.S.S.R.; Flynn, C.S.S.R.; McPhail, C.S.S.R.; Holland, C.S.S.R.; Simard, C.S.S.R.; Martin Callaghan, P.P. St. Patrick's; Donnelly, P.P. St. Anthony's; O'Meara, P.P. St. Gabriel's; Casey, P.P. St. Agnes; Kiernan, P.P. St. Michael's; Poucher, C.S.V.; P. P. Outremont; Duchossois, O.P.; Fr. Cote, O.P.; Filiatrault, superior Jezuists College; Benoit, O.M.I.; Raymond, vicar Franciscan Friary; Christopher, director of Third Order; Doyle, S.J.; G. McShane, S.S.; Notre Dame; T. Heffernan, Shea, McDonald, Cullinan, O'Reilly, Singleton, Killoran, Belanger, Laforce, Parent, Jobin, McCrory, Eremont, P.P. Ste. Cunegonde; Brisset, P.P. St. Paul; P. A. Brunet, Ste. Theresa College; Majean, Corbell, Parreault, Cote des Neiges; Moulin, St. Laurent; Charrier, Forbes, Coughnawaga; Demers, Allard, Hochelaga, Fabey, St. Gabriel's, and the students of the Hochelaga Novitiate.

At the conclusion of the Mass Archbishop Bruchesi addressed the congregation. His Grace, who mourned in Father Strubbe not only a zealous assistant in the cause of religion, but also an intimate and personal friend, was much affected. Choosing as his text the words of St. Paul: "Thou art the man of God," he developed it as follows:

"These words seem to me to give a very perfect definition of the true priest, who is not a man of the world or of material things, not a man of riches, of honors or ambitions, but he is the man of God and of eternity. He must therefore devote himself to the work of saving souls. He must be the friend of the poor and humble. These words of St. Paul are the shortest and best description of the true priest, and as such they are most appropriate to be applied to the pious religious, whose loss has thrown the whole city of Montreal into mourning. Poor Father Strubbe, it seems almost impossible to realize that we shall never again see him in this church, at this altar, in this pulpit, from which he has so often addressed to

this country and the people under his charge, the order suddenly came that he should return to Belgium. Though it was a terrible blow to all his dearest hopes, Father Strubbe submitted. You all remember the grief caused by his return, and the many attempts made to have the decision revoked. I will tell you now what you have not known before, that your grief at losing Father Strubbe moved the superior of the order to veto his recall. But it was too late. He had already left for Belgium, where he has since told me he found himself a stranger in a strange land.

"Finally, he was permitted to return. You can all recall the joy of that happy occasion. But in spite of your hopes that he would be left to work in your midst for many years, it soon became apparent that he was in failing health. Although he kept bravely to his post, coming with me on my pastoral visit, and afterwards preaching the triduum of St. Gerard Majella, he finally had to give up and enter the Hotel Dieu. There he gradually failed, till it became evident that the end was at hand. It was I who had the sad duty of telling him so. He answered that he was resigned to the will of God, and throughout his tedious illness he always exhibited the same spirit of cheerful patience. When the end came, he died like the holy priest he was. Let us hope, my dear brethren, that in the heaven to which he has passed, we, too, may some day attain and there meet once more the devoted priest who has gone from this earth to his eternal reward."

After the singing of the Libera a procession was formed and the remains of Father Strubbe were borne through long lines of priests with lighted tapers into the sanctuary, down to the crypt of the church and finally to his last resting place. In the crypt the body was received by Archbishop Bruchesi and Bishop Racicot who performed the last rites, after which the remains were deposited in the vault, according to the custom of the Redemptorist Order.

Among the laity who attended the services were Hon. Justice Curran, Ald. Gallery, Ald. Walsh, F. J. Curran, Dr. Dwyer, Dr. Guerin, Dr. Scenles, J. F. Scanlan, M. Scanlan, P. B. McCaffrey, F. J. Greene, C. Coughlin, J. Rogers, F. Casey, E. Langen, W. E. Doran, F. Donovan,

M. Doherty, P. T. O'Brien, R. Byrne, H. McLaughlin, Joseph McLaughlin, Jos. Walsh, B. Tansy, D. Tansy, O. Tansy, T. P. Slattery, P. Kanehan, M. Murphy, J. Whitty, J. Hughes, F. Hartford, J. Johnson, T. F. Sullivan, J. Gallery, R. Latimer, D. Shanahan, J. Shanahan, F. Clarke, E. M. McCarthy, J. Mahoney, B. E. Healy, A. Lynch, L. Mahoney, J. Ryan, J. Maiden, T. O'Connell, N. Power, A. Thompson, T. Dillon, H. McClure, J. Brown, F. Brown, R. Brown, P. Brennan, J. O'Brien, M. Roach, M. Scullion, J. Davins, T. O'Sullivan, P. J. Cooney, J. J. Gettings, J. Walsh, T. Lynott, J. Mins, P. Tucker, R. Hall, E. Quinn, E. Barney, J. Murray, J. McCaffrey, J. Tucker, J. Killoran, T. Jones, J. Power, M. Finn, Dr. Demers, Capt. M. Fennell, No. 7 station; A. Finn, Jos. Bruchesi, brother of the Archbishop; Jno. Killoran, Supt. Janin, Montreal Waterworks; Ald. Deserres, C. McCann, Saumarez Carmichael, E. Hotte, (Richelieu, Ont.), Jno. Slattery, Thos. Slattery, Barney Tansy, F. Curot, secretary of Laval University; R. McNow, W. Wall, S. T. Gould, J. Shafron, D. J. Byrnes, M. J. Doherty, Jos. Davin, J. M. McMahon.

L'Union Belge was represented by President Henry Iquist and Messrs. Borrowwals (Belgium), Fyon, Decouen, Cochez, Franck, Roy.

Rev. Martin Callaghan, pastor of St. Patrick's, paid the following tribute to the memory of Father Strubbe at high Mass on Sunday:

"I am grieved to announce the death of Father Strubbe. He is a serious loss to the people and clergy of Montreal. He was summoned from amongst us in the prime and strength of his manhood, and in the enjoyment of an influence far beyond the average power of pastors. He was an honor to the priesthood, to his own order, and his memory will ever be faithfully cherished by the people for whose welfare he labored so long and so well. Any words of mine at the best are only a human tribute, but I feel confident that they are borne out in the reward granted him by God who knows all things and will reward every man according to his works.

"May the perpetual light which knows no fading shine upon his soul, and may he have already received the eternal glory due to his vigorous faith, practical piety and indefatigable zeal."

YOUNG MEN'S TRIBUTE.

The following tribute to the late Father Strubbe, C.S.S.R., was offered on behalf of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, of which Father Strubbe had been the spiritual adviser since its organization. It was written by Mr. James Martin in connection with Monday's requiem services:

Great heart, now cold in silent death,
Stricken are all the hearts you stole;

But, ah! you gave your latest breath
To us, the children of your soul—
O God, we kneel in grief to Thee,
And bow to Thy divine decree!

Great heart, your love for us had won
What harsher soul could ne'er beguile—

The warmest love for Flanders' son
From exiles of green Erin's Isle—
O God, we kneel in grief to Thee,
And bow to Thy divine decree!

Great heart, your fluent, priestly tongue
Stirred countless souls whose faith was dim;

But 'twas not it alone that wrung
Their hearts, and led them back to Him!

'Twas your deep, wide humanity—
O God, we bow to Thy decree!

Great heart, too soon—ah, God, too soon!
Your children kneel beside your tier,
Scarce reached your noble manhood's noon.

While we are still to wander here—
God, Thou hast called him home to Thee,

We bow to Thy divine decree!

Great heart, no chiseled stone shall tell
Your name—'tis graven on our hearts;

You wrote it there, and wrote it well
While teaching us to play our parts,
O Soggarth dear, farewell to thee!
O God, we bow to Thy decree!

"FATHER PROUT" IN ROME.

The following interesting notes appear in the Rome correspondence of Mr. Connellan in the Dublin Freeman's Journal: The "well-known Irish historian" who contributed the very interesting particulars regarding Amelia Curran, "the eldest daughter of John Philpot Curran," has directed attention to the associations of Ireland with Rome, and especially with the Irish Franciscan Church of St. Isidore in this city.

The "historian" says that Miss Curran died here in August, 1847; and that her funeral oration was preached by Cardinal Newman. There is evidence that Cardinal—then Dr. Newman preached the funeral oration of an Irish lady, but it may be doubted that this was Miss Curran. Rev. Francis O'Mahony, better known in the literary world as Father Prout, was in Rome at this time, having been appointed by Charles Dickens special correspondent of the Daily News, which had been established by the novelist in the year 1846.

Early in December, 1846, Father Prout relates the death of a lovely daughter of Colonel Bryan, of Killenny. This was Catherine Octavia Bryan, of Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny; and he goes on to tell that "the solemn dirge and requiem held over the poor lady in the Church of the Irish Franciscans, St. Isidoro, was attended by several hundred British visitors, besides the young lady's kinsfolk, of the princely house of Doria Pamphili, the Borgese."

The most interesting part of Father Prout's letter, however, is the following: "Towards the termination of the sorrowful ceremony, at a pause in the liturgy, there arose in the body of the church a person in ecclesiastical costume, of pensive and careworn aspect, who, standing near the coffin, addressed himself to speak. His voice was low as first, so that few heard, till it gradually filled the church, and it was understood to be a simple recital of the unostentatious virtues of the deceased; but soon came words of more impressive import, and a whisper went round that the unexpected speaker on the occasion was the Rev. Mr. Newman, late of Oxford."

"To the thousands who have perused," says Prout, "his printed sermons delivered in Anglican pulpits, it would be difficult to convey a notion of his manner on the present occasion, it being the first time that he delivered himself of an extemporaneous unpremeditated discourse."

Father Prout in the following year (April 8th) mentioned incidentally Amelia Curran as being in Rome. He is telling of the expected arrival in Rome of Daniel O'Connell, and he writes:—"He (that is, O'Connell) will find here, in a state of bodily and mental debility equal to his own, at an advanced age, the only daughter of Curran, the sister of her of whom it is written, in pages that will never die, 'She is far from the land where her young hero sleeps.'"

But Prout makes no mention of the death of Amelia Curran, which, as the "historian" says, took place in the August of 1847.

The register of the College of St. Isidore records that on the 2nd of September, 1847, the body of Miss Curran was buried in the Franciscan Cemetery; but no mention is made of any sermon having been preached on the occasion.

Under the date of the 3th December, 1846, it is recorded in the same register of St. Isidore that on this day a solemn Mass was chanted and the Office recited for the soul of Catherine Octavia Bryan, and that on this occasion the funeral oration was made by the Rev. Dr. Newman. The same hand wrote the two entries in the register, and the probability is that if Dr. Newman had preached the funeral oration over Amelia Curran, the writer would have mentioned it as he did in the case of Catherine Octavia Bryan.

However, this does not exclude the possibility that Dr. Newman may have preached both sermons. There is double evidence for that over Miss Bryan—Father Prout's letter in the Daily News, and the register of St. Isidore; but I do not know any for that over Miss Curran.