

REV. FATHER DAWSON, D.D.

Just as our issue is going to press, we learn of the death of the Reverend Father Aeneas McDonald Dawson, D.D., of Ottawa. We regret exceedingly that the few moments at our disposal will not permit of a notice worthy the learned, saintly and popular priest whose battle of life has just ended. Father Dawson was a gifted and noble-hearted Scotchman, and for years had been Chaplain of St. Andrew's Society at the Capital. So popular was he amongst all sections of the community that he was called in a friendly way "the Protestant Priest." His familiar form will be much missed on the streets of Ottawa, his smiling face will no longer be seen at all the great festive gatherings—religious or national.

As a rule, Dr. Dawson was to be found every day in the Parliament Library, going over volumes of history and preparing articles and poems for publication. Up to the very end his ready, facile and truly elevating pen was busy with inspiring verse and lofty prose. The pages of "The Owl," the Ottawa University Magazine, contain some of Dr. Dawson's latest, and by no means least important, productions.

For some years Dr. Dawson resided on Gloucester street and said Mass at the Convent of the Congregation of Notre Dame. He was ordained in 1835, and although we do not exactly know his age at the time of death, he could not have been less than eighty years old. The late William McD. Dawson and the ex-member for Algoma, Mr. Simon E. Dawson, were brothers of the lamented priest.

The last time the writer met Dr. Dawson was at the University of Ottawa annual commencement in June last. He then looked as healthy, in as good spirits, and as full of kindly greetings for his host of acquaintances, as upon any occasion for the last thirty years. Dr. Dawson did very much toward the cementing of the different religious elements in Ottawa, and when the degree of Doctor was conferred upon him he was congratulated by the whole population, irrespective of rank, nationality or creed.

Once more we deeply regret not having time for this issue to tell the story of that good and learned priest. But his name will long live in the annals of the capital, his works will tell his worth to future generations, and we shall have a fitting opportunity, before long, of paying the tribute that personal and intimate friendship as well as general gratitude demand. "God's rest to the soul of the Priest of Perth," wrote McGee thirty years ago; to the lamented Priest who has now gone to his reward, we repeat that prayer from our inmost soul.

At the unveiling of Edmund Burke's statue, in Bristol, last October, Lord Rosebery delivered an address that is worthy a place in a collection of the finest oratorical efforts of our day. He called Burke one of the greatest of modern orators, and said that the erection of the statue was an act of reparation, because Bristol, 114 years ago, rejected Burke on account of his advocacy of Catholic Emancipation and of justice to his native land—Ireland. With the following peroration did Lord Rosebery conclude that splendid tribute to the genius and worth of the great statesman:—

"And what of the man himself?" asked Lord Rosebery. "Is he a shadow? No, gentlemen, in my opinion he is the one figure of that time that is likely never to be a shadow. He burns on the historic canvas as the other figures fade, by his speeches, which, as I have said, were read and not listened to. He will

be remembered as long as there are readers, when other orators on whose lips parliaments and people hung have disappeared with the tongues that spoke and the ears that heard them. Day by day the powerful ministers, whom he could not persuade, the great nobles, whom he had to inspire and prompt, the sublime statesmen, who could not forsooth put him in their Cabinet, wax dimmer and less whilst he looks stronger and larger. Their fame rests on bills and speeches, ephemeral bills and ephemeral speeches, but his is built on a stronger and broader foundation, built on high political wisdom, like some noble old castle or abbey, which, whilst it stands, is a monument and beacon to men, which even in its decay furnishes a landmark to posterity."

CHRISTMAS EVE.

CELEBRATION OF THE MIDNIGHT MASS.

The greatest day of the Church's rejoicing is Christmas day, and to usher in this grand anniversary the Catholic Church does in her services all the magnificence that appertains to her service of joy. The music of the midnight Mass of Christmas eve is always sweet, powerful and impressive, and it is no wonder that large bodies of Protestants look forward to the grand annual midnight ceremony as eagerly as do we ourselves. And though they have not the grace of true belief in the ceremony performed, they cannot experience a grander, holier sensation than that which fills their souls on these occasions. What situation can be more edifying and holier than to kneel amid the spreading aroma of ascending incense, to feed the eye on the multifarious dazzling and mellow flood of altar lights—to sit and drink in the organ's rolling harmonies, handed down from music's greatest masters, that peal and thunder and swell and shoot like celestial voices glorifying God. If, as Protestants say, they can experience such sensations as these, how much grander, loftier, holier and noble must be the feelings of those who, behind the gorgeous ceremonies of the Church perceive and faithfully believe the glorious miracle of Christ's transubstantiation! It would be impossible to enumerate the special music given at each separate church in the city. The English-speaking parishes this year executed music far more difficult than is their wont, but everything went easily and successfully.

St. Ann's choir was ably augmented by the boys of St. Ann's school. The boys of St. Ann's are already well known by their abilities, and on Tuesday they did full justice to their musical reputations. Master Frank McCrory sang the "Adeste Fideles" with excellent voice and taste. The soloists were Messrs. J. Morgan, T. C. Emblem, W. Murphy, H. Cleland, A. Higgins, M. Mullarkey, Ed. Quinn and E. Finn. The orchestra, under the direction of Prof. Oathcart Wallace, did excellent service. "The March" at the conclusion of the Mass, composed by the organist, Mr. P. J. Shea, was played with brilliancy.

At St. Anthony's Church the music was especially fine. The Rev. Father Donnelly has had a new choir in training for some months, and on Tuesday they made their first attempt at a Grand Mass. The result was a distinct success, the more so as Riga's Mass is an exceedingly difficult one to do full justice to.

At St. Mary's Church, Concione's Mass was brilliantly executed; the soloists were C. J. Hamlin, J. B. Paquette, J. Ransom, J. Phelan, A. Allard and M. Quinn; leader of orchestra, Prof. Sullivan; director and organist, Prof. J. Wilson.

More than 150 voices took part in the singing of the midnight Mass at the Gesù; the choir was assisted by a full orchestra.

Altogether, the music this year was finer in the English-speaking churches than on any previous Christmas Eve, and the large crowd of Protestants who flocked to the various churches is a distinct tribute to its quality, from a worldly point of view.

OBITUARY.

REV. MADAME JORDAN.

It is with sincere sympathy that we record the death of the Rev. Madame Jordan, a member of the Sacred Heart Community. The sad event took place in the convent at Chicago, on the 22nd December. The deceased lady had spent 25 years of religious life, and had

earned a high reputation for sanctity and devotion to duty. She was the third daughter of the late John Jordan, Esq., assistant Surveyor of Her Majesty's Customs at Montreal, and a sister of our esteemed fellow-citizen J. A. Jordan, Esq., of the Customs Department. With deep sympathy for the deceased relatives and friends, we pray with them that her soul may rest in peace.

THE LATE MR. JOHN POWER.

On the feast of the Assumption, last August, the parish of St. Columban was in mourning for the loss of one of its oldest and most respected inhabitants, in the person of Mr. John Power, who on the 12th of that month, in his 84th year, had departed to his reward. He was a native of the County of Wexford, Ireland, and came to this country in 1828. He was a devout Catholic and a most patriotic Irishman; he loved

the land of his birth and he served the land of his adoption. A kind father and good husband, he was an example to all his neighbors and was esteemed and honored by all who knew him. He leaves a widow, five sons and two daughters to lament his loss, and we join with them in the prayer that his reward may be great.

C. M. B. A.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following officers for the ensuing year were elected at a recent meeting of Branch 132, Halifax, N.S.:—President, Joseph A. Chisholm; vice-president, W. J. Butler; 2nd vice-president, D. B. O'Brien; recording secretary, N. Metzler; assistant recording secretary, W. J. Finlay; financial secretary, D. T. Lyvagh; treasurer, W. J. Phelan.

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50 cases, 100 dozen half-gallon bottles, fresh stock, received into store yesterday direct from the celebrated Poland Mineral Springs.

We offer Poland Water, in half-gallon glass bottles, at 50c per bottle, \$5.50 per dozen.

LONDONDERRY LITHIA WATER.

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