

In Memoriam.

PETER ROE.

On the 7th November was laid to rest in the beautiful Cemetery of St. Mark's, Niagara, all that was mortal of the Rev. Peter Roe, for eighteen years the devoted, loving and much loved Pastor of the Mission of Inverness, in the Diocese of Quebec.

Peter Roe was the eldest son of the late John Hill Roe, M.D., of Trinity College, Dublin, (his brother, the Archdeacon, being the youngest of seven consecutive sons); and grandson of the Rev. Peter Roe, Rector of Cor Beg Tullamore, King's County, Ireland. The Roe family had from time immemorial been settled on their own estate in that neighbourhood; it was confiscated, however,—as were the estates of a large proportion of the old gentry of Ireland,—for the loyalty of its owner to King James the Second. The young Doctor married into the Ardagh family of Thurles, and soon after the birth of his eldest son emigrated to Canada, and for many years practised medicine at St. John's and Ibrerville, P.Q. He was accidentally drowned in the year 1842, when the care of the younger sons was thrown upon their eldest brother Peter, and it is owing mainly to his brotherly love that his youngest brother, Henry, was enabled to study for the sacred Ministry.

Peter Roe himself entered the Ministry of the Church late in life. He had previously been engaged in business, as a general country merchant, first as partner early in the fifties of that distinguished Churchman, the late John W. Gamble, of Pine Grove Mills, near Toronto. Mr. Gamble, who was one of the most prominent business men, and politicians of Ontario (for many years M.P.), was also a licensed Lay Reader of the Diocese of Toronto, and read the Services of the Church regularly once every Sunday in the Pine Grove Church (which he had himself built) when there was a resident Clergyman and twice when there was none. Mr. Gamble persuaded his young partner to join him in this good work at Pine Grove, which he did, conducting the Services with much acceptance during the frequent absences of Mr. Gamble at Parliament and in town.

Mr. Roe left Mr. Gamble in 1854, and joined his younger brothers in their business in St. Thomas, Ontario. Once settled there,

he soon was called on to help the Clergy of that neighbourhood as Lay-Reader and was of material service in the planting and growth of the Church in Westminster and other outlying stations around St. Thomas. But this was not all; his hospitable house in St. Thomas was always open to the Clergy, and was their home whenever the Church's work called them to that important centre. Mr. Roe's influence as a religious man and a Churchman grew steadily and became a recognized factor in the Church life in the Diocese of Huron. At an early period he was sent as Delegate from St. Thomas to the Huron Synod; and, owing no doubt in part to his beautiful penmanship, but more to his perfect knowledge of book-keeping and of business in general, he was soon appointed Lay Secretary of the Synod. Naturally, too, in the case of one so much loved and trusted, he was chosen to represent the Diocese in the Provincial Synod beginning with the Second Session of that august Body, and continuing (always high on the list of Delegates, and at its very head towards the end,) down to the close of his connexion with the Diocese.

In all these sacred and important activities, Mr. Roe's spare time was happily occupied between the years 1850 and 1877. In the latter year occurred the great change in his life-work of which some account and of its causes must now be given.

When Peter Roe was a lad of thirteen he lost his mother, a lovely woman in every sense, and a devoted Christian. Her husband did not marry again, and her eldest daughter, a child of fourteen, took her mother's place at the head of her father's large family. Under this discipline, Frances Elizabeth Roe developed into a noble woman, a true saint; and she left the impress of her gentle goodness and simplicity of character very deeply upon her brother Peter. She made a most attractive home for her brothers in St. Thomas, and did much there to help the young people of both sexes in the formation of their religious character. Finally she died after a very short illness in Montreal in 1852. Her death was a great blow to her brother Peter. She had been very anxious that he should retire from business and study for the Ministry, and now he began to look back to her arguments and persuasions as a call from God.