

PASTORAL LETTER OF MGR. PAUL BRUCHESI,

Archbishop of Montreal,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MGR. IGNACE BOURGET.

PAUL BRUCHESI, by the grace of God, and the favor of the Holy See, Archbishop of Montreal.

To the clergy secular and regular, to the religious communities, and to all the faithful of our diocese: health, peace and benediction in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Beloved Brethren:

On the 30th October, 1799, at Point Levis, Mgr. Ignace Bourget, second Bishop of Montreal, and subsequently titular Archbishop of Martiropolis was born. It seems impossible for us to allow the hundredth anniversary of such an event to pass unnoticed.

A committee has been formed for the purpose of erecting a monument to the illustrious prelate, whose memory has been conserved with such love and deep veneration, in the hearts of all.

The project of thus honoring the one whom Providence had so visibly chosen as the instrument of His designs in regard to the diocese of Montreal, has received our entire approbation and the support of our encouragement. We were happy to inscribe our name at the head of the subscription list.

The erecting of the statues of great men, is surely, an effective way for posterity to testify its admiration and to perpetuate their fame. And, at a time when men are prodigal of marble and bronze, it would be unfortunate if the Church of Montreal had not, as one of its highest and most venerable glories, that homage which is sometimes and too lightly accorded to mediocrities of the hour.

After having approved, blessed and encouraged, with all our soul's effusion, the project of a monument worthy the august Pontiff that Mgr. Bourget was, we come to-day, very dear brethren, to make appeal to your generosity in favor of this pious movement of public gratitude.

The erection of a beautiful and rich statue, on the square in front of the Montreal Cathedral, so dear to the heart of Mgr. Bourget, is henceforth a decided affair. Our Canadian artist, Mr. Hebert, has already set to work; and we may expect that his efforts, inspired at once by lively sentiments of patriotism and of religion, will satisfy the general desire to behold the glorification—so well merited—of the greatest of our bishops.

If we now undertake to bring before your eyes the noble figure of Mgr. Bourget; and if we speak to you of the virtues and the works of the one whom a representative of the Holy See once styled the Canadian Athanasius, and whom the people loved to surname a second St. Vincent de Paul, a second St. Charles Borromeo, or more simply and more eloquently, perhaps, "the holy bishop," it is not that we entertain the slightest doubt concerning the promptness of your co-operation. It is rather to strengthen your sentiments of filial gratitude and to satisfy, at the same time, the persistent desire that we have felt, since our elevation to the See of Montreal, to render a public homage of veneration towards the principal artisan of the magnificence in our diocesan achievements.

Yes! that which a Protestant historian said of the bishops of France in summarizing their apostolic labors, may be applied also to Mgr. Bourget: It is truly he—in all reality—who made the diocese of Ville-Marie.

Deep inculcation in the true Catholic doctrine, pure display of the Roman liturgy, intense union and continuous relations with the Holy See; ye strength and glories of the Church of Montreal! we owe ye all to Mgr. Bourget. In appreciable blessings from on high,—by an unremitting study of the Sacred Writ and of the Holy Fathers, he grasped our sanctifying virtues; he thirsted for you in those long vigils at the foot of the altar; he brought you with him in his numerous pilgrimages to the centre of Christian unity.

Abundant and providential uprising of parishes, happy increase of ecclesiastical vocations and of the practice of sacerdotal zeal, missions established in the surrounding country and even to the remotest shanties, the erection of confraternities and the foundation of Catholic Associations, the inauguration of pilgrimages that still survive; all new benefits and fresh graces!—it is also to Mgr. Bourget that you are due. Ye words of benediction, ye works of salvation, he engendered you all in the all absorbing fire of his zeal and his piety, after having doubtless perceived you in those supernatural

flashes of vision that God sometimes accords to His saints.

Blessed homes of childhood's education, overflowing centres of instruction for youth, the long desired return of the religious once expelled from Canada, the happy introduction into this diocese of numerous religious orders of men and women, the multiplying foundations of religious communities now so flourishing, the magnificent and wonderful fruition of works of charity and protection, asylums opened to so many physical and moral miseries; all these benefits of an order not less elevated that constitute an additional honor for the Church of Montreal; which made, as has been often said, of our metropolitan city, the Rome of America, and of this diocese, one of the most prosperous and splendid in the world. All these gifts of heaven's magnificence, are due to Mgr. Bourget, to his energy, to his firmness, to his unalienable confidence in God, to his unlimited charity.

And, in his apostolic zeal, Mgr. Bourget, pushed the development of each one of these works of benevolence and of education into the centres of neighboring dioceses, and even into the midst of the distant populations of Manitoba, the North West, the United States and British Columbia. We have just visited these countries, our very dear brethren, and it was with a lively and deep emotion that one therein derived the marvelous budding and the imperishable hardihood of the charitable or educational institutions established out yonder by priests, and religious—male and female—from the diocese of Montreal.

The Sisters of the Holy Names, the Sisters of Providence, of Mercy, and of St. Ann, all of them communities founded by Mgr. Bourget; the Grey Nuns and the Sisters of the Congregation, the Oblats and Mary Immaculate, and the Jesuits, all so many orders that were called into Canada or else powerfully supported by the venerable bishop, are performing in those regions, prodigies of devotedness and of abnegation, that attract the admiration even of Protestants.

What activity, very dear brethren, what fruitfulness during those forty-seven years of episcopacy! The mind is confused by them, especially when we recall that this man, so weak of constitution, so frail in temperament, had been during his whole life the victim of unceasing infirmities.

Truly, in the midst of those occupations whose multiplicity astonishes us, amidst these undertakings, the greater number of which were marked by so many obstacles and so many struggles, Mgr. Bourget, like the great saints, must have been sustained by a special grace. It is permissible to believe that the Holy Ghost lent His aid to second the efforts of a bishop so perfectly after God's heart!

Consequently when we honor and perpetuate his memory do we not recognize and bless in him this supernatural action?

And as the abundance of graces are proportionate to the merits of the soul for which they are destined, so to erect him a monument, is to also proclaim, in a language imperishable and universally understood, that this apostle so strong in works and so loaded with celestial favors, had never for an instant ceased to practice the most admirable virtues.

The presence of God breathed through all his words, in all his movements, but shone most especially in him when performing the sacred functions. "What a spectacle! What dignity! What religion!" cried out the faithful on beholding him appear in the majesty of pontifical vestments, or in the performance of the humblest rites of the Church.

How many times was he not discovered at night, alone in the silence of the Church, hidden by the darkness, making the Way of the Cross, and dragging himself on his knees from station to station.

It is even stated that ardor of his love at times soared into a species of ecstasy, when he offered up the sacred Victim, or prolonged his visits to the tabernacle.

Often, they tell us, his great spirit of faith led him, at evening, to light from the sanctuary lamp the piece of candle destined to give him light while composing his pastoral letters. So strong was his union with the Vicar of Christ, his heart beat in such accord with that of the Holy Father, that he had, on several occasions, as if by instinct a forecast, both singularly exact and clear, of the most important teachings sent forth by the immortal Pius IX.

And how his soul thrilled with happiness when he was to pronounce his "placet," to the solemn definition of

Papal infallibility! How happy was that great bishop, and how smilingly filled with paternal pride, on that never-to-be-forgotten day, when he blessed the Pontifical Zouaves, as they knelt before their departure, in the Church of Notre Dame.

The thought of Rome followed him always; it seemed to animate each of his undertakings.

A terrible catastrophe had fallen upon Montreal. The conflagration of 1852, destroyed from top to bottom with a portion of the city, the Cathedral and episcopal palace.

After having extended to the unhappy victims the assistance of charity, the tenderness of which stirred to tears—the bishop thought not of himself. He did not dream of raising the episcopal palace from its ruins. But the pomp of sacred ceremonies demanded a temple, a new Cathedral. It was then that St. Peter's of Rome flashed upon his mind. His cathedral would be the image, the exact copy thereof. This vision dispelled any hesitation in the depths of his soul. He drew strength from it; and despite long delays, natural contrarieties, he persevered unto the end, in the execution of this grand object, destined to symbolize the attachment of the shepherd and of the flock to the Holy See.

At the hour of his death, one of the principal subjects that occupied his great soul, was the continuation of the interrupted work on the Cathedral. Mgr. Fabre, and the priests who then surrounded him with their affectionate care, remembered well the prophetic tone in which that touching voice announced that the Cathedral of St. James the Minor would soon be completed.

But if this superb building is an evidence of Mgr. Bourget's attachment to Rome and of his zeal for the glory of the temples of the Lord, we delight in stating that it equally reveals another phase of that apostolic spirit, so susceptible of every noble aspiration. After the fire of 1852, a division amongst the different elements that composed the population of Montreal threatened to arise. There was a danger that the most important city of Canada should be divided into two sections of mixed origins and tendencies, of different languages and creeds. It would have been a fatal example and a catastrophe for the whole country. Pacification and concord would certainly have suffered.

Mgr. Bourget was the first to comprehend the gravity of the danger, and his patriotism inspired him to obviate it, by establishing the Cathedral and episcopal palace in the future centre of the city, and thereby creating a focus of unity the salutary beams from which could never again be circumscribed.

In his career, that bears all through the impress of greatness, said Mgr. Tache, "nothing more attracted me than that act of patriotic wisdom on the part of Mgr. Bourget. He confided in me the reasons which determined him in a course so little understood at the time, and even so bitterly criticized; they seemed to me of a high order, so much above that which the ordinary man understands, that I said to myself, 'Oh! how great he is! how heroic he is! what an inspired deed!'"

Church and Country were not the only causes to which Mgr. Bourget has devoted his unceasing labors. Should the pastor discover any abuse or scandal, or should he perceive on any side a danger for the salvation of the souls confided to his care, or any movement contrary to the interests of religion; without delay, he would invoke the aid of the Blessed Virgin. In fasting, vigils and mortifications, he would call down on himself the light of heaven. And then he paused before no obstacles, he allowed himself no rest until he had crushed the error and unrooted the evil. The spirit of duty at such times, imparted to him an unshakable perseverance, an extraordinary strength.

Some may have felt astonished at the ardor of his zeal, or feared that this apostle might not have considered certain interests of an inferior order; but no one ever found either his wisdom, his clear-sightedness, or his charity at fault.

Moreover, all who came in contact with Mgr. Bourget, all who knew him, are they not unanimous in praise of his inexhaustible fund of charity and weakness? How often were not forewarned souls filled with admiration, after an interview of a few seconds, for the amiable Pontiff? As firm as he was ever in regard to vice and error, as tender and compassionate was he towards all persons regardless of their wealth or social standing.

Through an inclination of grace, however, he learned in preference, and with an irresistible attraction, towards the most humble and the most unfortunate.

Nothing more beautiful than to see him interrupt his most important work to go teach catechism to the children or to explain for them the

Sunday's gospel! Above all, was it a spectacle of delightfulness to behold him scattering in profusion the wealth of his mercy in the midst of epidemics, in the wards of hospitals and prisons, in the asylums of suffering or of repentance!

If his charity was great, judging from the following traits, what must not have been his spirit of mortification and humility.

It is told that once Mgr. Bourget was returning from King-ton. He missed his passage at Cornwall; four leagues separated him from the station that he had to reach. What could he do? He had no money, he had not even the small coin that even the poorest possessors. After the style of the apostles who had abandoned all, the holy bishop started on the road, going on foot the whole four leagues, praying and blessing God. And when he reached Montreal, at ten o'clock at night, he had been from four in the morning without having taken any food.

"The lowliest occupations had an indelible charm for him, he went about them with real happiness. And if there be a touching spectacle, it is that of the great bishop leaving his episcopal room during the night, going down into the yard to spit wood and carrying it up in his arms, to heat the room of his sick servant."

But it is the secret of the saints to ever find fresh methods of progress in the work of sanctification. Mgr. Bourget, who had divested himself of everything, feared not to be able to sufficiently divest himself of himself. He wished to retire from the episcopacy, to descend to the ranks of his inferiors, and to have only to obey for the future. The Sovereign Pontiff, accepted his resignation; and the old man, worn out by long labors and privations of all kinds, retired to the St. Janvier residence.

At last he could satisfy his most

*Rev. Mr. Collin—Funeral Oration.

ardent desires; to bury still more his life in solitude, in recollection and in prayer; to hide himself still more deeply in the bosom of God with Jesus Christ. He could thus prepare Himself for the most important of all things that we have to do in this life—that is to die well.

His death was that of a saint! Never before had Montreal witnessed such a grand and touching funeral pomp! With emotion we may recall these memories; but we need not attempt to give their recital.

In silence, then, let us bless the Lord, for the glory He accords to great servants. Let us bless Him for the universal reputation of sanctity that Mgr. Bourget enjoyed during his life, and which has only augmented since his death. And without forgetting in ought the decisions of the only competent tribunal in such matters, let us hope that this glorious survival may be some day consecrated by a judgment of the infallible Church.

Meanwhile very dear brethren, we have the conviction and the most lively desire, on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of Mgr. Bourget's birth, that you will rejoice to manifest your religious admiration for him, by contributing with good heart to the erection of the monument with which the Cathedral of Montreal will soon be enriched, when the illustrious prelate desired to sleep amongst his venerated brethren of the episcopacy.

The present pastoral letter to be read at once in all the churches wherein the public office is held, and in the chapters of all the religious communities, the first Sunday after its reception.

Given at Montreal, under our hand and seal, and the countersign of our chancellor, the 26th October, 1899.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal. By order of Mgr. EMILE ROY, Priest, Chancellor.

FOR Crozier, Beads, St. Anthony's Medal, Little Chapter of St. Anthony and Canceled Postage Stamp, write to Agency Bethlehem Apostol's School, 155 Shaw street, Montreal. G-11-98

Menthol D&L Plaster advertisement with text: "We guarantee that these Plasters will relieve pain quicker than any other. Put up only in 25c tin boxes and \$1.00 yard rolls. The latter allows you to cut the Plaster any size. Every family should have one ready for an emergency. DAVIS & LAWRENCE CO., LIMITED, MONTREAL. Beware of Imitations."

CANADIAN TEACHERS WANTED. More vacancies than teachers. Positions guaranteed. Placed 253 Canadian teachers in U. S. last term. Union Teachers Association of America, Washington, D.C. 5-13

Past Express Trains advertisement with table: TORONTO and WEST. Daily. Ex. Sun. Lve. MONTREAL 10:00 a.m. 10:25 p.m. Arr. TORONTO 5:20 p.m. 7:15 a.m. Arr. HAMILTON 6:55 p.m. 8:20 a.m. Arr. NIAGARA FALLS 8:40 p.m. 10:10 a.m. Arr. BUFFALO 10:00 p.m. 12:0 noon Arr. LONDON 9:50 p.m. 10:00 a.m. Arr. DETROIT 6:45 a.m. 1:10 p.m. Arr. CHICAGO 2:30 p.m. 8:45 p.m. *On Sundays leaves Montreal 8:00 p.m.

Andrew F. Murray & Co. Contractors and Importers. 40 BLEURY STREET MONTREAL, Que. Tiles for Bathrooms, Fireplaces, Vestibules, Etc. Hardwood Brick and Tile. Brass and Wrought Iron Fireplace Furniture. Gas Logs, Gas Fires, Gas and Coal Grates. Designs and Estimates Submitted.

LORGE & CO., Manufacturing Furriers, 21, ST. LAWRENCE Street. SPECIAL SALE OF FURS, COMPRISING EXCLUSIVE NOVELTIES IN SEAL-SKIN COATS... Persian and Baby Lamb Jackets, Neck Pieces, Scarfs, Collar ties, And Muffs in all Furs. AT PRICES FULLY 25 Per Cent LOWER THAN ANY OTHER HOUSE. REMEMBER THE ADDRESS: No. 21, St. Lawrence Street

DR. SPROULE ON CATARRHAL DEAFNESS. Do not listen to the advice of those who tell you that your deafness has lasted so long that nothing else can be done for it. Very many who have been deaf for years can be entirely cured, and still many others, who are rendered by their deafness totally unfit to transact business, or have intercourse with their friends, can receive such benefit to make them a credit to their families and a blessing to their homes and the community at large. There never will be a treatment for Deafness that will cure all cases. Such a thing is ridiculous and impossible. There never will be a treatment that will cure every case of any disease. The treatment that cures the majority of cases of any disease is a great boon and a gold-mine to men. Nearly every case of deafness results from catarrh. Many, many are the patients afflicted with a deafness that I have cured after they had tried other specialists in vain, simply by curing the catarrh. I will within a few years, most of the diseases of the ear, will be pronounced incurable and even today this belief is wide spread. Fortunately there is an error, for nearly all the diseases of the ear are curable. Dr. Sproule, English Catarrh Specialist, 7 to 13 Doane Street, Boston. Have your Job Printing done at the True Witness Office.

MENBELY BELL COMPANY TROY, N.Y., and 177 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY. Manufacture Superior Church Bells.

BON BOURGEOIS Claret.

BON BOURGEOIS Claret is sold by every first-class Club, Hotel and Restaurant in Montreal. BECAUSE It is the best value imported from the Vineyards of France. BON BOURGEOIS is a delight to consumers and a mystery to competitors. BON BOURGEOIS is retailed at 50 cents quart and 25 cents pint bottle. The profits are small but the sale are large. Gentlemen will please see that the name "La Cite des Vins de Bordeaux" appears on every label and the name "Bon Bourgeois Claret Company" stamped on every cork.

LAWRENCE A. WILSON & CO., Sole Agents for Canada MONTREAL Office, 87 St. James Street BORDEAUX OFFICE: 17 Allée du Bouteau.

REFRIGERATORS. The Public are taking advantage of our Great Clearing Sale and Discount of 30 per cent. off Catalogue List. Buy while this chance offers. Several sizes already sold out.

GEORGE W. REFD & CO. MANUFACTURERS, 783 and 786 Craig Street.

COWAN'S ROYAL NAVY CHOCOLATE and HYGENIC COCOA. Are always the favorites in the homes. THE COWAN CO., TORONTO.

WM. P. STANTON and CO. 7, 9, 11, St. John Street, Joiners, Cabinet Makers, Upholsterers. Church Pews and School Desks a Specialty. Also Store and Office Fittings, Counters, Shelving, Partition, Tables, Desks, Office Stools and Used Counters, Tables, Desks, etc. Bought, sold and Exchanged. New and Second Hand Desks always on hand. Terms: Cash. Telephone 2806.

*Mgr. Smoulders.