

THE MOTHER LAND.

Latest Mails from Ireland, England and Scotland.

Important circular from the Irish Bishops regarding the death of a member of the Board of Education.

Youghal despatch gives an account of the drowning in the Blackwater of Mr. Villiers Stuart son of Baron Stuart de Decies.

A vain attempt has been made to induce the majority of the Perry Board of Guardians to show its tolerance by electing a Catholic to the Deputy Vice-Chairmanship.

It is rumored that the vacancy created by the death of the late Mr. Justice Harrison will be immediately filled by the appointment of Mr. W. Kenny, Q.C.

Mr. Justice O'Brien in opening the Assizes at Dublin declared that he found from returns furnished to him by the police authorities of crime committed since the last commission that there were no less than 1,471 convictions of drunkenness.

Sophisms Snooks, alias Sandy McNab, alias Titus Oates, was indicted at Dublin on a charge of larceny from a military club.

There is at present no Catholic on the Municipal Board of Edinburgh. After the death of Councillor Flanagan, St. Giles' Ward, where the Catholic strength is greatest, was unsuccessfully contested by Mr. Adair.

News has arrived from Southern India of the death of the Abbe MacDonnell, son of the late General Sir Francis MacDonnell, who served with Sir John Moore in the Peninsular War.

We are painfully compelled by a sense of duty to our flock to warn them against certain newspaper writings and other utterances in which the clergy and the Bishops of this country are treated with a total disregard to the reverence due to their sacred office and character.

The following statement was unanimously adopted by the Roman Catholic Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland at their meeting in Maynooth College on the 18th.

The Very Rev. Canon O'Neill, Rural Dean and Rector, St. John's, Rochdale, England, died at the residence of his brother, the late Mr. Thomas O'Neill, Hibernian Hotel, Dunbar, where he had been staying for a brief holiday.

labored in the parish of Rochdale, where the melancholy tidings of his death were received with the sincerest feelings of sorrow.

England.

Catholic Society Marriage. A marriage which is viewed with much interest in Catholic society is announced to take place between Countess Lubomirski Bodenham, of Rothoway, County Herefordshire, and Miss Evelyn Kirwan, daughter of the late Mr. Stratford Kirwan, of Moyne, Galway, and Lady Victoria Kirwan.

The death is announced of Mrs. Walford, fourth daughter of the late Admiral the Hon. Sir John Talbot, G.C.B., one of the favorite captives of Lord Nelson.

Father Hirst, President of Ratoiliff College, Leicester, whose sudden death is announced was known as a distinguished antiquarian scholar, and was a member of the principal archeological societies in England and on the Continent.

Considerable sensation has been caused in Church circles in the West of England by the secession from the Church of England of the Rev. E. M. Phillips Treby, J.P., who has been Rector of the parishes of Ferrarbury and Minster near Tintagel, Cornwall, for the past ten years, and belongs to an old Devonian family.

Scotland.

His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan will preach at the re-opening of St. Francis' Church in December, in Glasgow.

In the Municipal Chamber the Lord Provost of Glasgow (Sir James Bell) handed over the Charity Cup to the Celtic, this Irish club having won it four times in succession—a record only one other club has equalled.

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Mr. T. J. Humes, Columbus, Ohio, writes: "I have been afflicted for some time with Kidney and Liver Complaint, and find Carmelite's Pills the best medicine for these diseases. These Pills do not cause pain or griping, and should be used when a cathartic is required. They are Gelatine Coated, and roll in the Flour of Licorice to preserve their purity, and give them a pleasant, agreeable taste."

RIGHT REV. DR. McNEIL

Vicar Apostolic of West New Foundland.

Consecration at Antigonish—Impressive ceremonies last week. Addresses and speeches. The Great and Inspiring Career of the New Bishop.

Antigonish, October 20.—An imposing function was the consecration today of the Right Rev. Neil McNeil, D.D., as Bishop of Antigonish and Vicar Apostolic of St. George's, West Newfoundland. His Grace the Archbishop of Halifax, and their Lordships the Bishops of Chatham, Antigonish, Charlottetown and St. John's, Nfld., and Bishop Rogers, of Chatham, attended.

The ceremony occupied three and a half hours, during which St. Numan's was crowded to its doors. His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. O'Brien, Archbishop of Halifax, occupied a throne in the sanctuary. His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Cameron was consecrating Bishop, assisted by their Lordships the Bishop of Charlottetown and the Bishop of St. John's, Nfld. His Lordship Bishop Rogers, of Chatham, was also present.

Canon assisting at the throne of the Antigonish—Rev. D. A. Murphy, D. D., and Rev. A. McKenzie. Assistant priest—Very Rev. Dr. Quinn, V. G. Deacon—Rev. Alex. McDonald, D. D. Cantor—Rev. D. A. Chisholm, D. D. Chaplain to Bishop-elect—Revs. D. M. Macdonald and R. McNeil.

The consecration sermon was preached by the Right Rev. Dr. Howley, Bishop of St. John's, Bishop McNeil's predecessor in the Vicariate of St. George's. His Lordship took as his text the following words of the prince of the apostles: "Feed the flock of God which is among you; taking care of it, not by constraint, but willingly; according to the word of the Lord, which is in the text, 'not as if you were to receive a reward, but as if you were to receive a pattern of the flock from the heart.'"

In the course of his forcible and instructive discourse, His Lordship said: "The persons of the consecration of a bishop of the Catholic Church was one calculated to bring out all the splendor and beauty of our sacred ritual, and the depth and hidden meaning of our liturgy. The splendor, brilliancy and lustre of the ceremonial and its accessories, could not but fill the hearts, of even those without the fold with sentiments of respect and admiration; but the Catholic, initiated and enlightened, saw beyond all these outward forms. Penetrating beyond the mystic ceremonial, the eye of faith saw in the imposition of the consecrating prelate's hands the very down coming of the Holy Ghost—saw in the anointing of the new bishop one more soul sealed and signed forever in the ranks of the hierarchy as an officer holding commission and patent of chiefdom in the army of Christ. He congratulated the island of Cape Breton on the elevation of her first son to the mitre, and congratulated likewise the family and relatives of Bishop McNeil. But the life of a bishop had also its sombre side. Not for worldly honors, learning and statesmanship had the episcopacy been instituted. Not these things did our Lord tell them to learn of Him; but they were told to learn of Him 'because He was meek and humble of heart.' They were to be poor and humble. They had to sustain grave and heavy responsibilities—to be at once physician, pastor and laborer among their flocks. St. Paul in his second Epistle to the Corinthians, graphically described the difficulties and dangers which were the portion of the successors of the Apostles; and he felt obliged to forewarn the new bishop that he would meet many such on the west coast of Newfoundland. Having ruled the flock there for ten years, he could speak with knowledge upon that subject. It was a country of magnificent possibilities with a glorious future before it, but it was still in a backward and primitive state. His Lordship dwelt upon the virtues of the various races composing the population in the Vicariate of St. George's. He urged his successor in

that field to go forth unshamed, trusting to the promises of his Divine Master, who had given His word to be with His Church to the end of time.

DINNER GIVEN IN THE COLLEGE HALL.

A dinner given by the newly consecrated Bishop of Antigonish at the College hall in the evening of the consecration, was a most enjoyable event. The toast of "The Bishop of Antigonish" was proposed by Archbishop Cameron in a neat speech sparkling with wit.

The newly consecrated Bishop responded. The toast of "The Right Rev. Consecrator" was proposed by Bishop Howley and responded to by Bishop Cameron in fitting terms. The toast of "His Grace the Archbishop" was proposed by Bishop Cameron, and other toasts followed.

Gifts amounting in value to about \$1,200 were received from the Bishop and clergy of the Diocese of Antigonish, from the visiting bishops, from relatives and personal friends, from the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, and from the Society of the Children of Mary at D'Escoffrey.

RECEPTION BY STUDENTS.

The pupils of St. Bernard's Convent gave a reception in honor of Bishop McNeil on the 22nd at which His Grace the Archbishop of Halifax, His Lordship the Bishop of Antigonish and the visiting clergy were present. An English address to the new Bishop was read by Miss K. McCarthy and a French one by Miss E. Porier. Little Miss Ada McNeil, daughter of Hon. D. McNeil, and niece of his Lordship, was chosen to present him with a beautiful garland of roses.

In reply to the addresses his Lordship spoke feelingly and appropriately to the pupils. In the evening Bishop McNeil was tendered a reception by the faculty and students of St. Francis Xavier's College. A choice musical programme was rendered by the St. Cecilia Society of the college, under the direction of Prof. Horgan, in the admirable manner for which the college has in later years become noted.

Rev. Dr. McDonald, on behalf of the faculty, read an address in Latin. An address from the students was read by Maurice Tompkins, as follows:

My Lord.—Though very few of us students of Saint Francis Xavier present here to-day have ever had the pleasure of knowing you, we are proud of your honors, and exulting in the many inspiring memories which they recall, we cannot on this occasion but approach you with a feeling of respect and admiration, and begin to pray that you may be privileged to be present here to-day, when the central figure of a man who so wisely and well directed the destinies of this college for so many years.

It is customary on such occasions as this to review the life and work of the person addressed; but that task which throughout has been one of unremitting toil and self-sacrifice. Your present exalted position you have attained not through chance, still less through favor, but through the force of your own merits, and through the blessing of God, which has been your constant companion.

It would take too much time to enumerate all the lasting benefits which your hand and your heart have wrought in this college. We will, therefore, point only to such enduring monuments to your zeal as warrant the belief that, since your period of action has now been closed, we may hope that you will be able to look back upon the many accomplishments still greater. In 1834, when you assumed the government of this college, you found but one wing of the present edifice completed. In the four years which followed were erected, better accommodations were afforded, and the march of the institution's progress has ever since been rapid, till the College of Saint Francis Xavier has made a name for itself, not only in our own province, but also throughout the neighboring republic.

Unconscious though your work had been in this connection, that still found time to help forward, and that, too, with distinguished success, the cause of Catholic education. In the many convocations of our province, you were the guiding spirit, and you were a specially recognized one of the foremost. To the few of us who have been under your tuition, your example as a teacher and as a man, has been a constant inspiration. You have seen this institution grow ample; you have witnessed its enlargement; you have seen education daily progressing in this diocese, and this we can only say, in these moments you did not content say, if your modesty did not prevent you, Quorum pars magna fui.

Right glad would we be to have you always with us to lend your valuable assistance in these sacred causes. The sorrow that was felt a few years ago when you severed your connection with the college was not a sorrow, but a grief, for you were not only a benefactor, but a friend, and you were a man who would be with us in the diocese; but now when the Supreme Pontiff, recognizing your virtues and talents, has placed you in a remote scene of action, our sorrow is unbounded. But what is a loss to us is to others a great gain. It is with a feeling almost bordering on envy that we congratulate the Catholic West Newfoundland on obtaining so learned and so zealous a bishop.

And now, my Lord, assuring you that we will always be ready to place on your behalf, respect and gratitude for the rich benefits we are now deriving from your labors, and that we shall always rejoice to hear of your success, we bid you a fond and friendly farewell.

had made it possible for him to complete his preparations for leaving in so short a time. Such sentiments as those addressed contained made him fear that he had been over-estimated; and this was, he asserted, dangerous to himself spiritually. Addressing himself to the students, he spoke to them in his invariably practical manner, dwelling on the importance of their building up a complete Christian character. He had for the past few years been observing student life from the outside and he had noted one thing that the students of the college required, which was, as had been mentioned in the address, thoroughness in little things. He showed the importance of acquiring habits of attention to these little things. In conclusion he said that though they must now part, they would ever have the communion of saints, the great bond of prayer, and he besought them to pray that he might worthy have the great burden which the Holy Father, and he hoped, God had laid upon him. "They will be touching strains of 'Will ye no come back again' the meeting closed.

SKETCH OF THE BISHOP.

The Antigonish Gasket some time ago published an interesting sketch of the Right Rev. Dr. McNeil. It declares his elevation to the episcopate while it is a fitting recognition of his eminent virtues and talents, is a great loss to the Catholics of Nova Scotia and to the cause of higher education in the lower provinces. He will, nevertheless, in his new field of action labor with the energy and discretion which marked his work in Nova Scotia, and the ancient colony will be the gainer by the event which deprives Nova Scotia of one of its most active and zealous clergymen.

The Right Rev. Neil McNeil was born at Hillsboro in the parish of Mabou, in the county of Inverness, on November 21st, 1851. His native district is one of the most beautiful spots in Cape Breton. The settlers there are for the most part the descendants of loyalists and Presbyterians by religion. Bishop McNeil's father who was descended from the McNeil's of Barra, Scotland, for a while the only Catholic resident there, was the blacksmith of the district, and later the merchant, postmaster and justice of the peace. His mother, Ellen Meagher, was a sister of Mr. Justice Meagher, of the supreme court of Nova Scotia, and was descended from a Kilkenny family of that name.

Young McNeil was sent at an early age to the district school, at the time one of the most efficient in the county, but he left school when he was fifteen, and began to learn the trade of blacksmith with his father. He became a very skillful mechanic, and while working in the forge it was not unusual for him to explain to interested customers the scientific facts which he had observed while handling iron. In the spring of 1869, after having worked three years in the forge, he expressed to his parents his desire to take a college course, and one of his former teachers, Dr. A. B. McLean, now of West Bay, C. B., urged young McNeil's father to send his son to college. The result was that in the fall of 1869, Neil McNeil entered St. Francis Xavier's College, Antigonish, where his abilities and energy soon became recognized. As a student he was somewhat reserved and did not make many intimate friends. It would, however, have been a singular fact if Neil McNeil were exempt from the fate of most students and had not formed at least one warm and durable friendship with a fellow student. It was at this period that Dr. McNeil and his fellow student, the late Dr. D. W. F. Chisholm, formed an acquaintance which soon developed into a lasting and intimate friendship. As a student, Dr. McNeil's choice inclined toward the mathematical studies, and under the instruction of that ripe mathematical scholar, the late Prof. Rodd, Macdonald, Mr. McNeil soon became a proficient mathematician. He taught school at Black Avon the year before he was sent to Rome, and among his pupils was a little boy, Angus Chisholm, who afterwards studied with such great distinction at Quebec, and whose brilliant career was so early cut short by death. In 1878, Neil McNeil, was sent to Rome to finish his studies. There in the College of the Propaganda he studied for six years under such distinguished scholars as Monsignor Skoll and Father Loachi, the astronomer. It is believed that his splendid record as a student in Rome had much to do with his selection as Vicar Apostolic of the West Coast. He was raised to the priesthood April 12th, 1879 in the Basilica of St. John Lateran by the late Cardinal Patrizi. After leaving Rome he spent a year at the University of Marseilles in the study of astronomy and the higher mathematics, and he returned to Nova Scotia in July, 1880. Bishop Cameron is said to have remarked to a friend upon Dr. McNeil's return that "they now had a man who could with equal facility solve a problem in higher mathematics and shoe a horse."

Dr. McNeil immediately joined the teaching staff of St. Francis Xavier's college. In 1881 he started the Aurora newspaper, which notwithstanding the multitude of his other duties, he edited with marked ability for several years. During his administration the college began a new life, and made great advances

as an educational institution. From 1880 to 1892 Dr. McNeil edited the Gasket and he has since been one of its ablest contributors. In 1892 Dr. McNeil was on account of his knowledge of the French language, and of the great interest which he took in the welfare of the Acadians, assigned to the parish of West Arichat, C. B., and afterwards to the parish of D'Escoffrey, of which he was pastor when a few weeks ago the intelligence came to him as a complete surprise that he had been appointed titular bishop of Antigonish and Vicar Apostolic of West Newfoundland. He is the first native of Cape Breton to wear the mitre, and the first of Clan McNeil. Of clean cut features, penetrating eyes and fine physique, in his youth Bishop McNeil was an expert athlete, and to day is a splendid specimen of physical vigor. One of his principle aims was the consolidation of all the Catholic colleges in the eastern provinces into one central university which should have the united support of the Catholics of eastern Canada. For some years he has endeavored to arouse an interest in the matter, and he said that he has made considerable progress in the direction of making the scheme feasible and acceptable.

Masonry in South Carolina.

The Right Rev. Dr. Northrop, Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina, U.S.A., recently informed a correspondent of the Catholic Times that, in his opinion, there is no truth whatever in the sensational accounts about devil-worship in a magnificent Masonic temple in Charleston. Bishop Northrop has lived fifty years in Charleston, is personally acquainted with all the leading Freemasons there, and has been in the Masonic hall, which in no particular answers to the description published in numbers of newspapers. His lordship considers that Catholics, who are themselves the victims of so many calumnies, should be especially careful not to spread falsehood about others; and gave The Times correspondent, who is in Liverpool, permission to publish what he said. Monsignor Quigley, the Vicar General of the diocese, also expressed his complete disbelief of the stories about devil-worship by Masons, in so far as Charleston is concerned.

Labelling the Jewels.

Father Thurston, S.J., has addressed the following letter to the editor of the Sunday Times: "Sir,—Will you kindly allow me space to contradict in the most unjust terms the statement made in your last issue about 'Loyola's' doctrine of obedience. You profess to quote words from the 'Spiritual Exercises' to the effect that when a subordinate is commanded to do something 'against his conscience revolts as a sin'; he is 'to yield his doubts to his Superior.' No such doctrine, nor anything resembling it, is to be found among the writings of St. Ignatius in any manual issued by Jesuit authority. It is true that St. Ignatius used the comparisons of the ideal body and the ideal man's staff, but his words were not intended to be taken out of context by the proviso that obedience is to be given only 'ubi peccatum non committitur'—where the conscience detects nothing sinful.

Mary Anderson's Autobiography.

Mrs. Do Navarero (Mary Anderson) has now completed the autobiography of her life, and a series of the most interesting chapters from the manuscript will be printed in the London Home Journal. In these articles Mrs. Do Navarero will tell of her first appearance on the stage, the experiences of her theatrical life, and the famous people in America and England whose acquaintance she made. The Journal will begin the autobiography in an early issue.

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