

THE CEREMONY AT WOODSTOCK.

The ceremony at Woodstock on Sunday last, of which a full report elsewhere appears, for which we stand indebted to the *Advertiser*, was, in some respects, one of the most remarkable that has ever taken place in Western Ontario. Woodstock is one of the most intensely Protestant communities in the Province. In the census of 1881 the total population was given at 5,373. The religious census then showed the following results:

Presbyterians.....	1,680
Church of England.....	1,303
Methodists.....	1,288
Baptists.....	637
Catholics.....	302

As it was then in the town so it was in the adjoining county. In the whole north riding of Oxford, exclusive of Woodstock, there were in 1881 by the official figures 505 Catholics. Yet it is in the midst of this intensely non-Catholic community that the Bishop of London, on Sunday last, in the presence of a vast concourse of people, laid and blessed the corner stone of a new \$10,000 Catholic church. Before hundreds of eager and respectful non-Catholics he spoke the truth as handed down by the Apostles and their successors, and proved to a demonstration that the Church Catholic is the very House of God, the ark of salvation, the organ of the Holy Spirit, the fold out of which there is no redemption. Of Father Pardow's sermon we can only say, that it was one overwhelmingly strong in argumentation, and irresistible in its impressiveness. A pleasing feature of the day's proceedings—and a day it was memorable in the annals of the opulent and progressive town of Woodstock—was the hearty cooperation lent Father Brady by leading Protestant gentlemen. We hope that the good feeling thus evidenced will ever endure. It will be no fault of Father Brady's if it does not, nor if Woodstock fails to become one of Canada's leading civic communities, by its generous observance of the dictates of good citizenship, of Christian forbearance and hearty good will.

THE LADIES' RETREAT.

The retreat for the ladies, of which due notice was given in our columns, began on the 30th of August, and ended on the following Saturday. Many ladies from London and elsewhere were in attendance. The preacher was the Rev. Father Pardow, S. J., who delighted his auditors by his clear, instructive and touching discourses. Impossible is it indeed to assist with sincerity at his sermons without deriving therefrom very great good. The Lady Superior and her devoted co-operators of the Sacred Heart Academy deserve the lasting gratitude of the Catholic ladies to whom they so kindly and thoughtfully afforded the unspeakable advantages of this retreat, which will long be remembered by all privileged to attend its exercises.

THE LATE FATHER ANSRO.

The st. intelligence has reached us of the death of Bell Centre, Goodhue Co., diocese of St. Paul, Minn., of the Rev. John Ansbro, pastor of that place. Father Ansbro was ordained here in 1871 and for many years labored with much zeal in this diocese. He was pastor, successively of Wyoming and Cornudas, and had been assistant at Irishtown and Stratford, in all of which places he is kindly remembered. Father Ansbro was possessed of many excellent qualities that endeared him to his people and his friends. We heartily commend him to the prayers of the clergy and faithful of London.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We beg to call the attention of our correspondent "Pilgrim" from Kempsville, to the report we elsewhere publish of the late pilgrimage from Ottawa to Ste. Anne de Beaupre, in charge of the Rev. Father Sloan.

FATHER FLANNERY'S annual picnic will take place on the 15th, at St. Thomas. This demonstration promises to be the event of the season in the prosperous southern city. Father Flannery's friends, and they are legion, will spare no effort to make the picnic a great financial success, and a social event of the most pleasing character.

ELSEWHERE will be found a full report of the installation of the Very Rev. Father Gauthier as parish priest of Brookville and Dean of the Diocese of Kingston. We beg to tender our hearty congratulations to His Lordship the Bishop on his judicious selection of a successor to Father McCarthy, and to Father Gauthier on his deserved promotion. Father McCarthy will, as the Bishop said, meet a warm welcome in Williamstown, where he is held in the highest esteem.

WE DEEPLY regret that, through sheer inadvertence, there appeared in our issue of August 28th a letter containing undue and unjust reflections on Bourget

College, Rigaud, Quebec. The letter being seemingly in the handwriting of one accustomed to send us eulogistic communications concerning this worthy institution, it was permitted to appear without that careful scrutiny it should have been subjected to. We feel that with the discerning public no injury could be done the College by this communication, to whose writer our columns will be in future rigidly closed.

THE Ottawa *Observer* some time ago admitted to its columns a villainous attack on His Grace Archbishop Duhaziel. The sub-editor of that journal—who really runs the paper—one Johnston, of Belfast, Ballykibbeg, or elsewhere in "loyal" Ulster—no friend of bishops, priests, or papists—now seeks to escape the consequences of his folly in permitting the reproduction of the article in question from the Toronto paper in which it first appeared. Its author is also seemingly perturbed, and ready to make any amount of denials and affirmations in regard thereof, but the truth is not in him, and no one will now believe him.

THE *Pilot* assures us that the people of Wales are heartily sick of the Anglican establishment, pointing out that only "one-tenth of the Welsh people adhere to Anglicanism, yet one thousand clergymen of that denomination have their livings in Wales. The same state of affairs prevails there that prevailed a few decades ago in Catholic Ireland. The Anglican parsons preach to their own families, a few Government officials, and—empty benches; while a poor and hard-working people are compelled against their conscientious convictions to pay heavy taxes for the support of these reverend idlers. We trust that Wales may follow Ireland's example, and, by a vigorous and determined effort, rid herself of the incubus of an alien church. The agitation for Home Rule in Ireland has greatly encouraged Wales to agitate for disestablishment."

ST. MARY'S, WOODSTOCK.

THE CORNER STONE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Laid and Blessed by the Right Rev. Bishop Walsh.

THE SERVICES—THE CEREMONY—THE PARTICIPANTS—EPILOGUE OF THE DAY'S DOINGS.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new Roman Catholic Church at Woodstock was solemnized yesterday in accordance with the beautiful and impressive ritual of the Catholic Church. During the day three services were held. In the morning at 10.30 high mass was solemnized in the roller rink when His Lordship Right Rev. J. Walsh, D. D., Bishop of London, preached a sermon on the subject: "The Church, the organ of the Holy Ghost." Then followed the laying of the corner stone. In the evening in the roller rink there were vespers and the benediction by the Sacred Heart choir and a lecture on "The Conversion of St. Paul" by the Rev. F. Pardow, of New York. The services throughout were largely attended. Standing room only could be found in the rink in a short time after the doors were open, and the ceremony of laying the stone was witnessed by a large and distinguished assembly, who manifested the deepest interest in this solemn ceremonial.

The steps taken by the Woodstock congregation in the erection of the new St. Mary's Church were initiated and successfully carried out by Rev. Father Brady; the resident priest. Since the movement was started that official has been untiring in his efforts, and has utilized every opportunity to raise money to forward the cause. He has succeeded well. Not only were funds raised by the people of the Catholic Church, but the popularity of Father Brady secured ready and willing assistance from the Protestants of Woodstock. Not many years ago Woodstock did not contain enough Roman Catholics to support a resident priest, and means of grace were scarce. By the efforts of Father Brady, who has been in Woodstock for the last year, the church is flourishing under the pastorate of Father Brady.

THE PARTICIPANTS. Among those who rendered their able assistance to Father Brady were: Messdames M. Furry, J. O'Neill, P. Farrell, H. Thompson, Flynn, Kindall, M. Egan, J. Lundy, L. Dunn, J. Dunn, P. Callahan, J. Slattery, B. Slattery, J. Lappin, Agrofie, J. Halse, J. Rooney, S. Frizelle, A. Johnston, Baker, J. Cummings, J. McDonald, J. McPhee, A. Morrison, E. Kerwin, J. H. Harwood.

Misses C. O'Neill, J. Thompson, M. Thompson, A. Farrell, M. Furry, B. Agrofie, C. Agrofie, B. Kendall, M. Murray, A. Murray, M. Carney, D. Carney, M. McQueen, M. Dunn, K. Dunn, J. Lyons, N. Everett, B. Mulley, M. Egan, K. Egan.

Messrs. J. F. O'Neill, M. Egan, P. Farrell, M. Furry, J. E. Thompson, Geo. O'Neill, Wm. Farrell, F. J. J. Frizelle, Bragg, Lappin, Swank, J. Howard, J. Flynn, Jas. Lappin, J. McGahan, J. J. Lundy, Wm. Baker, J. Cummings, J. McPhee, A. Morrison, E. Kerwin, Dr. Thrall, G. R. Pattullo, Jas. Brody (Ingersoll), Dr. Callahan, J. Frizelle (Ingersoll), Dr. McLaughlin.

THE CHURCH.

The edifice, designed by Mr. Durand, architect, of London, when completed will be one of the handsomest buildings in Woodstock—the town of churches. It is situated on Oxford street, between Drew street and Ingersoll avenue, one of the prettiest localities in the town. The walk from the Grand Trunk station, or from any central point of the city to the new church, leads one past a continuation

of neat residences and shady boulevards, through Vansittart avenue, Vansittart Park and Central Park. Not a great while ago Woodstock contained a very small number of Roman Catholics, but during the last few years, and especially since the body has been under the pastorate of Rev. Father Brady, they have made marked progress. The church itself is to be built of red brick, faced with white stone. The auditorium is a quadrangle, 40x80 feet; the tower at the east end is 13x13 feet and 120 feet high; the chancel and vestry at the west end is 19x23 feet. Thus the building covers 4,318 superficial feet. The height of the walls from the ground to the eaves is 27 feet including the stonework. The roof will be surmounted by a mansard slate roof. The total cost of the erection of the church, including figured stained glass windows, a suitable altar and furniture, is estimated to be from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

THE BISHOP'S SERMON.

At the morning service high mass was solemnized by Rev. Father J. P. Molphy, of Ingersoll. Rosewig's Mass in G was sung by the choir, and the sermon was preached by the Bishop from the following text:

I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Paraclete, that He may abide with you forever. The Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him, not, nor knoweth Him, but ye shall know Him, because He shall abide with you.—John xiv, 16, 17.

These words, said the Bishop, were addressed by Christ to His apostles at one of the most solemn periods of His life. The proof that He was the Son of God had been established by His living and His deeds. His death He had forecast, and at the time He addressed these words to His apostles the news that He was to come to lift and redeem a fallen world was known. He had rent the heavens, and unfolded to mankind things that all through the crypt of the past ages had been hidden. He revealed the Truth. He knew the misery and scandalization that His death would bring upon the apostles. He knew how hard it was for human nature to stand the terrors and snares of the world, and hence His parting comforting words to them. "I will ask the Father, and He will send you another Paraclete."

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desert paths of error, and placed them on the road that leads to happiness. He laid aside the cruel death of the cross, and by the shedding of His blood blotted out the handwriting of death that was against us, made full atonement for human wickedness and reconciled us to heaven. He died for our sins and rose again for our justification and ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us in the many mansions of His Father's house. It was thus our blessed Lord assumed and exercised the office of Redeemer, and this office He is to exercise for all time through the church which He established. He selected apostles, organized them into a teaching body or church which was to continue for all time the work which He had begun. This body was not yet a living organization. It was still incomplete, and lifeless as the body of Adam drawn from the slime of the earth ere yet the breath of life was breathed into it, and man became a living soul. Our Lord, however, repeatedly promised that He would send the Holy Ghost—the third person of the blessed Trinity—to complete the organization of His church, and to become its life and its soul. But this was not to be until He had ascended into heaven and enthroned His glorified humanity on the right of His Eternal Father. "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him, not, nor knoweth Him, but ye shall know Him, because He shall abide with you.—John xiv, 16, 17.

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desert paths of error, and placed them on the road that leads to happiness. He laid aside the cruel death of the cross, and by the shedding of His blood blotted out the handwriting of death that was against us, made full atonement for human wickedness and reconciled us to heaven. He died for our sins and rose again for our justification and ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us in the many mansions of His Father's house. It was thus our blessed Lord assumed and exercised the office of Redeemer, and this office He is to exercise for all time through the church which He established. He selected apostles, organized them into a teaching body or church which was to continue for all time the work which He had begun. This body was not yet a living organization. It was still incomplete, and lifeless as the body of Adam drawn from the slime of the earth ere yet the breath of life was breathed into it, and man became a living soul. Our Lord, however, repeatedly promised that He would send the Holy Ghost—the third person of the blessed Trinity—to complete the organization of His church, and to become its life and its soul. But this was not to be until He had ascended into heaven and enthroned His glorified humanity on the right of His Eternal Father. "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him, not, nor knoweth Him, but ye shall know Him, because He shall abide with you.—John xiv, 16, 17.

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