

Requiem Mass for Late Bishop Power.

TORIAL SERVICE BY HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP.

Yesterday morning at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Solemn High Mass Requiem was celebrated for the repose of the soul of the late Bishop of St. John's. The Mass was celebrated by Right Rev. Monsignor McDerby, V.C., the Deacon and Sub-Deacon being Revs. Father Pippy and Dr. McKeown, who were classmates in the College of Propaganda, of the late Bishop. Despite the inclement weather a gathering of the Clergy from the various Parishes occupied the Sanctuary. After Mass, before giving the Absolution His Grace, the Archbishop, addressed the congregation from the following text:

(Wisdom IV. 13-14).

Beloved Brethren: I cannot allow this ceremony to be without paying at least a brief tribute, however inadequate, however worthy, to the revered memory of the late Bishop of St. John's for whose repose of soul we are offering up this Memorial Mass to-day. Just a month ago since the tragic and unexpected news of the young Bishop's premature death threw a gloom over the whole Church of Newfoundland. Occurring, as it did, in the very depth of this very severe winter, it was impossible for the many friends of the late Bishop who would otherwise have attended, to be present at the Requiem at St. George's, where the funeral took place. It was, indeed, a fitting and becoming tribute to the late Bishop's last resting place, and to the shadow of the Altar of his Cathedral Church. I know whether he gave expression to his wishes in this respect before his death, but I feel that it would be the earnest wish of his people, who loved and served so well. His people, indeed, and bereaved relatives, who listened to the promptings of their own hearts, to the voice of nature and affection, would have preferred that his body should rest near his kinsfolk in St. John's. In a spirit, however, of the self-renunciation they recognized, the deceased Prelate would have them to recognize, that the first claim stronger and more than any claim of nature—was the claim of the faithful people, whom he lived and laboured for the years of his Priestly and Episcopate. But though in St. John's he lived and laboured in life, though St. George's rightly claimed him in death, still St. John's is the place of his birth, in St. John's the hosts of friends, St. John's is the home of his grief-stricken family, who goes forth the warmest sympathy of our hearts to-day, in St. John's Cathedral, he received the grace of Episcopal Consecration. Therefore, equally fitting that should honour his memory by having this Memorial Mass in our Cathedral to-day.

Personally it is a sad and melancholy privilege to pay tribute to the memory of a colleague in the Episcopate and a personal friend, and

to express, however feebly, on behalf of the Church of Newfoundland our deep and profound sense of the loss we have sustained in the passing of the young and gifted Bishop of the West. I trust I may be allowed to say that outside the circle of his own immediate friends, few, if any, can speak with greater knowledge of the late Bishop than I can. Having known him intimately for more than thirty years, I had exceptional opportunities of knowing and appreciating the beauty of his character, the many excellent qualities of head and heart which he possessed. Simple, humble, retiring, unselfish, unassuming, self-effacing, his gentle character never changed in all the years that I knew him. As he was a student in College, so he was as an ecclesiastic in the Seminary, so he was as a Priest on the Mission and as a Bishop gently but firmly ruling his Diocese. Though as a student in St. Bonaventure's College and later in the neighbouring University of Antigonish and later still within the Halls of Propaganda—that world-famed Institution and prolific Mother of distinguished Churchmen the world over—the young student and future Bishop displayed those intellectual attainments, that culture of mind, that poetry of soul, of which he gave so many evidences afterwards in his beautiful sermons, pastorals and addresses, still it was not merely his intellectual brilliancy that won for him the high reputation he enjoyed amongst his contemporaries, particularly in his mature student days in Rome. It was rather the simplicity, the sincerity, the earnestness of his character, the affability of his manner, the charm of his personality together with the evidences he gave of soundness of judgment, of powers of leadership, of administrative ability that marked him out indisputably for ecclesiastical promotion later. When only a little more than five years after his Ordination the name of the young Missionary Priest of Fortune Bay was submitted to the Holy See in connection with the vacant Diocese of St. George's, it was his high record at the Propaganda, that was undoubtedly the determining factor in his selection. His appointment to Episcopal office at the comparatively early age of thirty-five, after only five years' Missionary experience, and that experience of a limited nature, was almost without precedent in the nomination of a Bishop. We who have watched his career since, those of us particularly who have been associated with him in matters of Church administration, have reason to know how sound was the judgment of the Holy See in his appointment and how amply was the wisdom of his selection justified. For nearly nine years he ruled with conspicuous ability and success the Diocese of St. George's in West Newfoundland. In every part of his extensive Diocese, Schools, Convents, Presbyteries, enduring monuments to his Episcopal zeal and lasting evidence of the progressive spirit of his Episcopate. During the years of his all too brief Episcopate he was ever an earnest worker. In West Newfoundland Missionary conditions are vastly different from those that obtain in the East. They are more difficult, more strenuous, more severe, more trying, and the Bishop of St. George's by reason of his large territory and the small num-

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ber of Priests has only too frequently to do the arduous work of an ordinary Missionary Priest. The late Bishop was a Missionary in the truest sense of the word. He was ever ready to respond to the needs of his people, ever ready to hasten to them in sickness or in trouble, ever ready, in a word, after the example of the Apostle "to spend himself and be spent" in the loving service of his loving flock. Moreover, during the greater part of his Episcopate he was fighting against ill-health, struggling with a shattered constitution, although he would never admit he was unequal to his work, until finally the strain became too great, the weak frame could stand no more, and he succumbed, a martyr to his Priestly and Episcopal zeal.

It is little for me to say this morning that his death comes as a staggering blow to our Church in Newfoundland—how severe, how disastrous, can be known by none better than by his colleagues in the Episcopate. We had fondly hoped and believed that for many years to come the brilliant talents, the warm enthusiasm, the dynamic energy, the wide knowledge of local conditions of the young Bishop would have been at the service of his Church in this country. He was keenly interested in all that made for the progress and advancement of his Church and country. He had unbounded faith in the future of Newfoundland, particularly the West, and few Bishops ever manifested deeper interest in the material well-being of their people than did the late Bishop of St. George's. He was always thinking for his people, ever seeking to uplift them, ever endeavoring to open up new avenues of improvement and advancement in matters spiritual and material. It is little wonder, then, that all throughout his Diocese he was looked up to and revered as a trusted leader, he was loved as a father and a friend.

In the general public life of the Colony the Bishop had a deep and abiding interest, and his judgment on all important issues was mature and sound. How highly he was esteemed throughout the country generally was shown by the many messages of sympathy that poured in from all sides on the occasion of his death. The universal sentiment of all, irrespective of class or creed, was that by his death not alone had the Catholic Church lost a brilliant and progressive young Prelate, but that Newfoundland had lost an able and prominent citizen who had at heart the best interests of his native land. His sudden passing in what should have been the prime and vigour of his manhood, with his powers just arriving at maturity, his life work scarcely begun, is surely one of those mysterious dispensations of Divine Providence which we may not hope to understand. It is surely a striking illustration of the truth of the words of the Apostle, "Oh! how incomprehensible are Thy judgments, O God, how unsearchable Thy ways." It only remains for us, then, to bow in humble submission, in a spirit of reverent faith, to the inscrutable decrees of that over-ruling Providence which, no matter how things may seem to us, ever sweetly and wisely ordains all things for the best. It but remains for us to commend to the Divine Mercy the saintly spirit of the deceased Bishop and to send forth our supplications to the Throne of Grace that he may receive the rich reward of his life's labour faithfully fulfilled; the reward of the good and faithful servant who employed to the best advantage the talents given him by the Master; the reward of the laborer who "bore the burden of the day and the heat" in assiduously cultivating the portion of the Lord's Vineyard committed to him; the reward, in fine, of the Good Shepherd and Pastor of souls who jealously guarded and diligently watched over the little flock entrusted to his pastoral care.

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