

**CELEBRATION OF THE BISHOP'S SILVER JUBILEE.**

On Wednesday last His Lordship the Bishop celebrated his Silver Jubilee of priesthood and twelfth anniversary of his consecration. In looking back over the career of our distinguished Bishop, we find many things which must be a source of consolation to His Lordship and a reason for joy to his devoted priests and beloved people. The Canada of twenty-five years ago was far different from what it is to-day, and the Catholic Church of this Province of Ontario, then in its infancy, has during these years made the gigantic strides that have brought it to its present advanced state. Our Right Rev. Bishop during these years has occupied a prominent position in the ecclesiastical history of this Province, and he cannot but look back with pleasure on his useful career spent in the service of God and His Holy Church.

When he was first ordained the diocese of Toronto comprised the present Archdiocese, together with that of Hamilton, London and the Vicariate of Northern Canada. There were but few churches, and a small number of priests to "break the bread of life" to the people scattered over this vast tract of country. His Lordship commenced his priestly career in a distant and scattered mission, obliged to put up with the very insufficient accommodation he could procure. Several townships were under his spiritual guidance and many of the poor people living a great distance from the centre of the mission can still recall the great labor and fatigue that must have been endured by the faithful priest, who looked after their wants with a truly paternal solicitude. Called afterwards to many positions requiring energy and true courage, we find his career marked by heroic self-denial, his actions guided by a matured judgment until the Holy See recognizing his ability called him to the government of the diocese of London. The state of the Church to-day, compared with that of twelve years ago, amply bears witness to the prudence and judgment of his administration, while the incidents attending the celebration of his Silver Jubilee marked at once the ever increasing esteem and affection of his priests. On Wednesday all the priests of the diocese who could come were here to congratulate His Lordship, whilst the presence of the venerable Bishop of Hamilton, and the principal clergymen of the neighboring dioceses, shows that not to London alone, is the love for our Right Rev. Bishop confined.

At 2 o'clock the visitors descended to the spacious dining room of the Palace, where a sumptuous repast awaited them. His Lordship presided, having on his right the Right Rev. Bishop of Hamilton, and Father Brettagh, of the diocese of Kingston, and on his left, Very Rev. Father Proulx and the Very Rev. Father Rooney, Administrator of the Archdiocese of Toronto. Amongst those at table, besides the household of His Lordship, we noticed from the Diocese of Hamilton, His Lordship Bishop Crimmon, Rev. Fathers Lemmon, O'Connell and Corcoran. From the Archdiocese of Toronto, Very Rev. Administrator Rooney, V. G., Very Rev. Dean Proulx, V. R., C. Vincent, V. G., Pres. St. Michael's, and Rev. Father McCann, Kingston. Rev. Fathers Brettagh and Brennan. From Ottawa, Rev. Father Coffey. Very Rev. D. O'Connell, President Assumption College, and Rev. Father Williams, O. S. F., of Chatham. From the Diocese of London, Very Rev. Deans Murphy and Wagner. Very Rev. Dr. Kilroy. Rev. Fathers Boulat, Flannery, Bayard, Gerard, Duprat, Andrieux, Villeneuve, Japes, Ouellette, O'Shea, P. Ryan, Brennan, O'Neil, Gahan, Watties, Ambrose, Corcoran, Kelly, Molphy, Ryan, Connolly, Carlin, West, Roman, O'Keefe and Moran. After the cloth had been removed Very Rev. Dean Murphy arose and read the following address to His Lordship:

To the Right Rev. John Walsh, Bishop of London.

My Lord,—We, the priests of your Diocese, hail with delight the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of your elevation to the sacerdotal dignity.

In union with the Bishops and dignitaries of other Dioceses, who are gathered here to do you honor; in union with the numerous bodies of the laity all over the Province who send to your Lordship their felicitations; and in concert with the Religious of different communities to whom you have been for so long a time a kind father, a wise counsellor, and prudent director,—I, the priests of your Diocese, (on the greater number of whom you conferred the honorable log-chaplaincy, and all, proud and joyous to claim you specially as our own Bishop and Father, endeavored to us as you are by the sacred ties of paternity and disinterested devotion to our welfare.

We wish on this occasion of your Silver Jubilee to speak the things we have seen and heard; even though we feel you would much prefer our silence—for your dignified timidity on more than one important and trying occasion, and the exalted position which your personal and

official character as our representative has given to our Holy Faith in Western Ontario, demand it of us.

While spending yourself in the visitation of our scattered missions, encouraging our humble but earnest efforts to advance the Religious and Educational interests of the people confided to our care, you have ever been to us a model at the altar and in the pulpit.

The Priests of the Archdiocese of Toronto, so well and so honorably represented here to-day, remember how you labored in word and work while in their midst. Your generous hospitality, the kind welcome you had for all, the paternal counsel and serious advice you knew so well how to intermingle with friendly intercourse, are still treasured up amongst their happiest recollections.

The Parish of St. Mary's in the city of Toronto, though now governed by the wisdom of an excellent and able successor, will not for many years to come forget the influence of your Apostolic zeal and fervid eloquence.

But we, My Lord, have known you in your Episcopacy, and can testify to the supreme wisdom of the Holy See in the choice of a Chief Pastor. Our relations have been of the most intimate. Indeed, it may be said of the priests of this diocese; (what is peculiar to the blessed Spirit above), there is no dissension here, no rivalry except for good work, no mine and thine—but all are united in the constant love and preventing will of Him who governs or rather who guides. We, therefore, My Lord, while expressing our heartfelt wishes for your welfare, and paying due homage to the virtues and talents we so prize in, desire to mark this occasion of your Silver Jubilee by a solemn Act of Thanksgiving for the many benefits your zeal and prudence have conferred upon this diocese—for the singular proofs of love and devotedness you have given to every one of us, your faithful and much attached priests, who all with one voice and one heart, here to-day, pray for many more years of usefulness, prosperity and happiness to our much-loved and venerated Bishop. As an earnest of our sincerity, and in testimony of our deep and lasting gratitude, we hereby offer for His Lordship's acceptance, a complete set of the Writings of the Holy Fathers, while recommending ourselves to Your Lordship's prayers, and begging the favor of your Episcopal blessing.

On the conclusion of the address His Lordship replied as follows:

My Lord, Very Rev. and Rev. Gentlemen,—

I am sincerely thankful to His Lordship the Bishop of Hamilton, and to the clergy of the neighboring dioceses who are our guests, for honoring us with their presence here to-day. His Lordship was once a venerated priest of this diocese and he is always welcome to London. I had the honor of belonging for years to the clergy of the Archdiocese of Toronto and need hardly say that those friends and comrades of mine, who have been so long and so faithfully with me, are to me, for they show you possessed of the great ecclesiastical virtue of dutiful homage to, and veneration for, the sacred office of the Episcopate which I so unworthily fill. Would that I could honestly appropriate all the good things you say of me, for then I would be less unworthy of your esteem and affection. However, your words should, at all events, have the effect of urging me to do all in my power to acquire all the virtues and good qualities with which your friendship would fain see me adorned and enriched. The works of the Holy Fathers, your splendid and munificent gift, will always be valued by me for their own sake as well as because they will ever remind me of your attachment. These immortal works of the Fathers are the consolation and encouragement of the Catholic priesthood. Their pages teach the great sacerdotal virtues that shone conspicuous in the lives of their authors, that steadfast devotion to duty in the midst of the most formidable difficulties, that distinguished them, that loyal fidelity to the Church which, in them, not rarely, went even to the shedding of their blood—all these things, and more the Fathers teach, whilst with a marvellous unison, like the scattered echoes of one voice, they proclaim in their respective ages the great Christian truths which the Catholic Church, and she alone, holds today in their integrity and purity. We are the heirs of the Fathers, we hold their heritage, and that heritage is at once "the Church of the Fathers and the home of the children."

You congratulate me on the twenty-fifth anniversary of my ordination to the holy priesthood. Would that these previous years had been more profitably spent. Twenty-five years are but a week of time in the life of the immortal Church, but they are a great deal in the life of an individual, spanning, as they do, the golden vale of his existence. In looking back through those vanished years, whilst there are many things in the retrospect to trouble the individual conscience for duties omitted or imperfectly performed, yet are there many things also calculated to comfort and encourage. Within that period, short as it is, the progress of the Church in Ontario has been very great indeed. There are nearly as many priests in one diocese now as there were twenty-five years ago in the four dioceses and the Vicariate Apostolic that constitute the ecclesiastical province of Ontario. There were vast districts then without priest or church. Children grew up without religious instruction, and many of them were in consequence lost to the faith. The little ones of Christ were famishing for the bread of life, and there was no consecrated hand to break it unto them. The holy sacrifice of the Mass, the great central act of Christian worship, for which the most glorious structure that ever was designed by human genius, and raised by human hands is too unworthy, was offered up at distant intervals in the smoky cabin or the humble log-chapel. Now this sad state of things has utterly disappeared and instead we behold the church and her institutions in a hopeful and flourishing condition. The number of priests has, as I have already said, been greatly increased, new missions have been



RIGHT REV. JOHN WALSH, D.D., BISHOP OF LONDON.

established, churches and presbyteries have been built in sufficient numbers to supply our most urgent wants. The Separate School system greatly amended is being worked with efficiency and with beneficial results; there are a sufficient number of colleges and conventual academies for higher education, whilst the orphans and the aged poor are provided for in institutions established for the purpose.

To the holy bishops and zealous priests, some of whom have passed to their reward and others of whom still remain to edify us by their example, this happy state of things is, under God, mainly due. They bore the burden of the day and the heat; they sowed in tears that we might reap in joy; "sowing they went and wept, casting their seeds, but we, coming, with joyfulness carry the sheaves." (Psalms cxxv. 6 versos). It is for us to take up the great work they began, and as far as in us lies to carry it to a successful issue. Canada is a free and happy country; no penal law has ever soiled the virgin pages of its statute book; no state trammeled hamper the action and dog the activity of the Church. Here the bride of Christ may walk forth in all her majesty and loveliness like unto the spouse of the canticles coming up from the desert, like the morning rising, and fragrant with perfumes of sweetest odour. Here there is open to the divine energies and zeal of the Church a field of labor fair and free as that on which the eyes of the patriarch rested when about to separate from Lot. Great, then, are our opportunities, and great also our responsibilities. May we not be wanting to them. Such are the thoughts that are uppermost in my mind to-day, and to which I have thus ventured to give expression. I thank you once again for your extreme kindness, and I humbly pray that the blessing of our heavenly Father may descend upon you and abide with you always.

Before concluding His Lordship referred to the presence of His Lordship Bishop Crimmon, and in glowing terms proposed his health and the health of the priests of the diocese of Hamilton. The Bishop replied in a few well chosen remarks, in which he referred to his long acquaintance with His Lordship, commencing in 1851, and continuing and strengthening to the present time. His Lordship referred also to the first arrival of Bishop Walsh in the diocese, and paid a glowing tribute to the zeal of the Bishop of Hamilton, and he could not forget his old friends of the clergy of whom he was, and whom he had known so long and so favorably. In the progress which the church had made in Ontario, we must not forget the self-sacrificing priests who in season and out of season were ever to be found engaged in the Master's work. To them is due in great measure the grand evidences that we see on every side of us, of the great progress of the church; and he could not allow the occasion to pass without congratulating them and wishing them every blessing which their exalted and trying position required.

His Lordship the Bishop of Hamilton having concluded his remarks, which were received with sincere applause by all present, Monsignor Breton, Vicar-General of London, rose up and said:—We deeply regret the absence from our midst of one whose presence would greatly enhance this solemn occasion, the illustrious Archbishop of Toronto, whose return to his flock is hourly expected. Of the wonderful works already accomplished by His Grace, Mr. Lynch, for the welfare of the Archdiocese, it is not my province to speak here. Suffice it to say that his extraordinary success for the good of religion and Christian education, place him among the first prelates of Canada. But if we have not the pleasure of seeing him in our midst on this happy occasion, I will not hesitate to say that he is well represented by his worthy Vice-General and Administrator, the Very Rev. Father Rooney, and the other clergymen of the Archdiocese, who are present before us. To all of them I will say: you are heartily welcome, gentlemen. Our solemnity would have been incomplete without you. I beg to offer you in the name of the clergy of this diocese, our warmest wishes. Whilst we are engaged in the pleasing duty of giving honor to whom honor is due, I may be permitted to mention, on this solemn occasion, the name of one who has deep and lasting claims to the gratitude and sympathy of the Catholic Church in Canada, the name of one personally known to many of us, the second and never-to-be-forgotten Missionary Bishop of Toronto, the immortal Monsignor De Charbonnel. To him the church in this Province is indebted for the invaluable blessing we enjoy of having Separate Schools. By his untiring and persevering efforts, he secured a law, which, though still imperfect, is nevertheless a great boon, and as such has

been productive of a great deal of good. Having by superhuman exertion liquidated the enormous debt which weighed on his cathedral, this distinguished prelate set about one of the grandest works of his Episcopate. With the assent of the Holy See he divided the portion of the vineyard assigned to him into three dioceses, all of which were confided to the charge of zealous pastors. This disinterested measure on his part was intended to multiply missionaries, churches and institutions for the education of Catholic youth. We all know how these happy results have been accomplished. They have just been eloquently described by the distinguished bishop of this diocese. To crown the work of his apostolic life in Canada, Monsignor De Charbonnel, some years since, descended from his episcopal throne in Toronto to put proof that they are the objects of constant and untiring care on the part of the devoted hand, who so well merit the success with which their efforts were crowned on Wednesday evening.

**LOCAL NEWS.**

M. C. M. WINDSOR.—Your lines, though evincing considerable talent, are scarcely up to the standard for publication. Would be glad to hear from your good parish in prose, when anything worthy of note transpires.

NARROW ESCAPE.—While a young man named Elliott was assisting in the workmen to unload a large block of stone at the new Ontario Bank building, in the Market Lane, on Monday, a scuffling gave way, and allowed the stone to fall through the planks to the cellar below. Elliott was carried with it, but miraculously escaped with a few scratches and bruises.

THE CITY INVOLVED IN A SUIT.—A writ has been served on the City Clerk by Mr. E. W. Harris, attorney for Alex. Harvey, for \$1,488.09, with interest, amounting in all to \$1,725, being the amount of his account against the city for street watering last year, which the city have declined to pay. The writ is returnable in the Court of Common Pleas.

A GOOD OBJECT.—Now that the winter season is upon us, we should not forget the claims of the needy poor on our charity. St. Mary's parish is blessed with a branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the work of which is carried on by a number of earnest and energetic Catholics in the most commendable manner. The society purposes having a lecture in the church on Sunday evening 23rd instant, to be delivered by Father O'Mahony, the proceeds to be applied for the relief of the poor under the care of the Sacred Heart Conference connected with St. Mary's church. We hope to see a very large attendance. The lecture will doubtless be one of Father O'Mahony's best efforts, and in addition the object is a most praiseworthy one.

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—The following item from *Paddy's*, an influential English journal, regarding our popular Great Western, will be duly appreciated by the travelling public in Canada. All who have had an opportunity of travelling on this line will freely admit that the annexed is the simple truth:—"To properly conduct the local Canadian business, having regard to the enormous length of these lines, a staff and equipment are requisite, both of them quite competent for the 'through' business. It is a legitimate object, therefore, with both roads to secure the American tariff. Of the two, the Great Western is incomparably the best, and the best worked and managed. The road-bed is in excellent order, and travellers concur in the opinion that on no line in America do trains run with similar speed, punctuality and freedom from accident."



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Ottawa, 7th Nov., 1879.

**DIED.**  
On Oct. 30th, at his residence, Caledonia, Mr. William Taylor, in the 28th year of his age, much and deservedly regretted by all who knew him. R. I. P.

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