

CONSECRATION OF HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP MACDONELL.

THE OWL, some weeks ago, announced the appointment of Rt. Rev. Alexander Macdonell, an alumnus of the University, to the office of first Bishop of the new See of Alexandria. In this issue, we offer our readers an account of the interesting ceremony of consecration, with a portrait of His Lordship.

The Church requires the consecration to be held on a Sunday or on the feast of an Apostle, and, accordingly, the feast of SS. Simon and Jude, October 28th, was set apart for this event. Appropriate ceremonies accompany the administration of the sacraments in the Catholic Church; ceremonies, which are not empty forms but are used to signify and explain the effects of the sacraments, and to inspire the faithful with reverence for them, the institutions of our divine Saviour. The bishops being the direct successors of the Apostles, and vested with the plenitude of their power, the Roman Ritual prescribes for their investiture ceremonies of majestic character. The grandeur of a bishop's consecration can be known only to those who have witnessed it, and who are members of the Church whose every rite is an appeal to the heart, to elevate and unite us with God, to whom all honour and reverence are referred.

The bishops and most of the clergy arrived in Alexandria the previous evening. At the depot they were received by a delegation of citizens, with carriages, and, headed by a brass band, moved in procession to the Bishop's Palace. The town was brilliantly illuminated, and a cordial reception given the visitors. The citizens of Alexandria extended genuine Highland hospitality to their Reverend guests, placing their residences at their disposal.

Long before the service, the people flocked to the Cathedral, packing it to the doors. Fully three thousand persons were present, while hundreds were unable to gain admission. Elaborate decorations had been prepared. Adorning the church were various national flags, while from the tower above floated joyfully the Papal colors. The interior of the sacred edifice was tastefully decorated with flags, evergreens and bunting, arrayed in pleasing designs on the walls and pillars.

At ten o'clock, a procession of bishops and priests entered the Cathedral from the Palace, and marched solemnly up the grand aisle, the band in the gallery playing a triumphal march. After a few minutes adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament, the clergy retired to their respective places, and the bishops vested for the service, which lasted fully three hours. His Grace Archbishop Cleary was the consecrator, assisted by their Lordships Bishop O'Connor, of Peterboro', and Bishop Lorrain, of Pembroke. There were present His Grace Archbishop Walsh, of Toronto, their Lordships Bishop O'Farrell, Trenton, N.J., Bishop O'Connor, of London, and Bishop Dowling, of Hamilton; Rev. Canon Campeau, administrator of the arch-diocese of Ottawa, and Rev. Father Brutchesi, representing His Grace Archbishop Fabre, of Montreal; Very Rev. Vicars-General Laurent, Rooney, Browne; Rev. Monsignor Farrelly, of Belleville; Rev. Canons McCarthy and Foley; Rev. J. M. McGuckin, O.M.I., Rector of Ottawa University, and Rev. Father Joly, C.S.V., Pies. of Bourget College, Rigaud; Rev. Deans Gauthier and O'Connor, Rev. Dr. Dawson, Ottawa, Rev. Fathers Dowd and Callaghan, Montreal, Rev. Father Tortel, O.M.I., Lowell, Mass., and about eighty of the clergy of the neighboring dioceses.

It was, indeed, a magnificent spectacle to behold in the sanctuary the consecrating bishops vested in red and gold, the bishop-elect in white and cloth of gold, and the other bishops clothed in purple, behind them the altars gorgeously adorned, while, without the rail, were ranged the remaining clergy, in white and black, and the body of the church thronged to the doors with an attentive congregation.

The ceremony proceeded, too long here to detail, and the mass ended, the new bishop solemnly gave the Episcopal Benediction, and was conducted to the throne in his former parochial church, now St. Finnan's Cathedral, and there installed as Bishop, in presence of his faithful flock, from whose loving hearts rose fervent prayers to God for the happiness and prosperity of the first Bishop of Alexandria. The Te Deum was then intoned, and while the clergy chanted this beautiful hymn of praise and thanksgiving, the newly-made bishop with his assistants,