

The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

Reddite quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22: 21.

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INCIDENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE CATHEDRAL.

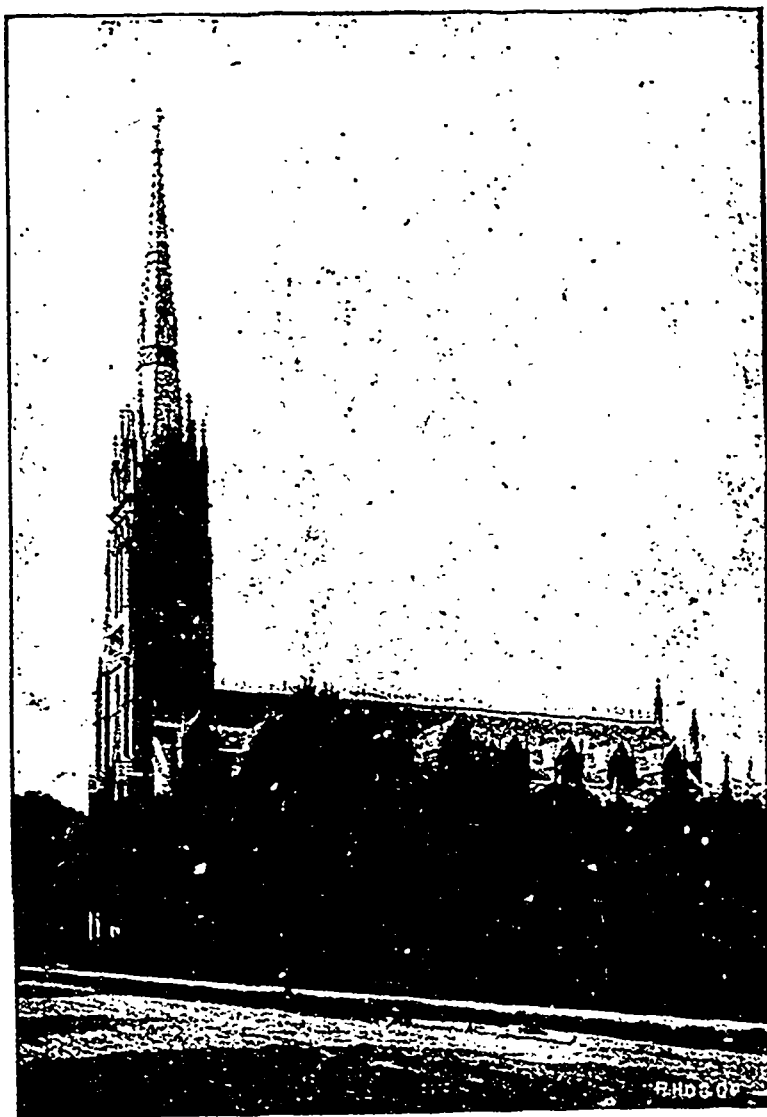
For nearly fifty years St. Michael's Cathedral has been the centre of Catholicity of this diocese. When Bishop Power came here, in 1842, as the first occupant of the See, the old church of St. Paul, on Power St., was the only Catholic religious edifice in the city and Bishop Power saw at once that it was not only inadequate to the spiritual wants of his people but also unfitted for the purposes of a Cathedral. He accordingly looked about him for a suitable site on which to build, and ere long the imposing form of St. Michael's rose from the soil. The good Bishop did not live, however, to see it completed, his life being sacrificed in administering spiritual consolation to the sick and dying, during the terrible ship fever of 1847. But on the advent of his successor, the great Bishop de Charbonnell, but recently called to his reward, the work was renewed, and carried to a successful issue. He built the spire and adorned the church with the great east window, the work of the artist Thevenot, which he brought from France, and paid for out of his own private means. During his time too, was put in place the tablet to the memory of Bishop Power. In 1860 Bishop de Charbonnell resigned his See into the hands of his coadjutor, Mgr. Lynch, and retired to France. Under Bishop Lynch, afterwards Archbishop Lynch, the diocese grew and flourished. For upwards of a quarter of a century he ruled the diocese to the glory of God and the advancement of religion and at length full of years laid down his cross and went to his reward. He made many improvements in the Cathedral and its surroundings, notable among which were the elaborate and effectual system of heating, the handsome iron fence surrounding the building and the great organ still in use. It remained, however, for the present Archbishop to bring the Cathedral into the condition in which we see it to-day, with its dormer windows and beautiful interior decorations, making it one of the handsomest and most imposing religious edifices in Canada.

St. Michael's Cathedral has been the scene of many notable events. Rapidly glancing over the half century (nearly) of its history—a respectable antiquity in this new Province—a few of the more important may be enumerated. First in order is the first Diocesan Synod held under Bishop Power, followed by a retreat conducted by a Jesuit Father. Then came Bishop

Power's death and funeral services. The circumstances of his death are well known and need not be recounted here. Suffice it to say that he laid down his life for his flock. It is worthy of remembrance that on the day of his burial the shop fronts of many of his Protestant fellow-citizens were closed out of respect for his memory. Toronto has so much the reputation (not unjustly it must be said) of intolerance towards Catholics, that an event of this kind should be remembered to its credit with pleasure and gratification.

The installation of Bishop de Charbonnell did not take place until about three years after Bishop Power's death. In the interregnum Father John Carroll, who died in Chicago a few years ago, the oldest priest in America, was administrator. Father Carroll was related in some way to Most Rev. John Carroll, first Archbishop of Baltimore, and to the celebrated Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. But this is a digression. The next important event that occurs to me is the consecration of Rev. John J. Lynch, C. M. in the year 1859 as coadjutor Bishop of Toronto. In the following year he came into full possession of the See on the retirement of Bishop de Charbonnell. The reception accorded to Bishop Lynch on returning home from his first visit *ad limina* to home will be remembered by the older people, and also the reception and ceremonies commemorative of his silver jubilee in 1884. The reception occurred in December of that year on his return from the Plenary council at Baltimore, when he was accompanied by many of the prelates who had taken part in the deliberations of that assembly. So many bishops had never before assembled within the walls of the cathedral, and their presence testified in a striking manner to the high appreciation in which Archbishop Lynch was held by his brethren in the epis-

copate. The preacher on that occasion was the celebrated Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia. But to go back some years, an event worthy of remark was the requiem Mass celebrated in St. Michael's Cathedral on the death of the late Cardinal Wiseman. Bishop Lynch was present, and if we mistake not the celebrant was our present Archbishop, then Father Walsh. Rapidly scanning succeeding years, we note the first coming of a member of the Sacred College to Toronto, His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau, on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the new church of St. Paul, then the death and burial of Archbishop Lynch, and the installation of our present Archbishop



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL, TORONTO.