

# 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.

Vol. I.

Toronto, Saturday, Oct. 8, 1887

No. 34.



HIS EMINENCE ELZEAR ALEXANDRE, CARDINAL TASCHEREAU,  
ARCHBISHOP OF QUEBEC.

Never did Lower Canada receive news more welcome than that announcing the elevation to the Cardinalate of the Most Rev. Elzéar Alexander Taschereau, Archbishop of Quebec.

Born at Ste. Marie de la Beauce, February 17th, 1820, his Eminence is a descendant of a most illustrious family. His father, the Hon. Thomas Taschereau, was a prominent member of the Old Lower Canadian Assembly, and one of the signers of the celebrated ninety-two resolutions with Papineau. His mother also belonged to a prominent and patriotic family, the Panets.

Having made his studies in Quebec, young Taschereau visited Rome, where he received the ecclesiastical tonsure, and on his return home was ordained priest at Quebec, September 10th, 1842. He at once entered upon the duties of his sacred office and proved both faithful and zealous. In 1848 his noble spirit of self sacrifice brought him to death's door, for having generously devoted himself to the service of the hospitals at Grosse Isle, where numbers of poor Irish emigrants lay sick and dying of an aggravated form of typhus fever, to which he nearly fell a victim. In 1849 he was made professor in the Seminary of Quebec, and a year later director and superior of the Grand Seminary. In 1851 he was appointed assistant rector of Laval University, and the following year became rector of the institution and vicar-general. In 1854 he went to Rome as bearer to the Holy Father of the decrees of the Second Provincial Council of Quebec, at which time he received the degree of doctor of canon law. In 1871 he was charged by the Pope to carry from Rome to Canada the bulls authorizing his own consecration as bishop *in partibus* and coadjutor with the right of succession to Archbishop Baillargeon, and on the death of the latter

Mgr. Taschereau was consecrated Archbishop, March 19, 1871, by His Grace the Most Rev. Archbishop Lynch, of Toronto.

His Eminence is the last survivor of the priests who signed the petition for the royal charter for Laval University, and has been identified with the progress of that institution ever since 1865, when he was sent to Rome, with the late Monsignor Horan, Bishop of Kingston, to defend its interests there. It was at Archbishop Taschereau's instance that the lamented Bishop Conroy went to Canada as Apostolic Alegate. On Monsignor Conroy's death, Monsignor Smeulders was deputed by the Pope to finish the work left uncompleted by his predecessor. The Laval troubles were ended and its future prosperity secured. In 1874 Monsignor Taschereau presided over the bicentenary of the foundation of the See of Quebec, on which occasion there were present Archbishops and Bishops from several dioceses in Canada and the United States, detached from the old diocese of Quebec, which at one time extended to the Rocky Mountains and the Gulf of Mexico.

Under an apparent severity of manner and extreme dignity His Eminence conceals a kind and sympathetic heart, as a pastor he is in every way faithful, and as a theologian is noted for his learning and wisdom.

The news of his elevation to the Cardinalate was received with great joy by Catholics throughout North America. In Quebec flags and bunting were displayed from the Parliament Buildings, the citadel, and the residences of the judges and officials of the Province. Bands paraded the streets, and at night many buildings were illuminated. The Legislature passed a congratulatory address, and Catholic and Protestant united in doing honour to one who has brought honour and happiness to the Province.