

the history of the diocese in the half century just closed. That history is very fully told in the handsome Memorial Volume just issued from the press and which should find its way into every Catholic family in the diocese. But in commemoration of so important an event it is fitting that the story of our first Bishop's life should be briefly sketched in the columns of the Review.



RIGHT REV. MICHAEL POWER, D.D.,
First Bishop of Toronto—1842—1847.

Right Rev. Michael Power was born on Oct. 17th, 1804, in the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was consequently in his thirty-eighth year when he became Bishop of Toronto. When only twelve years of age he was sent to the Sulpician Seminary at Montreal to pursue his studies, and later, in the same institution, he began his theological training. He also studied for sometime in the Seminary of Quebec, and on the completion of his course was ordained priest at Montreal by Bishop Dubois of New York, on Aug. 17th, 1827. He at once went on the missions in Lower Canada being stationed successively at Drummondville, St. Martine and Laprairie. On assuming control of the latter parish he was made Vicar-General of the diocese of Mont-



Right Rev. Armand Francis Marie, Count de Charbonnel,
Second Bishop of Toronto—1850—1859.

real, a distinction which his piety, learning, and extraordinary zeal had earned for him. Father Power remained at Laprairie for three years, when he was appointed Bishop of Toronto.

Though Dr. Power's career as Bishop of Toronto covered a period of only five years, he has left an enduring reputation in our midst. He was a prelate of great vigor and capacity, and set on foot many noble works, which, though he did not live to see their full fruition, yet, even in his life time, produced

good results. He it was who projected and began the construction of St. Michael's Cathedral. He built St. Michael's Palace, and brought the first religious community (the Sisters of Loretto) to Toronto. He also brought the Jesuit Fathers into the diocese, and projected (though he did not live to carry out the work) Assumption College, Sandwich. He re-established the Indian Missions, and personally went amongst them to inspire and encourage the missionaries whom he placed in charge. He held the first Synod and formulated the Constitutions of the Diocese, and at the same time consecrated it to the Sacred Heart. He established the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the devotion of the Way of the Cross in Toronto, and in innumerable other ways fostered the faith and the piety of his people. But if in his life he, by unremitting attention to the spiritual and temporal interests of his flock, endeared himself to them, it remained for his death, and the manner of it, to set a seal upon his life's work and forever to enshrine his memory in their hearts. The story is briefly told. In the years 1846 and 1847 Ireland passed through the throes of famine and pestilence, and the landlords of Ireland, not relishing the task of providing in their extremity for those who had been impoverished by their tyranny and extortion, unceremoniously dumped the people by the thousand on the inhospitable shores of America. Owing to the stringent quarantine regulations of the United States Canada received the bulk of the unfortunates, and at Grosse Isle, Point St. Charles, Montreal, Toronto and other centres in the Dominion the plague-stricken people perished by the thousand. The misery which they everywhere presented, however, touched the



MOST REV. JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH, D.D.,

Third Bishop and First Archbishop of Toronto—1859—1888.

hearts of the Canadian people, and every effort was made to befriend them. The Catholic clergy, true to the spirit of their vocation, worked like heroes to comfort and console the last moments of the dying, and in Toronto the Bishop joined hand in hand with his priests in the great work of mercy. One by one his priests succumbed to fatigue or to the dread disease, and then when the Bishop stood alone a call came at midnight that a poor woman lay dying at the immigrant sheds, and asked for spiritual succor. The saintly prelate responded to the call, comforted the departing soul, but in the doing of it, himself contracted the fever and within a few days had ceased to live. Such was the heroic death of Bishop Power, the founder of this diocese, which took place on Oct. 1, 1847. His remains were interred beneath the sanctuary of the new Cathedral, and there a handsome marble tablet marks his last resting-place, and tells to successive generations how in the discharge of his duties as a priest and bishop, he laid down his life for his flock.

After the death of Bishop Power three years elapsed before a successor was appointed, during which time the diocese was administered by Fathers Hay and Carroll. On March 5th, 1850, Right Rev. Armand Francis Marie Comte de Charbonnel was appointed Bishop of Toronto, and on May 26th following was consecrated by Pope Pius IX. On Sept. 21st, 1850, Mgr.