

THE LATE BISHOP O'BRIEN.

This venerable prelate was found dead at the St. Louis Hotel, Quebec, on the morning of August 1st. The Lieutenant-Governor, Dr. Robitaille, and Dr. Church, M.P.P., who were both in the same flat, were summoned at once and found that he had been dead some time. Artificial respiration was tried, but unsuccessfully. An inquest was held and a verdict of "death from cerebral apoplexy" was returned. The Right Rev. John O'Brien was born at Loughborough, Ont., on the 19th February, 1832. He studied for the priesthood in the Seminary, Quebec, and graduated at Laval University in 1854. He was parish priest of Brockville for five years and Director of Regiopolis College, Kingston, for ten years. He succeeded Monseigneur Horan as Bishop of Kingston, and was consecrated on the 18th of April, 1875. His death is all the sadder from his never before having gone so far from his Diocese, except on ecclesiastical business. He was a man of fine physique, and though florid in complexion, was, to all appearance, in the best of health. From a biographical sketch of him in the *Harp* of November last we make the following extracts:—

"His contemporaries of thirty-five years ago speak to-day of his assiduity, his high moral qualities, and that intellectual force which put him in the first place in the village schools. When the young scholar had exhausted the modest curriculum of the country academy, his good parents—people of industry, irreproachable character and sterling worth—wisely determined to give him every opportunity for distinguishing himself in the career of learning for which he had already manifested so great a taste. Moreover, they had detected in their son's grave, amiable and religious character, certain marks which pointed towards the sanctuary. Hence, whatever sacrifice a higher course of education involved was cheerfully made by those good parents, who hoped one day to see him offer the adorable sacrifice of the mass for the living and the dead."

"Bishop O'Brien made his theological course at the grand seminary of Quebec, and showed remarkable versatility and love of classic literature. His knowledge of the Fathers of the church was very great. He was director of Regiopolis College for many years.

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY, No. 314.

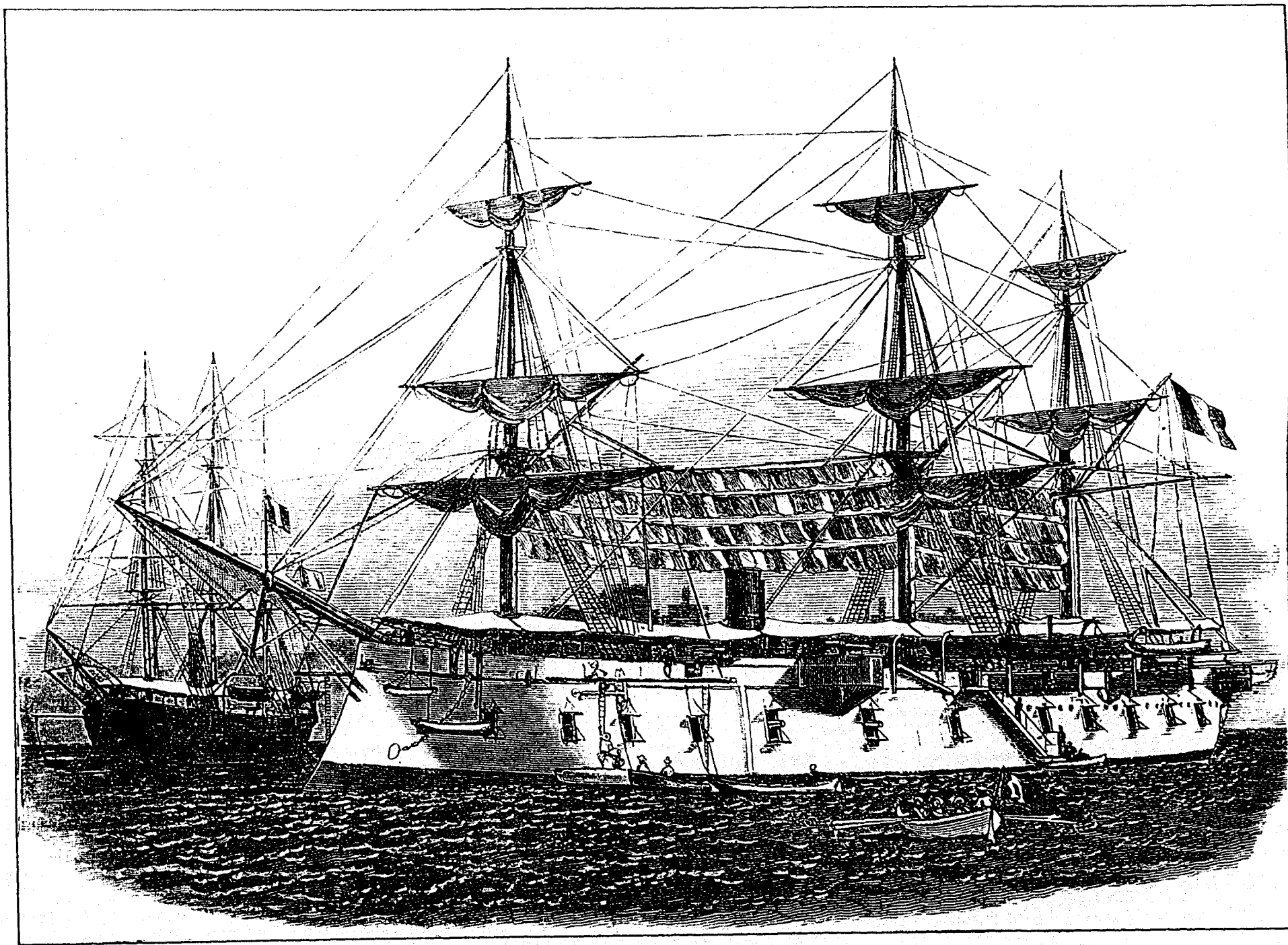


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As a preacher, Bishop O'Brien was logical, profound, well-ordered, not over imaginative, nor passionate, but very telling and forcible. His statement of a dogmatic question was admirable. He never indulged in flights of fancy, but used occasionally as much metaphor as illustrated without highly coloring his discourse. As to his manner, it was calm and judicial, never displaying that hurried excitement and nervousness which detract so much from the effect of some good speakers. His voice was good and well under control. In a word, he was one of those rare speakers whose longest sermons are considered too short by the most intelligent hearers, and this is the most favorable of all criticisms."

THE ROYAL INITIAL.—The partiality of the royal family to the letter A as a name initial is curious and worthy of a note. Her Majesty Queen Victoria is Alexandrina, and the late Prince Consort was Francis Albert Augustus. Their eldest daughter is Victoria Adelaide, and their eldest son is Albert Edward. This Prince married Alexandra of Denmark, and among their children we find—1, Albert Victor; 2, George Frederick Ernest Albert; 3, Louise Victoria Alexandra; and 4, Victoria Alexandra. The last, Maude, has no A. The third child of the Queen is the lamented Princess Alice, and the fourth, Alfred. This Prince married Marie Alexandrowna, and their first two children are, Alfred Alexander Ernest Albert, and Mary Alexandra Victoria. The Queen's fifth child is Helena Augusta Victoria; her sixth, Louisa Caroline Alberta; the seventh, Arthur William Patrick Albert; and the eighth, Leopold George Duncan Albert. With the last, which is Beatrice, we come to the letter B, none of her names beginning with A.

This peculiarity extends to other branches of the royal family. The Duke of Cumberland has Alexander and Augustus among his names. The Duke of Cambridge is Adolphus Frederick; while his wife is Augusta Wilhelmina, and their children are George Frederick, who has no A, Augusta Carolina, and Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck. Hanover is represented by Frederick Alexander Charles Ernest Augustus, and his consort Alexandrina Mary, while their children are Ernest Augustus William Adolphus, Frederica Sophia Mary Henrietta Amelia, and Mary Alexandra.



THE FRENCH FRIGATE LA GALISSONIERE JUST ARRIVED AT QUEBEC.