

The Church in Canada.

Under this heading will be collected and preserved all obtainable data bearing upon the history and growth of the Church in Canada. Contributions are invited from those having in their possession any material that might properly come for publication in this department

THE FIRST CANADIAN CARDINAL.

The publication of Mr. W. J. Macdonell's "Reminiscences of Bishop Macdonell," has occasioned a special article in the *Montreal Gazette* on the subject of: "Who was the first Canadian Cardinal?" Most people will without hesitation reply that that honour belongs to the present worthy occupant of the See of Quebec, His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau. Yet this is not so self-evident as would appear to the casual observer, as readers of Mr. Macdonell's valuable sketch will understand. "A little work pamphlet as to form, but book in the amount and interest of its contents," says the *Gazette*, "finally clears up a question, first opened up a couple of years ago.

"Some of our readers may recall that, after the joyous fetes in honour of Cardinal Taschereau, we ventured to assert that his Eminence was not the first prelate of the Canadian Church who has been honoured by admission to the Sacred College. On the 11th of August, 1886, a short article appeared in our editorial columns, calling attention to the fact that Monseigneur Weld, Coadjutor Bishop of Kingston, had been raised to that dignity by Pope Pius VIII. Thomas, Cardinal Weld, was the son of Mr. Weld of Lulworth Castle, Dorsetshire, held in veneration by English Catholics as the founder of Stonyhurst College. He succeeded to his ancestral estates in 1810, but on the death of his wife, he took orders. Long before that event he had devoted much of his large fortune to pious and charitable purposes. On his ordination he relinquished his estates to his brother Joseph, who, in 1830, entertained Charles X. and his family as his guests at Lulworth. A very brief biography of the Cardinal is given in Maunders' *Biographical Treasury*. The Rev. Dr. Scadding's *Toronto of Old*, also mentions his appointment in 1826 as coadjutor to the Bishop of Kingston. Some months later a correspondent of the "Ephemerides," gave some further and interesting particulars on the subject. He had in his possession, he said, a copy of the *New York Atlas*, dated 1830-31, containing a list of the cardinals assembled at Rome to elect a successor to Pius VIII., and among them was included the name of Thomas Weld, coadjutor Bishop of Kingston in Upper Canada. He also spoke of the donation of Stonyhurst to the Jesuits, and added that the Hon. Mr. Turcotte and other Canadians had been educated at that institution.

"The little book already mentioned, 'Reminiscences of the late Hon. and Right Rev. Alexander Macdonell, first Bishop of Upper Canada,' confirms the foregoing, and in the main consentaneous accounts of Cardinal Weld's connection with Canada. 'Advancing age,' writes the author, and 'increased responsibility forced the Bishop to apply for a coadjutor, and Mr. Thomas Weld, a descendant of one of the oldest Catholic families in England, who, on the death of his wife had taken orders, was selected and consecrated Bishop of Amycla, and coadjutor Bishop of Upper Canada, on the 6th of August, 1826. By the advice of his friends and medical advisers Bishop Weld remained some years in England and afterwards went to Rome, where in March 1830, he was nominated Cardinal by Pius VIII.' Mr. Macdonell goes on to say that Bishop England of Charleston, S. C., in a work published in 1833 and dedicated to Cardinal Weld, reminded his Eminence that, forty-three years previously he had, in the chapel of his ancestral castle, borne the censor as acolyte at the consecration of the first prelate of the American Hierarchy (Dr. John Carroll.) The presbytery and great Church of St. Raphael were built in expectation of Bishop Weld's arrival, but though always intending to fulfill his mission on this side of the Atlantic, he never succeeded in carrying out his desire. He closed his days on the 10th of April, 1837, at Rome, where Dr. (afterwards Cardinal) Wiseman preached his funeral sermon in the English College. 'Bishop Macdonell,' adds the biographer and kinsman of that prelate, 'obtained many favours from the Holy Father, through the influence of his intended coadjutor.' The Cardinal's place as such was taken by Mon-

seigneur Remigius Gaulin, a native of Quebec, who succeeded to the see of Kingston on Dr. Macdonell's death.

"Cardinal Weld's daughter, Lady Clifford, died in 1831, leaving six sons and two daughters. One of her sons is the Hon. and Right Reverend William Joseph Hugh Clifford, Bishop of Clifton, in the Roman Catholic hierarchy of England, who is thus the grandson of the first Cardinal of the Canadian church. It is not unworthy of note that Cardinal Manning is also a widower. He married in 1834 the youngest Miss Sergeant, one of the co-heiresses of the Lavington estate, two other sisters having married Samuel Wilberforce, afterwards bishop, successively of Oxford and Winchester, and Henry, his brother. A great shock which shook the young rector to the centre of his sensitive nature, rendered possible his subsequent ordination and elevation in the church of his adoption."

As an appendix, Mr. Macdonell gives the following extract from a letter of Mr. John Galt's (father of Sir A. T. Galt, and Chief-Justice, Sir Thomas Galt) published in *Fraser's Magazine*, 1830, in which the name of Cardinal Weld is again referred to as co-adjutor to Bishop Macdonell. The occasion of the letter is the foundation of Guelph by Mr. Galt, in his capacity of Commissioner of the Canada Company, and the gift by him to the Bishop of the present site of the Catholic church in that city:

"Hitherto we have had no adventure in Guelph, not even one Sabine scene; but an incident in the clearing was magnificent. Desirous of seeing the effect of a rising ground, at the end of a street where a popish church about twice the size of St. Peter's at Rome, is one day to be built (the site was chosen by the Bishop, and we have some expectation that his coadjutor, Mr. Weld, of Lulworth Castle, is coming here), I collected all the choppers in the settlement to open a vista, and exactly in two hours and ten minutes, 'by Shrewsbury clock,' or my own watch, an avenue was unfolded as large as the Long Walk in Windsor Park, and of trees that, by their stature, reduce to pigmies all the greatest barons of the English groves."

In explanation of the above we add that it is not probable Mr. Galt intended these words, written in jest, as prophetic. Neither, in the strict sense, are they, yet anyone who gazes upon the stately pile, now adorning that very site, will be inclined to think that the adage "there is many a true word spoken in jest" has some slight application here. Not that the Church of Our Lady Immaculate is "twice the size of St. Peter's" but that, as it reads in the "Reminiscences," "it is at least one of the largest and most beautiful in Ontario," and, it may be added, not unworthy of Cardinal Weld.

It is more than probable that the Cardinal really intended, in the event of his coming to Canada, to take up his residence in Guelph, there to exercise supervision over the western part of the Province. In that event Guelph might have become the seat of a Bishopric. Certain it is that he gave £1,000 to Bishop Macdonell towards the erection of a college there.

M.

IN IRELAND.

TOWN OF KILLARNEY, County Kerry, Ireland, July 20—
There is one very remarkable feature of Irish life which cannot escape the notice of the tourist, because it stands out so prominently that even the least observant of strangers are bound to be confronted with it almost every step. I allude to the religious character of the people.

Whether in valley or on hillside, mountain or plain you can not at any time during a trip through the southern part of this island be very far removed from the sound of a church bell.

The people are devoted to their Church and to their priests. Call this devotion blind if you will, or call their fervent belief in the doctrines of the Church a superstitious one, the fact remains just the same that the Irish, in their own way, are loyal to the core when it comes to a question of religion.

I do not bring this subject up in order to discuss it, but rather to introduce a matter which has direct reference to this side of Irish character. The country is dotted with the ruins of ancient cathedrals, chapels, monasteries, convents, and shrines. Many hundreds of these date back to the infancy of Christianity. Some of them must have