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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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DEATH OF BISHOP O'MAHONY.

By the death of His Lordship Bishop O'Mahony, which occurred on the 7th inst., a useful, laborious, and singularly interesting career is brought to a close. The sad event did not come as a surprise, it having been known for some time that the distinguished prelate was in a critical condition and not likely, as was given out by his physicians, to last many days longer.

Nevertheless, the announcement comes as a shock to the Catholics of this city and diocese, to whom His Lordship was known as a prelate of exceptional ability and attainments, the possessor of as true and generous a heart as ever beat beneath the cassock of a priest, and of a nature overflowing with zeal and energy in the discharge of his sacerdotal functions. To the people of St. Paul's parish in particular does the event come as a great bereavement. For the space of almost thirteen years he had watched over their spiritual welfare; he had been instrumental in providing them with efficient means for the religious and secular education of their children; he had raised for them a magnificent church in which the Holy Sacrifice of the New Law will be daily offered up for the living and the dead; and he had, by his exhortations both in the pulpit, in the confessional and by daily counsel, raised the parish to a high level of spiritual efficiency. And now that he is taken from them and they shall see him no more on this side the grave, it will doubtless be remembered by them, young and old, that their late pastor's decline in health dates from the foundation of that splendid edifice in which it is now their pride and their privilege to worship.

Bishop O'Mahony was a native of the parish of Kilmurray, County Cork, Ireland, where he first saw the light on Nov. 1st, 1825. He was, consequently, at the time of his death in the sixty-seventh year of his age. When quite young he went to Cork to pursue his studies, and at the age of sixteen proceeded to Rome to study for the priesthood, for which vocation he early

manifested a predilection. Under the direction of the Jesuit Fathers in the Eternal City he rapidly acquired that knowledge and system necessary to him who would dedicate his life to the service of the altar, and in due time received minor orders. In 1849, the year of the Revolution in Italy, the goal of his ambition was attained when he was raised to the sublime dignity of the priesthood. From that day until his eyes closed on this world he knew no rest or relaxation in the service of his Divine Master.

Returning to Ireland Father O'Mahony at once entered upon the duties of the priesthood in one of the rural parishes of his native diocese. Subsequently he was transferred to Cork, and there he continued to reside until his elevation to the episcopate many years afterwards. His ministrations in that city were marked by his characteristic energy and thoroughness, and his deeds are still fresh in the memory of its people. He began a night-school in the basement of St. Finbar's Church, which prospered and finally passed into the keeping of the Christian Brothers. Out of his own pocket he advanced money to clothe the children of poor parents, that they might avail themselves of the advantages thus placed before them, and he was unceasing in his efforts to better the moral and physical condition of the friendless and poverty-stricken. Evil doers, likewise, came in for a share of his attention, and it is said that on more than one occasion he visited the drinking saloons and dance halls of Cork and, whip in hand, drove from thence those who were spending on drink and sensuality the weekly wages that ought to have sup-

ported their suffering and neglected families. For this scene of his labors he ever cherished the greatest regard, and was proud to be known as a Corkonian. The writer can recall many instances of this fondness for Cork and its people, it being one of his favorite topics of conversation. For Canon Maguire in particular, one of the best known and most esteemed priests in Ireland, he had the greatest affection. They labored together

