

Right Reverend Neil McNeil, D. D., Ph. D.

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NELOPOLIS AND VICAR
APOSTOLIC OF ST. GEORGE'S, WEST COAST OF
NEWFOUNDLAND.



Bishop McNeil was born at Hillsborough, in the Parish of Mabou, Inverness County, Nova Scotia, November 21st, 1851. His parents, both of whom are dead, were Malcolm McNeil, Esquire, of Hillsborough, and Ellen, eldest sister of Honorable Mr. Justice Meagher, of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. On his paternal side he was descended from Roderick McNeil, a native of Barra, Scotland, and on the maternal side from Daniel Meagher, a native of Kilkenny, Ireland, both of whom settled in the Parish of Mabou early in the present century.

Bishop McNeil received his primary education in the Hillsborough school. In the fall of 1870 he entered St. Francis Xavier's College at Antigonish, N. S. In 1873 he was sent to the College of the Propaganda, Rome, where he studied for six years and a half. After a distinguished career there, he was ordained priest on April 12th, 1879, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran by the late Cardinal Patrizzi, and in June of the same year he received the degree of Doctor in both philosophy and divinity. He took a post-graduate course at the University of Marseilles, France, devoting special attention to astronomy and higher mathematics. He returned to Nova Scotia in 1880 and joined the teaching staff of St. Francis Xavier's College, of which institution he was also vice-rector. In 1881 he became editor of the *Aurora* newspaper. In 1884 he became rector of St. Francis Xavier's College. In 1891 he was appointed parish priest at West Arichat, and a year later was transferred to Descousse. He was promoted to the

episcopate in September, 1895, and consecrated at St. Niman's Cathedral, Antigonish, on October 20th, of the same year.

Bishop McNeil has been identified with education in Nova Scotia for fifteen years, and during all that time he was an influential factor in its progress. As rector of St. Francis Xavier's College and principal of Antigonish County Academy, he revolutionized education in the eastern counties, particularly in Antigonish. The fine college buildings there are a monument to his energy and self-sacrifice. As a member of the committee on the course of study, and as a provincial examiner, he assisted to elevate the standard of high school education in the province.

He won the highest esteem of his educational co-laborers in the various educational spheres in which he was engaged by the cleverness of his views, his force of character, and the gentleness of his manner. Profoundly pious and sincere, most tolerant and generously cultured, we predict for him yet higher honors in his Master's service, while we regret the loss to his native province of his generous labors.

For the Review.]

Some Nova Scotia Schools.

Recently we had the pleasure of visiting some of the schools of Antigonish, New Glasgow and Pictou. In Antigonish there are, besides the college and the academy, two common schools, with three departments in each. The grades in each of these schools are about the same. Mr. Patton has charge of one and Mr. Summers of the other. There are also three departments for girls in charge of Sister Margaret, of the congregation of Notre Dame. Here the most of the work is academic, and the pupils have the advantage of lecturers from the college. The majority of the young ladies in the senior class take Latin as one of their studies, although it is an optional subject. Everywhere there were evidences of thorough drill, of neatness, and of good order.

A large wing has been added to the college recently. Standing, as the college does, on a commanding and beautiful site, it is now a most imposing structure. Adjacent are the editorial rooms of the *Casket*. Here we found Mr. J. A. Wall, now a lawyer and a brother editor, but the same as when we last knew him, as logical and as accurate as when he labored to make the boys of St. Mary's school comprehend the definition of "word" as given in one text-book on grammar.

At New Glasgow we found one of the finest school buildings in the province. We admired particularly its finish, its modern laboratory, and its system of heating