

of manner and perfect distinction. Our readers, whose memory dates back ten years, have already named Mgr. J. S. Raymond, Domestic Prelate of His Holiness, for many years Superior of the Seminary of St-Hyacinthe, and Vicar General of the diocese, who died on the Feast of the Precious Blood, 1887, at the Monastery of St-Hyacinthe.

The devout Adorers of the Precious Blood sustained a heavy loss in this unexpected blow. Like Father Faber in England and Ven. Gaspard del Buffalo in Italy, Mgr. Raymond was the first apostle of the Precious Blood in our country.

It is quite generally known that the establishment of the Confraternity of the Precious Blood was due to his initiative. The petition of the Sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady, which determined Mgr Prince, first bishop of the diocese, to institute the Confraternity was inspired by his zeal and advice. This was in 1857. But, for several years previously, he had been implanting this salutary devotion in the privileged souls whom he guided in large numbers. The first sermon on this devotion ever preached and printed in Canada is the one now appearing in "The Voice." Since those days, already distant, his words, his pen, the ceaseless labors of his calling, had all been directed to increasing the devotion to the Precious Blood to which he invariably united devotion to the Virgin Mother through whom the Redeeming Blood came to us.

When the Master of the vineyard saw that this indefatigable laborer of the first hour had long enough borne the heat and burden of the day, that the time of rest and recompense had come, the decree, though teeming with glorious promises for the good and faithful servant, struck no less painfully at the heart of 52,000 associates of the Confraternity of the Precious Blood, besides the religious whom he had been instrumental in grouping, like a chosen body of perpetual adorers, around the tabernacle enclosing the immolated Lamb.

The general grief was all the deeper and more poignant, that, as yet, nothing had even faintly foreshadowed the close of this beautiful life. Born in 1810, Mgr. Raymond was doubtless nearing the evening of life, but an evening rich in the promise of a long and lovely twilight;