

REV. JOHN McNEIL.

The Toronto Globe hails the advent to Canada of Rev. John McNeil as though no such preacher had ever before existed. He was a railway employee in Scotland, who, after his conversion, felt that preaching the gospel "was a greater vocation and more fruitful for God than despatching trains."

They were! The priest is beginning in again with Ritualistic and sacerdotal functions, coming between God and man. Deal kindly but firmly with him. Oh my brothers, poor Rip Van Winkle, fall asleep. Oh hunt them out. Hunt out the priests who would enter into the New Testament temple that is filled with the glory of God! Hunt them out.

This was spoken in thundering tones and with flashing eyes, and the depth of the speaker's convictions against Ritualism was shown in the prayer that followed, in which the suppliant said that the people had come to God with no gorgeous ritual, with no ringing bells, no swaying censers.

An address of this savage nature exhibits the Scotch preacher as a veritable Rip Van Winkle, who fancies that he is living in the days of John Knox and Theodore Beza, and not in the enlightened toleration of the nineteenth century. The Iconoclasts of the early Reformation made war upon Ritualism and encouraged by word and example the demolition of churches and altars, the pillage of God's temple and the smashing to pieces of crucifixes and the images of Christ and His saints.

Rev. John McNeil is described as of medium height, like St. Paul, "broad-shouldered and athletic." Just the man to

Prove his faith orthodox. "Apostolic blows and knocks" says the Globe, "with deep, wide-set dark eyes and a forehead that ends abruptly in two knobs just over the eyebrows."

This description would indicate that, like Joe Hess, Mr. McNeil had some experience in the prize-ring. "With ruddy flush of health on his face and a somewhat pawky expression in his countenance," continues the Globe, "he might well pass for a moorland farmer from the covenanting west. His broad accent, with the ringing R sound, strengthens the impression and gives force to his words."

equal to the proposed cost of the work is already on hand. The Archbishop was much pleased at this, and, in token of his satisfaction, handed the treasurer \$100, as his offering towards the good work.

In fine, the Archbishop thanked the people of both congregations, Spencer-ville and Throop-ton, for having effectually and in substantial and elegant form carried out his wishes by the erection of the priest's residence beside the handsome new church in Spencer-ville. Less than three years have elapsed since this mission was formed, and already it is fully equipped, and may be regarded as one of the first class missions of the Archdiocese.

The address of welcome to His Grace was signed by Messrs. D. McNeil, (Reeve), John Baker, Thomas Brickland, Thos. Hogan, Patrick O'Reilly, Terence Murphy, Thomas Dawson, James McAllister, Alexander Docteur, Archibald Staley, George Morgan and D. J. Macdonald.

The following was read from the pulpit of St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston, at the several Masses last Sunday, the Archbishop presiding at the High Mass in cappa magna: "The Archbishop asks the congregation to offer a Pater and Ave to Almighty God through the Blessed Virgin Mary to-day for his special intentions. It is the anniversary day of his baptism and also of his ordination to the priesthood forty years ago. He feels how much he is indebted to God's goodness for the special helps of light and strength that have been accorded to him by divine bounty for the fulfillment of his baptismal and priestly vows; and for these he desires to give God thanks, and to unite his people with himself in humble thanksgiving. He also feels how much he is indebted to God's justice for his 'sins, offences and negligences' throughout all those years of his personal and priestly life; and for these he begs of you to join with him in beseeching God's pardon. He feels, moreover, that his mission as a priest, and especially his mission to you and the people of this Archdiocese generally, as chief pastor of this flock, has not yet been fully accomplished. What ever may have been done in the past eleven years in the city and diocese of Kingston, and whatever part God may be pleased to credit him with having had in the execution of religious works, he feels and is assured that the whole purpose of his appointed mission to the people of Kingston city and diocese has not yet been fully accomplished; and, therefore, he requests you to unite with him in this day's Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in humbly begging of God to direct him by the light of His Spirit and to strengthen him for the opportune beginning and successful direction of the works preordained for him to do in the days that remain of his life amongst you."

The entire congregation knelt and recited the prayers in loud and fervent tones. The choir sang the "Vivat." All were deeply moved.

DIOCESE OF LONDON.

Goderich Signal, Sept. 18. Sunday last was a red-letter day in the life of a large number of the young people connected with St. Peter's Church, Goderich. On that day forty-three candidates presented themselves for confirmation, forty-two of whom were juveniles.

BISHOP DOWLING'S VISIT TO MT. FOREST.

Last Sunday was a day of memorable joy to the Catholics of this town, commemorating as it did the pastoral visit of Right Rev. Dr. Dowling, Bishop of Hamilton, and the consecration of the altar of St. Mary's Church, of which Father Cassin is the esteemed pastor, by His Lordship, together with an able and brilliant lecture, which the zealous and eloquent Bishop delivered in the evening.

It is worthy of note that Mt. Forest is the first place in which Bishop Dowling has lectured since his consecration, and the pastor and congregation of St. Mary's feel very grateful to His Lordship for this kindly mark of his esteem and episcopal favor. It is needless to say that Dr. Dowling's lecture was an exceedingly able effort, full of close reasoning, admirably delivered, and entirely devoid of any references which might wound the most tender sensitivities of those not of the Catholic fold. No egotism could do justice to the Bishop's lecture, nor could the most extended criticism convey to the reader the earnestness, logical reticence and elegance of diction and delivery which characterized the discourse of Dr. Dowling, whose scholarly attainments are but equalled by his zeal for the spread of that faith of which he is so able a light and defender.

The musical services were of an exceptionally high order of merit. The choir, under the able leadership of Miss K. C. Strong, was strengthened by some of the best singers from the various church choirs in town. At the morning service Peter's Mass in D was sung, while at Vespers service Lambillot's "Laudate Pater Dominum" and "Tantum Ergo" were rendered with great power and expression. The solos were rendered by Mrs. Tamer, who sang with great acceptability, and Mrs. Murphy and Miss Julia Malone, both of whom sustained their excellent reputation for choir singing. The choir was much aided by Dr. Thos. O'Hagan, editor of the Duluth Tribune, who is at present spending his holidays with friends in Ontario.

ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON.

His Grace the Archbishop at Spencer-ville.

On Tuesday, the 8th of September, His Grace the Archbishop of Kingston made his official visitation of the parish of Spencer-ville. He was received at the Canadian Pacific station at Spencer-ville by the pastor, Rev. Father Walsh, and a large number of the Catholics of the district, and was driven thence to the handsome church of Saint Lawrence O'Toole, where the customary prayers prescribed in the ritual for episcopal visitation were publicly and solemnly recited. His Grace then arranged and announced the order of exercises for the next day. According to a promise made by the Archbishop a few years ago the sacrament of confirmation was to be conferred in the outside mission of Throop-ton on this occasion. In fulfillment of his promise His Grace left Spencer-ville at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

A procession of one hundred and thirty-seven carriages formed the escort to the distinguished prelate and accompanied him the entire distance of nine miles. After a rigid examination of the one hundred and twenty-three candidates presented to him, His Grace required them to take the temperance pledge until they should have completed the twenty-first year of their age. The children promised also that they would attend catechetical instructions for another year. Confirmation was then administered by His Grace, assisted by the Rev. Father Masterson, of Prescott; Rev. Father Kelly, of Kingston; Rev. Thomas P. O'Connor, of Stanleyville; and Rev. Father Walsh.

The Archbishop, replying to an address which was presented to him, spoke eloquently and forcibly of the beautiful example given to children in the humility and filial obedience of the Child Jesus, and the necessity of their following it as long as their parents lived. He showed that the education of a child began at the mother's knee, and that salutary home influences governed its entire future career in life. Christian schools were necessary to complete and perfect the home training. He then spoke at great length on the baneful results and irreparable injuries done by innocent children in schools where the holy name of God was never mentioned with reverence. His Church and His revealed truth are treated with contempt, and the names of His saints are too frequently reviled. At the conclusion of his grand instruction he commanded the Catholics in the immediate vicinity of Throop-ton church to establish a Separate school at as early a date as possible. They in turn promised a faithful compliance with His Grace's orders. Steps will be taken at once to erect a suitable building for the purpose.

In Wolfe Island.

On Friday afternoon the Archbishop of Kingston proceeded to Wolfe Island for visitation, accompanied by his Secretary, Rev. Thomas Kelly, and Rev. Thomas Murray. On arrival of the steamer, he was received by Father Spratt, pastor of the island, Rev. Charles McWilliams of Loboro, Rev. Michael Spratt, of Kitley, and Very Rev. Vicar-General Gauthier, pastor of Brockville, and a large number of the laity, with the candidates for confirmation. A procession being formed, they moved to the church, where the prescribed ceremonies were observed; after which His Grace arranged the order of proceedings for the next two days, and dismissed the congregation with his blessing. On Saturday he spent the forenoon in examining and carefully instructing the children in the forms of daily prayer appointed by him for commemoration to memory by the youth of every parish, and in the catechism of Christian doctrine. At the conclusion he expressed himself highly delighted with the remarkable excellence of the children's answering, which gave evidence of the care bestowed on them by the pastor and their parents and by the teachers in the three Separate schools of the island. Here, as in every other mission, His Grace extracted from the children a two-fold pledge, viz., to attend the class of catechism every Sunday for at least one year after confirmation and to abstain from tasting alcoholic drink of any kind till after the completion of their twenty-first year of age. Next day (Sunday) he presided at High Mass and confirmed the children, numbering exactly one hundred. An affectionate and heartily loyal address of welcome was then presented to the Archbishop by the congregation, in the course of which they proclaimed their admiration and grateful feeling towards him for the eminent services he had rendered to religion in Ontario by his powerful and persistent defence of the educational rights of Catholic parents and of Holy Church, the loving mother of both children and parents, to have and to hold their Separate schools for the training of youth morally and religiously, as well as mentally and secularly. This passage in the address supplied a text to His Grace for a long and lucid exposition of the true principles and methods of youthful training, by which the child is fully formed and all its faculties developed in the right direction for attainment of the end of human existence and the safe passage through this vale of tears to the home of everlasting bliss in the kingdom of the heavenly Father. Another passage in the address assured the Archbishop that the congregation had cheerfully complied with the suggestion heretofore given by him, to prepare for the enlargement and ecclesiastical adornment of their church. A fund almost

Another evil, nay, one of the greatest,

was intemperance, and a solemn warning was entered against it by the Bishop. No vice was working greater harm than that of intemperance. In the world at large its baneful influence was felt, and he regretted to know that even amongst his own people it had got a foothold, with terrible results in some cases. For that reason it was that at confirmation it was now the invariable custom to pledge the male candidates to abstain until they had formed their twenty-first year in the hope that habits of sobriety would be so formed by that time that strength to resist the temptation would prevail. Turning to the girls, His Lordship said he did not think it was necessary to pledge them to total abstinence, as from their appearance he did not think they would ever be subject to so foul a vice; but while saying this to them he would say that even amongst women drunkenness was too prevalent, for even if one woman fell by the evil that was too many. No matter how degrading drunkenness was in a man, it was a thousand times worse in a woman. Another evil that it was well to warn them against was the reading of bad books. An infallible rule in this regard was that when a book was found that made the reader blush, or made her feel that she would not like to have her parents know that it had been perused, it was time to throw it away at once. It was not a fit book to be read. A general admonition was given to all to remain at home as long as possible, and not to be tempted to go to the cities. God alone knew of the many young people who had gone to ruin by leaving the old hearthstone to follow the bent of city life. In conclusion he advised parents to keep their children around them as much as possible. The presence of parents worked a restraining and healthy influence upon the children and kept them from falling into evil habits.

At the conclusion of the confirmation service a delegation from the congregation consisting of Judge Doyle, B. McCormac, Jos. Kidd, E. Campion, J. A. McIntosh, T. Carroll and James Luby went forward and presented the following address to the Bishop which was read by Judge Doyle:

To the Right Rev. Denis O'Connor, C. S. B., D. D., Bishop of London: My LORD—It affords us a very great deal of pleasure to extend to you a most cordial and happy welcome.

Though this is your first official visit to our parish we beg to assure Your Lordship that you do not come a stranger amongst us; your reputation for zeal and energy in the discharge of your high, sacred and onerous duties has preceded you and has already won our warmest affections and highest admiration.

Our parish, though now comparatively weak and unimportant in the midst of so many large and flourishing parishes of your diocese, is, we venture to think, entitled to a place in the history of the Church in this Province.

It is in the memory of many of us when Stratford was still a station attached to Goderich, an angry pastor had to minister to the spiritual wants of its people as well as to those of all intermediate points. Though we cannot boast of material wealth we assure Your Lordship that we feel spiritually rich, indeed. We have a most devoted, a kind and zealous pastor who spares no effort for the spiritual and temporal welfare of his flock. We have a prosperous Separate school most ably and successfully managed by the good Sisters of St. Joseph. We possess a branch of the O. M. B. A., and the League of the Sacred Heart is flourishing in our midst as is also the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin; and Your Lordship's appointment to the chief pastorate of the diocese is our crowning happiness.

We are, therefore, as we feel we ought to be, a contented and a happy people. While, while thinking Almighty God for His abundant mercies we unite in earnest prayer that He may long be pleased to spare Your Lordship's valuable life, and continue to pour out His blessings upon us.

THE REPLY.

His Lordship thanked the congregation for the complimentary tone of the address, and said although this was his first official visit to Goderich, the people were not strangers, for he had always heard a good report from the parish. He was glad to see that credit was given to those who had gone before, for it was a good sign to see people who were able to look back to good work done. It was another good sign to see that the present congregation claimed no credit for what they had done themselves, for self-praise was not at all times a desirable commendation. Goderich had always held a good position in the diocese, and though it might not be materially wealthy he was aware of the fact that the parish was an important one and always held a prominent place. He was glad to see the people pleased with their pastor, and giving him full credit for faithful ministrations. Whilst he performed not to refer to Rev. Father West in his presence, he (the Bishop) was fully aware of the good work he was doing in the parish, and knew that God would bless him for the

work's sake. The various beneficiary

and religious societies then came in for a need of praise from the Bishop, and he particularly expressed his satisfaction at the manner in which the Separate school was prized by the people, paying an especial tribute to the good work that was being done by the Sisters of St. Joseph throughout this district. In conclusion he said that, though he did not desire to find fault, he regretted to be obliged to say that the church was not what he would like to see, and certainly was not worthy of Almighty God, considering the size of the parish and the ability of the congregation. He did not wish to be understood that he desired the people to incur more debt until they had got rid of their present incumbrances, but an effort should be made to get over the existing indebtedness as soon as possible, and then a further effort ought to be made either to improve the present church or put up a new one. In view of the fact of uniform good crops in the section this year, liberal offerings should be made to wipe off the present debt. They would never be the poorer for returning liberally to the Giver of all good.

The ceremony lasted about three hours. A rosary and benediction service was held at 4 p.m., after which a number of prominent members of the congregation called informally upon His Lordship, who was the guest of Rev. Father West.

At 4:30 p.m. Bishop O'Connor, accompanied by Ven. Dean Murphy and Rev. Father West, set out for Ashfield parish, where a confirmation service was held on Monday. The party returned from Ashfield Monday afternoon and took the 4 o'clock train for Seaford to hold similar services on Tuesday.

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