

them, so as to move them to be wise and consider their latter end, would be mouldering in the grave. I addressed them with more than ordinary earnestness, and they listened with deep, awe fearful attention. I count these dear and precious moments of my life, but alas too; too rare, when I am able to feel a little for the souls of those to whom I preach.—Church.

## MEMOIR OF THE RIGHT REV. JACOB MOUNTAIN, D. D.

We extract the following brief Memoir of the late Bishop Mountain, (first Bishop of the diocese of Quebec) from a late number of the "Church," for which it was compiled from a memoir of his Lordship published in the Christian Remembrancer for 1825. We believe that we were among the last, if not the very last, upon whom his hands were laid in the solemnities of Ordination, about fourteen years ago.—Ed. C. C.

Many and rapid as have been the fluctuations of society in the Canadas during the last twelve years, and great especially the changes and additions in the body of the clergy of the Established Church, there are many persons in both Provinces who have a vivid and most pleasing recollection of the first Bishop of Quebec. There are not a few, too, amongst the present Clergy in this Diocese who, by the imposition of his hands, received their solemn charge to 'do the work of an Evangelist;' and none who witnessed his venerable and graceful form, and heard his voice of almost unearthly power and melody, in the performance of that impressive office, can easily forget him.

The late Bishop Mountain, was descended from a very respectable French Protestant family, who took refuge in England, upon the revocation of the edict of Nantz—the name having been originally *Montaigne*,—and became possessed of a moderate landed property in the County of Norfolk. His father, at the time of the Bishop's birth, resided upon his estate at Thwaite Hall, in that county; but having been thrown much into familiar intercourse with persons of rank and fortune, from his agreeable and social qualities, he in some degree injured his property. He died, in the prime of life, about the year 1753, while his son, the subject of this memoir, was yet an infant; leaving his widow and three other children, although far removed from wealth, in the possession of a comfortable independence.

Bishop Mountain received the first part of his education at a good grammar-school at Wyndham; and was afterwards removed to Norwich, where his mother then resided. He was at first designed for a business; and, at the age of fifteen, was placed for a time with Mr. Poole, a merchant, then Mayor, of Norwich; but having an utter disinclination to such a pursuit, he quitted it to follow the course of his education, which was continued at Scarning, under Mr. Potter, the translator of the Greek tragedies, with whom he was a favorite pupil, till he went to Caius College, in the University of Cambridge, of which he afterwards became a fellow. During his stay at the University, and subsequently, he was well known to the celebrated Mr. Pitt; and amongst other distinguished characters in the literary and religious world, with whom he was familiarly acquainted, was the late Dr. Tomline, Bishop of Winchester, whose unabated friendship he possessed to the day of his death.

In 1781, he married Miss Eliza Kentish, co-heiress with her two sisters of Little Bradfield Hall, in the county of Essex; by whom he had four sons, three of whom followed the profession of their father,—one is now Bishop of Montreal,—and two daughters. He was settled, at first, after his marriage, upon the living of St. Andrews, in Norwich; and subsequently presented to a stall in Lincoln Cathedral, and appointed examining Chaplain to Dr. Tomline, the Bishop of that Diocese; and afterwards held the livings of Backen in Huntingdonshire, and Holbeach in Lincolnshire.

In 1793, with the best prospects of professional advancement in his native country, he accepted the newly constituted bishopric of Quebec, and arrived in Canada, on the first of November of that year. The charge upon which he entered presented no very encouraging aspect. There were but nine clergy-

men of the Church of England in the two Provinces,—six in Lower, and three in Upper Canada; while from Quebec to Niagara, at that time the most remote station of the Church, a distance of 600 miles was to be traversed, under every possible inconvenience and difficulty. At Quebec there was no Church, no Episcopal residence, no parsonage; and the congregation of the Church of England in that city were obliged to avail themselves of the accommodation of a Chapel belonging to the *Recollect* Monastery.

The retired Roman Catholic Bishop Briant, who was designated as the *ancien Eveque de Quebec*, then an infirm, but venerable old man, upon being introduced to the new occupier of the Protestant see, appeared unfeignedly rejoiced at his arrival, and greeting him with the antiquated salutation of a kiss upon each cheek, declared that it was high time for such a measure, 'to keep,' as he said, 'your people in order.'

In the summer of the following year, the Bishop performed his first visitation, inspecting the state of all the few infant Church establishments which were scattered along the line of population, and holding confirmations at each. These visitations were repeated nine times between the years 1800 and 1826; his Lordship having, in the interval, paid two visits to England, where he was detained each time nearly three years, endeavouring to make arrangements with His Majesty's Government upon the subject of ecclesiastical affairs in Canada, by means of a personal intercourse with the Ministry. Amongst the results of these negotiations with the Home Government, was the division of the Diocese into Archdeaconries, and the establishment in each Province of a Corporation for superintending and managing the Clergy Reserves.

In performing his earlier visitations, Dr. Mountain had hardships to endure and difficulties to encounter, which would hardly be understood in the present advanced state of the country, when the facilities of travelling have become so much increased. The navigation of Lake Ontario especially was, at that time, a formidable undertaking; and in the year 1810, in attempting to reach Niagara in a King's ship, furnished him for that purpose, the vessel was driven back to Kingston by a storm, after having come in sight of Niagara. In his visitations, too, he might have been seen at one time mounting or descending rapids in the bateau of the voyageur; at another, coasting the vast inland waters in a bark canoe, with armed Indians; frequently travelling in heavy waggons, and that at an advanced age, over the worst possible roads; forced often, either when belated by the badness of the roads, or baffled by winds when on the water, to take refuge in some wretched hut, where, possibly, he could not even spread the bedding which he carried; sometimes passing the night under a tent, or in a barn, and more than once even in the open air.

In the year 1806, the Bishop being then in England, was visited by the Hon. and Rev. Charles Stewart, brother of the then Earl of Galloway, and lately Bishop of this Diocese. He expressed his desire of being employed in the Canadas; and his offers of service having been accepted, he entered upon the arduous duties of a Missionary in a remote station upon the borders of Lake Champlain. But upon the history of that remarkable and devoted man it is unnecessary to dwell. In the year 1825, the present Bishop of Montreal, then Archdeacon of Quebec, was commissioned, while in England, to procure a division of the Diocese,—Dr. Mountain having proposed to assign to Dr. Stewart the episcopal charge of Upper Canada, together with one-third of his income. This sacrifice, in order to secure to his extensive Diocese more efficient episcopal ministrations, at a time when age and infirmities almost wholly precluded him from the exercise of that duty, will be appreciated the more when it is considered that, at the time it was proposed, his Lordship had six children, and from his munificent habits and benevolent disposition, had never saved money in his life. This proposal was fully agreed to by His Majesty's Government, and the arrangement was about to be carried into effect, when it was interrupted by the Bishop's lamented death, and Dr. Stewart succeeded to the whole charge of the Diocese.

The cause of his dissolution appears to have been

a general decay of nature, (for he was then in the 75th year of his age,) immediately accelerated by an attack affecting the head and face, in consequence of which he continued incapable of mastication for some time after the fever had disappeared, and the system required to be restored by more solid food than he was able to use. His Lordship, however, had suffered for the last fifteen years of his life, or more, from a local complaint proceeding from a hurt, which, although it might in appearance affect his health or vigor, was a source of severe and increasing inconvenience, and probably tended to reduce his constitution. With the exception of this particular infirmity, he was, until his last illness, sound and active in body, as well as in mind; and his frame, which was unusually strong and well formed, seemed still calculated, with the advantage of a life uniformly temperate and regular, to endure to an extremely protracted age. He expired at Marchmont, the seat of Sir John Harvey, near Quebec, on the 16th June, 1825.

He was called away with little previous alarm; and within a very few days of his death had dictated letters respecting the affairs of his diocese, of which the correspondence was become most voluminous. His sufferings in the closing scene were none; after a state of tranquil insensibility, his sun, before it set, broke for an instant through the cloud, and gave a prognostic of the glory of its future rising. His recollection and his faculties returned; his hands were occasionally clasped in prayer, and extended in an attitude of happy expectation; he attempted to speak to those who hung over him, but the power of articulation was, in a great measure denied him; he uttered, with difficulty, a few broken sentences, and devout ejaculations, but he spoke, in a parting look, all that words could have spoken; his countenance, which was filled with a delightful serenity, and radiant with hope, left an impression upon those who witnessed it, of which they will carry to their own graves the consoling recollection.

Bishop Mountain left behind him many who remember him with the deepest respect and affection. The poor lost in him a benefactor of no common generosity, and 'the blessing of him that was ready to perish' was united, to embalm his memory, with the surviving attachments of dependants, and the thankful recollections of many whom he soothed in affliction, relieved in embarrassment, advised in perplexity, and led by the hand in the way of Truth. In the public business of the Province, there are many surviving acquaintances and friends to acknowledge his ready exercise of the powers of a mind both rarely gifted and richly stored, as well as his integrity, his singleness of purpose, his firmness and consistency of conduct. His services upon some important occasions as a member of both the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Province, had been most handsomely acknowledged by the Representatives of the Sovereign. He had, however, for some years before his death, retired from all but professional occupation, and, long before his retirement, had entertained a strong dislike to secular business. With regard to other points, he was eminently a scholar, a gentleman, a companion, a domestic guide and comforter, and united, in a most remarkable manner, qualities which commanded respect and even awe, with a cheerful affability, and often a playfulness, which threw a charm about his society, and made him, as it were, the centre of a system, to the whole of which he imparted light and warmth. Besides the three learned languages which he had acquired in the course of his preparation for his profession, he was acquainted with as many modern foreign tongues:—in the fine arts, if he had been ordained to devote himself to such pursuits, he would decidedly have risen to great distinction; in all things he possessed a delicate and cultivated taste, and excelled in early life in many accomplishments, which he had discarded as trifles when he became a Bishop, in the Church of Christ. Never, however, was a character more perfectly genuine; more absolutely elevated above all artifice or pretension; more thoroughly averse from all ostentation in religion. He was friendly, at the same time, both from feeling and principle, to all exterior gravity and decorum in sacred things; and in his own public performance of the functions proper to the Episcopal office, the coun-