



## St. Thomas Aquinas.



SERMON DELIVERED MARCH 9TH, 1902, OTTAWA UNIVERSITY CHAPEL, BY REV. W. O'BOYLE, O.M.I., D.D.

Text :—"Sicut sol resplendens."—Ecclesiasticus, 50, 7.

Holy Church celebrates to-day with fitting ceremony the 628th anniversary of the death and translation to heaven of Friar Thomas, the great and sainted son of St. Dominic's Order. Our Mother's joy is ours, and true to a Catholic instinct, we have foregathered round this altar. 'Tis well, for we glorify religion in her great champion, we honor one of God's heroes, the holiest of learned men, the most learned of the saints, and we show our appreciation of an ideal of intellectual and moral worth, presented to us in the life and teaching of the Angelic Doctor.

The few words of the text likening St. Thomas to a sun coruscating in the Church of God, hint sufficiently at the magnitude of the theme, Who may gaze upon the orb of day at its meridian splendor? Who but the eagle that soars itself with power in the blue reaches of heaven? Who shall peer into the genius and sanctity of Aquinas but a master-mind and sanctified?

The ordinary mortal can but strive to turn his face heavenward for a momentary glance through the murk and cloud of multiple short-comings, up to the luminary that warms and enlightens. I have taken that hurried glance at St. Thomas and his life-work and to convey to you for our mutual edification the impressions yet vivid, is my labor of love this morning.

The train of thought consequent on even a cursory glance, centres round two chief characteristics, already alluded to, the science and sanctity of the man. To examine his claims for superiority in both is too vast an undertaking for the time at our disposal. The unerring judge in matter of sanctity is the Church, and she has canonized our saint with special honors. In the acts