

notwithstanding his studies, soon became fully and successfully, who had a before many city; and, at Bishop Che- of the Irish their abode at ed, he merely Montreal, and November, member of and serving shortly before

when he has he fulfilled et and his Irish congreg- Montreal), have sown When not e was found people by s not owing ful in the t. It was red results, o that end, His cons- s such (as infer that ction; for mation in or recrea- rm Catho- ments of the one, stain the frequently rine, and their con- cerns, so ended to s a relish

for holy things. Children and parents were thus taught to love God and how to serve Him. Having first attended to the spiritual requirements of the people committed to his charge, until he formed them to virtue, or, at least, until he brought about a happy change in their morals, he now undertook to encourage their intellectual culture by means, which, at the same time, would provide them with Catholic information. Thus, during the years 1829 and 1830, we find him repeatedly encouraging Catholic literature in Montreal. He was aware that a good sound Catholic education would alone protect the rising generation and make them useful members of society, so we find his name constantly connected with the schools. Documents still exist to prove to us that he devoted much of his time in superintending the schools, and by his presence giving encouragement to both master and child. From the beginning he seems to have had a particular zeal for the instruction and formation of youth, and notwithstanding the other numerous duties he had to perform, we find his name associated with the conducting of the schools in 1831, '32, '33; and '34. The 31st May, 1833, we find him procuring Catholic books to be deposited at the Recollet schools. The same he did in 1837 and 1839; and in the year 1840, we find him encouraging schools at the Recollet Institution for Irish children. Now, when we consider Father Phelan's labors in connexion with the schools, and the other duties which, owing to the unhappy events of the time, had to be discharged, and that under trying circumstances, we feel embarrassed how to account for the successful management of every matter committed to him, and for the great judgment and presence of mind exhibited under the ordeal. I am alluding to the cholera of 1832 and 1834, when he had to do more than ordinary duty, for he was then the only Irish priest in Montreal. It was on this painful occasion that he truly showed himself the Priest of God and the people; and his undaunted courage, accompanied by a zeal for the spiritual welfare of the sick and dying, made such a great impression on the minds of his congregation, that they ever after had unlimited confidence in him. Again, during the troubles of the abortive Insurrection of 1837-38, do we find Father Phelan the priest of order, and there are living witnesses to-day to testify to the great influence which he exercised over the Catholic Irish in and around Montreal. Subsequently, during the disturbance which arose among the Irish on the Lachine Canal, we learn what control he had over their minds, for on that occasion his sudden appearance amongst them, with a few words from his lips, sufficed to quell that wild commotion, when passion had risen to its highest, whilst an armed force would then have proved but very ineffectual.

The year 1835 witnessed all that malice could suggest, or that a slandering press could produce, to tarnish the character of that saintly priest, and bring into disrepute the conduct of the inmates of that Charitable Institution, the Hotel Dieu; but God protected the innocent and baffled the efforts of the arch-enemy, who, no doubt, wrought