

brink of war between the North and South—and a critical period for the priest who had charge of so many souls holding such varied views. But Father Gibbons, while his sympathies were with the Southerners and a Union man in principle, took good care never to express his opinion.

As fate would have it for a man destined to perform such great things, Father Gibbons was sent in six weeks after his ordination to take charge of a wild and lonely district called Canton—its first parish priest—with its small little church and its few families. Soon afterwards he also got charge of St. Lawrence's church, on Locust Point, and served as volunteer chaplain at Fort McHenry as well as at Fort Marshall. During his administration in this capacity, the same traits of character that were later to win the hearts of the general public won him a way into the Protestant sections of the country and many conversions were the outcome.

In the meantime Archbishop Kenrick's demise had called Archbishop Spalding of Louisville to Baltimore. The talents, piety and indefatigable zeal of Father Gibbons soon attracted the attention of the Archbishop, who called him to the Cathedral as his secretary, 1865.

The Civil War was in full swing and the church had need of her strong men. To meet the emergency and the many pressing problems of the church, the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore was summoned in the Cathedral, 1866, to which Father Gibbons was made Assistant Chancellor. A wide field of labors was now opened to him and his executive ability was indisputable.

By 1868 Father Gibbons had so distinguished himself that, although only thirty-six, and only seven years a priest, he was consecrated Titular Bishop of Adramythum and Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina. His new charge was a difficult one for the whole vicariate had but three priests and about 800 Catholics. Bishop Gibbons was not long in Carolina until he made himself right at home amongst his Protestant friends, preaching and instructing in Protestant churches, court houses, public halls, and even in Masonic lodge rooms. All creeds and classes flocked to hear this providential man, and gradually the flock of the faithful increased.

But while this youthful prelate was accomplishing so much for the church in Carolina, the word of Christ was becoming endangered in almost every other quarter of the globe. Garibaldi was at