

WORDS OF FAREWELL.

Impressive Ceremonies at St. Stephens Church, South Framingham.

From the Framingham Tribune we take the following account of the impressive scenes on the departure, from that parish of Rev. Father Cullen and his curates, Rev. Fathers Salmon and Lyons. To numbers of our readers the events described will prove of interest, as most of them are well acquainted with the rev. gentlemen referred to in the report.

At 11 a.m. solemn High Mass was celebrated at St. Stephen's church in South Framingham, the auditorium being well filled with people, among the number being some representatives of the other Christian churches of the town. In the Mass, Rev. Fr. Cullen was celebrant and was assisted by Rev. Fr. Salmon as deacon, Rev. Fr. Lyons as sub-deacon, and Edw. Canning as master of ceremonies. During the service, Rev. Fr. Cullen took occasion, in accordance with his annual custom, to render to the church a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the past year. At the conclusion of this statement, he took occasion to say a few words of farewell to his people, preferring to do this, rather than to trust himself to any long farewell sermon during which his feelings might overcome him.

After explaining to his parishioners that poor health and some church duties devolving upon him, outside of his regular parish work, caused a change to seem advisable, he stated that he had accepted charge of the parish at Watertown, not without great regret at leaving his parish in Framingham, where he had labored so pleasantly for over eighteen years, and for whose growth he had labored all these years. He was reminded in leaving, and as a new pastor came over the church, of the words of the apostle Paul in one of his epistles. There was contention as to who was the greater, Paul or Apollos, and Paul rebuked the people by saying to them, "Paul may plant and Apollos may water, but God giveth the increase"; so, no matter who presided over the church, its growth and power must come from God. He bespoke for his successor the heartiest of welcome and support, and bade his people an affectionate good-bye, asking God's blessing upon them.

At the close of the morning service the sanctuary boys, numbering twenty-five, gathered about Father Cullen, and Edward Canning, in their behalf, presented him with a purse of gold, a token of their esteem, which was accepted in fitting words by the recipient.

At 3 p.m. Fr. Cullen met the children, in the session of the Sunday school, and said good bye to them. Fr. Cullen has always taken a great interest in the children and their welfare, and will be missed by the little ones, as well as by their elders.

At the solemn high vespers, Fr. Cullen was celebrant, Fr. P. B. Murphy, of St. George's church, Saxonville, deacon, Fr. Lyons, sub-deacon, and Fr. Salmon, master of ceremonies. At an intermission in the service, near its close, Peter N. Everett stepped within the sanctuary railing, and, in behalf of Fr. Cullen's parishioners, presented him with a very fine testimonial address and, in conclusion, with a purse of \$815, as a token of the esteem and regard in which he is held by them. Mr. Everett spoke as follows:—

"Rev. and Dear Father:

Great sorrow, like great joy, always imposes silence; in the presence of unexpected pleasure, and in the face of sad bereavement the heart beats in muffled tones, while the tongue finds difficulty in expressing the sentiments that throng the breast. The news of your well-deserved promotion, dearly beloved pastor, brought joy to our souls; but the knowledge that the change necessitated a separation from us, cast a cloud over the sunshine. Therefore the mingled feelings of happiness in your prospects bright, and of sorrow at the irreparable loss your flock must sustain, are too strong for expression; we consequently beg to be allowed to tell in silent communion with God the prayers for your future, and the outpourings of our gratitude for all you have done for us and for this splendid parish. Deeds speak louder than words, and we wish that the future years may prove, in our remembrance of you, how truly we appreciated your goodness, your sacrifices, your labors, your words of encouragement and your glorious example. Although

the light of your presence will smile upon another congregation you will be perpetually present with us. You need no monument to recall to our minds all you have done as priest, as friend, and as citizen. All sections of our community, rich and poor, will see in the church, the rising and educated generation, the memorials of your work, and all will bless you from their innermost hearts, and pray that God may grant you long years of strength, to carry on the noble mission which is yours on earth. And yet we cannot but allow our farewell address to mention the fact that sincere, honest and deep sorrow is ours; the sorrow of children who have lost their best friend, in a dear parent.

You will, then, permit us to be silent, to kneel at your feet and receive your fatherly blessing, upon us, upon our children whom you so dearly love, upon our church which is, under God, your handiwork, and upon our homes and hearths, where your name will forever be a household word. In turn we can only promise that, in presence of the altar, whereon so often you have offered the holy sacrifice for us, our prayers, like incense, shall ascend to heaven, begging that the Almighty may shower down his choicest graces upon you, strew your path with blessings untold, and prepare for you, in His great glory, the crown that is promised to every 'good and faithful servant.'

And now, reverend dear father, permit me, on behalf of your people, to present you with this testimonial of their regard and esteem for you."

In accepting the gift from his parishioners, Rev. Fr. Cullen spoke briefly, saying, in substance:

"Dear Mr. Everett and dear friends:

I would, indeed, be very ungrateful if I did not say something in reply to this very complimentary address, and in acceptance of this very fine gift, though I cannot lay claim to all the goodness which has been attributed to me. I thank you all very heartily for this gift and this address. I should be very sorry indeed, as I left this parish, if there was not some sorrow because of my departure. I should feel then that my eighteen years' work among you had been in vain. I can only say further, as I bid you good-bye, that I wish you all joy and prosperity on this earth, and, in the hereafter, life eternal."

Before his departure Rev. Fr. Cullen introduced Rev. Fr. Heffernan to some of his principal parishioners and others. The new pastor will celebrate his first Mass at St. Stephen's next Sabbath morning, and will be assisted by Rev. Fr. Lyons, who remains in Framingham a short time.

In referring to Father Cullen's work the Tribune says:

Since coming to South Framingham, he has had charge of the erection of St. Stephen's church and parochial residence, has seen nine years' service on the school board, four as chairman; also trustee of the Framingham savings bank, public library and hospital corporation. Beloved within and without his parish, all regret his departure.

With Fr. Cullen disappears another familiar figure whose loss will be felt, Rev. John J. Salmon, who has, since coming to South Framingham in December, two years ago, become greatly respected and beloved by the people of the church. Assisting Fr. Cullen in his parochial duties, he has labored earnestly and faithfully, in a manner prompted by his many years of labor in the priesthood. Before coming to South Framingham, Fr. Salmon was very popular in Montreal, first as pastor at St. Gabriel's and again of St. Mary's churches. It is with sincere regret that he leaves South Framingham. He accompanies Fr. Cullen to Watertown.

Rev. Fr. Lyons stops in South Framingham a short time, to assist Rev. Fr. Heffernan in taking up the work, where Fr. Cullen lays it down. Afterwards he will probably enjoy a vacation, on account of poor health. He, too, has been a popular curate, and his departure will also be a source of regret. It is seldom that a parish suffers so heavily at one time, in the loss of three priests, so esteemed as these three have been.

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THE IRISH PEOPLE SICK OF DISSENSIONS.

THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM AND REFORM IN ULSTER.

A great meeting of Nationalists was held at Mayobridge, County Down, Ire., on Sunday, January 27, at which the Rev. Henry O'Neill, P.P., Warrenpoint, presided, and addresses were made by Messrs. John Dillon, M.P., and Michael McCartan, M.P.

"It was to be regretted," said the reverend chairman, "that there should be even the shadow of an excuse for those rumors of dissension of which the enemies of Ireland made so much. The voice of the people was being heard in meetings like the one he now addressed and that voice was growing in volume, in intensity, and in distinctness, proclaiming that while the freest discussion as to proper methods of action must be allowed in the councils of party, the great principles of unity must be maintained. The Irish members must stand together shoulder to shoulder as one man, as in those days when by their union, their discipline, and their self-sacrifice they achieved so marvellous things for the National cause. But if the Irish people had a right to require this from their representatives, the representatives had a right to expect from the people a generous and an unwavering confidence."

John Dillon opened his address with the appended tribute to two distinguished Protestant Nationalists—both Ulstermen—of an earlier day, and heartily endorsed Father O'Neill's sentiments above given.

Said Mr. Dillon:—"It is many a long year since I used to live in this country, or near here, as the guest of one of the noblest Irish Nationalists that it has ever been my fate to be acquainted with, and that was John Martin, a man who, although he belonged to a different religion from most of those who are around this platform to-day, typified in his person some of the noblest traditions of Irish Nationality, and, as I know well, for I often lived in the house with him, and went around the country with him, I don't believe that there ever was a man more beloved by the Catholic Nationalists of Down. Here in this district, which I cannot help always regarding since boyhood as one of the sacred districts in the history of Irish Nationality—here in this district grew up from boyhood two men whose names will be honored in Ireland as long as an Irish Nationalist lives on the soil of this country—John Mitchel and John Martin, men who will always be remembered as proving that the Presbyterians of Ulster can be as good Nationalists as any of the Catholics of Ireland, men whose names and whose careers will be always remembered by the Nationalists of Ireland as a proof of the absurdity, of the cruel injustice, of those charges which are made by some men who call themselves Unionists to-day—namely, when they say, as they are accustomed to say, that in a Nationalist, self-governed Ireland their lives would not be safe.

A Voice—They will be safe. Mr. Dillon—I remember those old days, and I will venture to say that there were no two men living who had more influence with their Catholic fellow countrymen than John Martin and John Mitchel, because they were true to Ireland, and because they loved justice, and there was not a Catholic constituency in Ireland from the south of Cork to the north of Antrim who would not have been proud to have them for their representatives. Therefore it is that I regard this district as a kind of Mecca for Irish nationality, a district which is holy and sacred and dear to every true Nationalist throughout the world, consecrated by the fact that in this immediate neighborhood there grew up these two heroes of Irish Nationality. I am proud to see around this platform to-day so great a crowd of the men of Down, showing that there never was a time when the spirit of nationality and the spirit of reform was more vigorous in the hearts of the people of Ulster than it is at the present hour. Now, I have been a great deal throughout the province of Ulster during the last few weeks. I have spoken in different districts and in many parts of Ulster, and I say with absolute confidence, and I defy anybody to contradict me, that there never was a time during the last fifteen years when the spirit of Nationalism and of the demand for reform in the land laws was more vigorous or more universal than it is at the present moment. Before I

address myself to the main question for which this meeting was summoned to-day, I cannot avoid saying a word or two in reference to the speech to which we have all just listened with such pleasure from Father O'Neill, the president of this meeting; and I will say that the first feeling in my mind when I heard the words of eloquence which fell from the lips of Father O'Neill was this—what a splendid member of Parliament was spoiled in Father O'Neill. I suppose Father O'Neill will think me rather irreverent, but it is only natural for every man to be anxious for help in his own particular walk in life, and I have never heard the true principles and the only principles of Irish Nationality put with greater eloquence, put with greater force than they fell from the lips of Father O'Neill to-day. And I say that there is not a Nationalist around this platform to-day who can help feeling proud to hear an Irish priest endowed with such eloquence declaring the true principles and the only principles upon which it is possible to vindicate the Irish cause and to carry it to a triumphant victory.

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