

are dead? and at a newly opened grave shall they not speak much under the influence of the Roman maxim : *De mortuis nil nisi bonum*,—"Concerning the dead nothing but what is good?"

But on the other hand, this rule, if followed exclusively, would make history impossible, and deprive us of some of its most valuable lessons. And in the present case, the late Bishop was so long and so much a public person, and a man of character so transparent and so outspoken in his likes and dislikes, that there is less of scruple in speaking of him as he seemed to our eyes. We shall therefore give some outline of his career, bearing in mind the rule, "Nothing extenuate, nor ought set down in malice."

To those who never saw Dr. Strachan, we may say, that in person he was under the average height, and appeared still shorter from a slight stoop; his frame was evidently robust, though not stout; his blue eye was clear, and his complexion fair, fresh, and bright, a fine proof of a healthy old age. There was not much dignity in his bodily presence, and even his episcopal costume gave him little of the aspect of the priest; but he looked like a well-preserved old gentleman, and a shrewd man of the world,—as he was. In his personal habits he is said to have been very abstemious,—he worked hard all his life long, and enjoyed work,—he was full of indomitable pluck, and could enjoy a hearty laugh. It was a sign of the buoyancy and boyishness of his nature, that he used to go about the streets whistling, of course, unconsciously. In his speech, he was incurably Scotch, and Aberdonian at that, pronouncing "glorify," for example, as "glawrifee,"—and yet he thought he had got rid of the dialect entirely, and used to quote his own example to his students, in proof that an early habit of that kind could be overcome, saying these very things in the broadest Doric all the while! Strange example of the capacity for imposing on himself that is often found in a very clever man.

In 1778, at Aberdeen in Scotland, and of poor parents, John Strachan was born. His father died when he was young, and as soon as the son completed his education at the University of Aberdeen, at nineteen years of age, he assumed the support of his mother and sisters, by taking charge of the Parish School at Kettle, Fifeshire. He was on the point of being appointed assistant to Professor Brown in the department of Natural Philosophy, Glasgow University, but the arrangement was not carried into effect. In 1799, when only twenty-one years of age, he was invited by Col. Simcoe, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, to organise and superintend a University in that Province; but upon his arrival, after a tedious voyage, he found that the Governor had returned to England, and that no provision had been made for his support or work. At this point, a Montreal tradition relates that he could have had a call to the Kirk Congregation in St. Gabriel Street, but was dissatisfied with the remuneration offered. So far he was a Presbyterian, though not educated for the ministry of the Church of Scotland. In the family of Mr. Cartwright, of Kingston, a lay-member of the Church of England, he found a hospitable home, as well as congenial employment in the education of that gentleman's sons. There, also, under the direction of Rev. Dr. Stewart, he prepared himself for "holy orders," which he received from the Right Rev. Dr. Mountain, Bishop of Quebec, in May, 1803. It is an interesting circumstance, and comforting to other beginners, that he felt exceedingly agitated on preaching his first sermon. Upon his entering Priest's orders, in 1804, he was appointed to the mission at Cornwall, where he also took charge of a grammar school, at which the late Chief Justices Robinson, Macaulay and McLean, and other Provincial celebrities, were among his pupils. He also performed a good deal of missionary work in the surrounding country. In 1812 he was appointed to the Rectory of York (as Toronto was then called), and continued to reside in this city for the remaining fifty-five years of his life. In 1825 he became Archdeacon of York, there being then but one Bishop over the whole of Canada, Dr. Mountain of Quebec. In 1839 the Diocese of Toronto was constituted, and Dr. Strachan became its first Bishop, holding the office till his death.

In the good old times of Colonial government, when legislative and executive material was scarce, the chief ecclesiastical and legal authorities of a colony