

The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

Reddite quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari: et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22: 21.

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REV. FATHER PATRICK DOWD.

The Reverend Patrick Dowd was born in 1813, of respectable and well-to-do parents, at the inland village of Dunleer, County Louth, Ireland, and is consequently seventy-four years of age. From his earliest childhood he was remarkable for his piety, and his heart continually burned with an ardent desire to give his life up in the service of God. His good parents were not slow in noticing this, and immediately sent him to pursue his classical studies at Newry college, after which the young ecclesiastic was sent to study theology in the Irish college at Paris. In 1837 he saw his fondest hopes realized, and was ordained priest by the Archbishop of Paris, Monseigneur Quelen.

The young priest returned to his native land soon after his ordination, and pursued his priestly functions for ten years in different sections of the country. In 1847 he joined the illustrious order of St. Sulpice, of which he is to-day one of the most esteemed members, and in 1848 he bade an affectionate farewell to the green hills of his beloved Ireland and set sail for distant Canada. After a long passage, Father Dowd landed in Montreal, a very small town at that remote date, and immediately after entered upon his ministerial duties in connection with St. Patrick's Church. For nearly forty years this distinguished clergyman has been working assiduously for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the people of St. Patrick's parish, as well as for the Irish citizens in general throughout the city, who have known him so long and so well.

The year after his arrival in this country, Father Dowd founded the St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum, which is to-day a splendid monument to the untiring devotion and charitable instincts of the aged priest. St. Bridget's Home and the Night Refuge were established through his energy in 1865, and the present commodious Home and Refuge on Laganchetiere street, built in 1866-67, and the handsome building known as the St. Patrick's School. Such are the buildings which owe their inception to the man whom his admiring countrymen have more than once designated Montreal's Irish Bishop.

There is, perhaps, no man in Montreal or throughout Canada who is better known and esteemed by all classes, irrespective of creed or nationality, than the venerable pastor of St. Patrick's, Rev. Father Patrick Dowd. His long residence in Montreal and his innumerable works of charity in the cause of religion have resulted in his name being closely interwoven with the history of the country.

Father Dowd has been repeatedly offered the highest dignities of the Church, but has always declined them, preferring to remain with his St. Patrick's congregation rather than wear the mitre—the Sees of Kingston and Toronto having been offered to him.

In 1877 he organized the great Irish pilgrimage to Lourdes and Rome, and everyone can recollect the painful anxiety that was felt when the vessel carrying the pilgrims and their beloved pastor was not heard of for several agonizing weeks. Prayers were offered in all churches without distinction of creed, a

pleasing proof of the high appreciation in which the esteemed pastor is held by even those disbelieving in Catholicism. Father Dowd has more than once earned for himself the gratitude of his fellow-citizens by the loyal stand he has taken when the law of the land was menaced or when constituted authority was set at defiance, and his utterances on Sunday last in St. Patrick's church on the subject of the coming visit of the Irish delegates, which we have printed elsewhere in this issue, fully shows that he is as alive now, as ever, to anything that would tend to the disintegration of his flock. It was not surprising that the occurrence of the 50th anniversary of his elevation to the priesthood should give rise to such widespread feelings of congratulation, and occasioned the donation to him of so many tributes of respect from all classes of the community, both lay and clerical, Protestant and Catholic.

The magnificence and the grandeur of this jubilee celebration in May, 1887, was a fitting testimonial of the esteem in which he is held. That day will long be remembered by the citizens of Montreal, and more especially by the Irish Catholic worshippers at the shrine of Saint Patrick. It was truly a great day, great for the city because its celebration called forth

Christian sentiments of brotherly love amongst all classes and creeds in the community, evoked by a feeling of admiration for a lifetime spent in the practice of heroic virtues; great for those specially committed to the charge of the venerable Pastor whose Jubilee was being held because of the magnificent results it has already produced and those that are likely to flow from it in the early future.

To-day the position of the Irish Catholic community of Montreal and its vicinity is one of influence, power and prestige. The assessment rolls are evidence of the interest they command to the extent of millions of dollars. Their hold on commerce and manufactures, their representation in the Judiciary, in the Senate and Commons of the Dominion, in the Local Legislature, at the Aldermanic board, in the various offices of trust and moment connected with public affairs and their place in the learned professions,



by men of their race and creed, leave no room for cavil. Census returns are scarcely needed to establish numerical strength, when not only the throngs that worship at St. Patrick's from early morn until noon at the successive masses, but the congregations of Saint Ann and Saint Anthony, Saint Gabriel and Saint Mary may be viewed every Sunday, and are the living evidence of how the Irish Catholic population of this great and growing city have increased and multiplied and preserved the inestimable boon of the faith of their fathers.

The Irish Catholics of Montreal will ever look to St. Patrick's as the great centre towards which all their general interests converge. Animated by the zeal and formed in the school of the venerable pastor, others will, in God's own time, be found to carry out the broad and comprehensive policy he has so wisely devised; but Heaven grant that the day may be far distant when our people shall be deprived of the inestimable benefits that are daily being conferred upon them by Father Dowd.