#### PASTORAL VISITATION.

Bishop O'Conner in Muskoka and Parry Sound.

Unndred and Three Candidates Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation Twenty Contects Amongst the Number-Addresses of Welcome Presented to His Lordship Progress of the Missions.

The love and devotion of a Catholic people to their bishops and priests have endured above all others in the hearts of the fatthful children of the Catholic church, whicher in the old land in times of religious persecution or in their peaceful bomes scattered over the free soil of Canada. At no other time, perhaps, is this devotion more clearly shown than when a prelate in the discharge of his efficient of the discharge of his efficient peaceful between the other through the various missions of his discess to bless his faithful people.

his diocese to bless his faithful people.

His fordship Bishop O'Connor of Peterborough during the past three weeks received evidence of this innate love and devotion from his Catholic people throughout the Muskoka and Parry Sound district. Two weeks ago last Friday the Rev. Father Fleming met His Lordship at Orillia and accompanied him to Parry Sound. The Rev. Father McGuire and a number of Catholic people were at the wharf awaiting the Bishop's arrival to extend to him a hearty welcome. The Hon, Judgo McGurry, who had been personally acquainted with His Lordship since their early college days together, was on hand to escort him to his residence, whose guest he was during his visit.

CONFIRMATION ADMINISTERED.

CONFIGURATION ADMINISTREED.

The following Sunday St. Petor's Church was thronged with people, some of them coming a distance of fifteen miles, including many Protest. ants, to witness the coremonies. After the offering of the Holy Sacrifice His Lordship delivered an instructive discourse on the Gospel of the day, which was listened to by the large congregation with earnest attention. Then the sacrament of Confirmation was administered to 81 candidates.

At the end of the ceremony Mr. Robert Clarkson came forward on be half of the congregation and presented his Lordship with an address, which gave expression to the kindly feelings entertained by the people towards their bishop. He in a few earnest words thanked them for the warm reception they had tendered him and expressed the great satisfaction he felt to be with them even for a short time on his visitation. In the evening his Lordship presched on the sacraments as the great means of acquiring grace and set forth in a lengthy discourse how necessary they are for the salvation of souls.

Much credit is due to the members of the choir, who acquitted thomselves admirably both morning; and evaning, and helped in a great measure to bring to a successful close the happy event, which will long be remembered by the people of Parry Sound.

On Monday his Lordship, accompanied by Rev. Fathers McGulre and Flaming, set out for Edington, McMurrich and Monteith, and after confirming the candidates of these places, arrived at Kearney on Wednesday evening. Though the forenoon of Thursday was chilly and made disagreeable by a downpour of rain, yet the people braved the inclemency of the people braved the inclemency of the people of burden was afairly filled, and after the holy Sacrifice was offered his Lordship addressed the people at considerable length on the dignity of man and the high place he holds over all creatures, and the orwan of joy awaiting him hereafter if he remain althrul to God. Then confirmation was conferred on 21 candidates.

Friday evening His Lordship acri includy both morning and evening in the people of Parry Sound. On Monday His Lordship, accomined by Rev. Fathers McGuire and ming, set out for Edington, Merick and Monatoth, and after coming the candidates of these places, it was a comming the candidates of these places, it was a chilly and made disceedible by a downpour of rain, yet people braved the inclemency of weather, some of them coming me before the other people of the control of the common of the was a first of the control of the common of the was a first of the control of the common of the morning the candidates of the safety Blied, and a repetition of the same work. He was the common of the morning the candidates of the control of the contro

on of hands and invoking the Holy Spirit, 48 candidates were confirmed in the faith.

ADDRESS OF VELCOME.

After the ecromony was over a committoe representing the congregation advanced towards the aitar and presented the Bishop with an address Mr. Jos. Clairmont read the document, which heartily welcomed his Lordship to the parish. The large area of the musion, comprising above a adding much to the Bishop s labors in visiting so wast and so sparely-settled a portion of his diocese. The prespective of the parish was attributed to the unceasing labors of the priests in charge, who have hed many long, tedious journeys to perform in visiting and instructing their faithful people, scattered over such a large oxient of torritory. The great success of the Tomperance Society and the O.M.B.A. under Father McGuiros direction, and of the Society of the Sacred Heart under Father Fleming's care, was brought to the Bishop's notice. The address referred in warm terms to the above, both mentally and physically, which the chief pastor of the dioces was called upon to undergo in the faithful discharge of his duties, and hoped that the signs of progress in religion he may meet with in that portion of the mission might be a source of gratification to him and be in some measure a reward for the account of the many trials and inconveniences he had to endure on his pastoral visit, and concluded with an expression of an ardent desire that the Almighty may long spare the life of the beloved Bishop for the carrying on of God's work, with a request of the Prelate's blessing upon his flock.

In replying to the address, His Lordship referred to the high satisfaction it alforded him to visit a people so feligion, appointed to watch over their spiritual welfare. He was especially pleased to note the progress made by the Temperance Society, the C.M.B.A. and the League of the Sacred Heart.

After devotions in the ovening His Lordship preached on the Biessed Sacrament and Penance, and explained in detail the nature of these scare by sin after baptiem. Then followed the Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament, which happily terminated the day's proce

THE PENINGULA AND ROSSKAU.

the Church, he exacted from thom, as from all the others confirmed, a promise to abstant from all intexacting liquors until they attained the age of 2t and from those over-that age for the tean of three years. He also, as on the other occasions of confirmation, rominded the endidates in kindly terms of the obligation they were under, now more than ever, of practising, their religion; exherted them to always correspond to the graces they that day received in the sacrament; to be ready at all times to make open profession of their fatth, and if necessary even to die for Christ.

The Lordship was highly pleased with the thorough manner in which the children at Bracebridge and the various missions throughout the parish had been propared and instructed and the carrell attention that had been paid to them by those in charge.

parish had been prepared and instructed and the careful attention that
had been paid to them by those in
charge.

A carefully prepared address, which
was to have been presented after Mass,
had to be dispensed with by reason of
the lengthy ceremonies and the excessive heat. His Lordship accepted the
address as read, and expressed his
gratitude for the good will and tender
feelings of the congregation. He had
no doubt that the true spirit of religion, which he had evidence of that
day, as well as elsewhere on the mis
sions, would in the future, if possibly,
be more deeply rocted in the hearts of
the peeple, and thus living up to the
practice of 'heir holy religion, they
would not only be faithful members of
the Ohurch, but an ornament to
society as citizens as well. The choir
rondered with good effect Peter's Mass
in D, with Mrs. Hubert presiding at
the organ. Mrs. Bonhomme was in
fine voice and sang Milard's "Ave
Maria" at the Offertory.

At the ovening devotions the Bishop
precached a masterly sermon on the
commission given by Christ to His
Church and gave them full authority
to go and preach His dootrine to all
nations.

During His Lordship's visitation
confirmation was given at twelve different places, whon 203 candidates,
amongst whom were about twenty
converts, received the sacrament.
His Lordship's visit to the parish
closed on Monday and he returned to
Peterborough by the 2.30 train.

JOSKPHUS.



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