

ornament and the key stone? To be sure, that God who selected humble fishermen as his apostles and the contemptible and ignoble things of the world to confound the strong; that God who, out of the stones on the highway could raise children to Abraham, may bring him if He will; but humanly speaking, who is there among us that can hopefully look forward to the avenir for any such contingency.

Before I conclude this last portion of his interesting and eventful life, there is one incident more to which I must briefly refer, and which for the honour of Ireland, as well as of Halifax, I think ought not to be omitted on an occasion like the present. I allude to the honourable and distinguished part taken by him in the memorable controversy held in the Palace of the Vatican, in Rome, immediately before the definition of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother of God. In further proof, if proof were needed, of his varied and profound learning, and that conscious power within which was sure to be evoked whenever the occasion presented itself; at a moment when two hundred of the most distinguished scholars of Christendom, and the united wisdom of the Church, met face to face Dr. Walsh was one of those very few Prelates who took a leading part in that discussion, which must for evermore form one of the most brilliant pages in the history of the Church. In the Vatican at Rome, as in Ireland, and in the pulpits of Nova Scotia he taxed his powerful mind to the utmost in sifting every objection and bringing every imaginable argument to bear in favour of the Immaculate Conception of her whom he loved as a mother during his whole life, and whose name and praises were still lingering upon his purpled and quivering lips as they were being closed in death, and only one moment as it were before his pure and beauteous soul was presented at the tribunal of her Divine Son.

Consummatus in brevi explevit tempora nulla. (Wis. c. 4.)
 ("Being made perfect in a short space he fulfilled a long time.") His end like his beginning was the work of God in behalf of his chosen servant, a marvel and edification to all who witnessed it. In his death there was nothing whatever of the worldling. There was neither surprise nor regret at being prematurely taken away; there was no untimely remorse for