

"Sir John Thompson: a Study;" I do not think I exaggerate when I claim that this essay is the fullest and most accurate estimate of our dead Premier ever written. In his youth and early manhood, Mr. McKenna contributed to the *Charlotte-town Herald*, *The Catholic Review* and *The Catholic American*, the two latter of New York city. The pages of the *Ave Maria* and the columns of the *North-West Review*, of St. Paul, Minnesota, severally owe one well-reasoned paper to his pen. He has been generous to *THE OWL*, as he ever has been to any Catholic publication, or cause, that requests the benefit of his useful aid.

Besides essays and historical studies, Mr. McKenna is also the author of several scholarly papers which were read by him before various notable assemblies. For example, he read a paper on "The Outlook in Canada," in Columbus Hall, New York, at the convention of the Apostolate of the Press. A paper on "Catholic Tolerance in Irish History," read before a meeting of the Ottawa Catholic Truth Society, is carefully prepared and possesses permanent interest and value. A short paper by him, entitled, "A Neglected Field," which was read before the St. Vincent de Paul Society, led to the foundation of the Ottawa Branch of the Catholic Truth Society.

Mr. McKenna is now in the full vigor of his prime and he has prepared us for surprises. But the volume of his work is already considerable. It is well done, and gives promise of more and better. He has his own way of regarding men and things. He has been, and he ever will be, nobody's docile pupil. He has disciplined himself well in thinking and observing, and his eye and ear are naturally quick and true. When he is not looking with his own peculiarly independent gaze at the world of to-day, which we call politics, or the world of yesterday, which we call history, it is nobody less than

inspired scriptural writers that have lent him eyesight; he being an assiduous reader of the Bible and nearly as assiduous in his advocacy of its reading by others. History is his favorite field, however, and historical inquiry and comparison his favorite occupation. To Clio he proffers his kindest smiles, and that the partiality is accepted and returned everything which he has written of a historical nature bears eloquent testimony. His style is clear and direct, being merely the verbal reflex of a powerful and well-cultivated intellect. Everywhere you will find good thought and earnestness wrought closely into the fibre of his work, but not enough of either to bar his way to a wide popularity.

With the name of Mr. McKenna, my roll-call must cease for the present, although my list is not nearly exhausted. If nobody demur during the interval, I shall be most happy to continue the enumeration so soon as leisure and occasion permit. Precisely when this may be, I am not sufficiently cognizant of my own future or the requirements of this journal, to tell. "It may be for long and it may be forever." But it may also be for short. I cannot say exactly. However, should events hinder me from returning to my theme at all, it is pleasant to contemplate that not a single reader will be mortally affected by the deprivation. Be this as it may, I can honestly urge one plea at least for what I have done in addition to the disinterestedness of my motive. Although my method of expression may be inferior to my subject, as I have a haunting suspicion it is, I find a certain consolation in reflecting that no reader can treat me with a ringing of his most clamorous "chestnut-bell;" for however clumsy the handling may be, all must allow that the material itself is not vapid.

MAURICE W. CASEY.