

all the good which a heart like his desired. His zeal, notwithstanding all the difficulties he had to encounter in the course of his studies, did not in the least abate, but rather increased. It soon became manifest that the young Priest devoted himself so faithfully and successfully to his calling, that he endeared himself to all who had a knowledge of his labors. He did not fail to attract, before many weeks had elapsed, the attention of the Sulpician community; and, at the earnest solicitation of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, Bishop Cheverus allowed him to remain to administer to the wants of the Irish Catholics, who were emigrating to Canada, and fixing their abode at Montreal. According to Father Taylor, already mentioned, he merely "departed to complete his studies in the Seminary of Montreal, and "had Bishop Cheverus' expressed permission to aggregate himself to "the Sulpician community there." On the 21st day of November, of the same year of his ordination, he was received as a member of St. Sulpice, and he remained attached to the community and serving the Irish congregation for nearly seventeen years, until shortly before he was called to the Episcopacy.

Here we enter a new epoch in Father Phelan's life—when he has to take charge of an important station, the duties of which he fulfilled with untiring zeal and ability. His own virtuous conduct and his instructions and preaching enabled him to organize the Irish congregation. The happy results of his labors are still visible at Montreal, where he was universally esteemed, for he may be said to have sown there the seeds of a healthy Irish Catholic community. When not in the pulpit or confessional, or instructing the children, he was found on some duty of charity; but always preaching to his people by example. At the same time we must not forget that it was not owing solely to his own strength or ability that he was so successful in the ministry, or that his exertions were crowned with such fruit. It was Almighty God who blessed his labors, and produced the desired results, for Father Phelan gave himself frequently up to prayer, to that end, that God would shower down His graces on His people. His confidence in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary was such (as I may have occasion to show hereafter), that we cannot but infer that he constantly placed his congregation under her pious protection; for it required more than ordinary aid to bring about the reformation in morals which took place in the city during his time. As for recreation—it may be said to have consisted in visiting the lukewarm Catholic, or the aged and distressed, and by depicting the judgments of God against the negligent and careless, he would arouse the one, whilst by words of consolation and tenderness, he would sustain the others. All this time he had his eyes over the youth, and frequently collected them together to be instructed in the Christian doctrine, and prepared for their Holy Communion. Their improvement in their conduct may be said to have had a happy influence over the parents, so much so, that it attached them more to their priest, and tended to draw them to the instructions, thereby creating in their souls a relish

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