

# The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

VOL. II.—No. 45.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1894.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

## EDUCATIONAL BEGINNINGS.

### The Early Days of St. Michael's College.

#### The Late Father Vincent.

The host of attached friends left to mourn the sad and almost irreparable loss sustained by the whole community in the death of the late Very Rev. Father Vincent will during the present



VERY REV. J. M. SOULERIN, C. S. B.,  
First Principal of St. Michael's College.

week and month unite their supplications with those of the pupils and professors of St. Michael's College. The cherished memory of so kind, so patient, so generous and so gifted a superior will long retain its vernal freshness in the hearts of hundreds, mayhap of thousands.

It would be hard to mention the city or district in this Province or in some of the neighboring States where prominent men among the laity and clergy are not found who owe their training, it may be their vocation, to the zeal and foresight of the late Father Vincent. As President of St. Michael's College he was father and friend to all those who entered as pupils within its hallowed precincts. During twenty-five years of successful administration he wrought assiduously and unceasingly in the field of Catholic education for God's greater glory, for the honor of the Church, and for the progress and welfare of all those entrusted to his loving care. Four years have now elapsed since the day of his sad demise, but his name is yet held in gratified recollection by all who knew him, and anxious prayers are wafted to Heaven's throne for eternal rest to his gentle soul.

Very Rev. Father Charles Vincent was born in April, 1828, at Vallon in the South of France, department of Ardeche. He and his sister, who afterwards became a nun of the Order of the Presentation, were the only children of well-to-do and pious Catholic parents. At the age of twelve Charles was entered as a pupil of the College of Aubenas in the same department, which was, at that time, as it is now, under the management of the Basilian Fathers. In that preparatory seminary he mastered the classics, finished his humanities and rhetoric, and was transferred to the Mother House at Annonay where, at the age of twenty-one he became a novice of the Order and prosecuted the studies of Natural Philosophy, Logic and Theology under the celebrated scholars

and scientists Montgolfier, Aeteric and Deglesne.

Annonay in Ardeche, a city of 25,000 souls, about 70 miles south of Lyons, is noted as the birth place of many inventors and men of science. Among others the Montgolfier brothers are known the world over as the inventors of the air balloon and for the excellence of their paper mills, which furnish all Southern France and several cities in England and America with note paper of the highest quality and most delicate tissue. Alphonse, nephew of the great inventor, received a most liberal education and was sent to England to make particular note of the latest improvements in all kinds of machinery. Being religiously inclined however, he paid more attention during his travels, to the structure of the churches and the internal discipline of monasteries than he accorded to the manufacture of paper or the structure of bridges. On his return to his native city, he obtained the consent of his pious parents to enter the college of Annonay and study for the priesthood.

When a member of the order of St. Basil, he with Father Aeteric, author of "Origine du bien et du mal," and Father Tourville, uncle of the late Father Soulerin of St. Michael's College, laid deep and broad the foundations of the Basilian Institute, then in its infancy, but now a grand educational centre with several branches in France, one in England, Plymouth; one in North Africa, Algiers; and two in this Province, Assumption College of Sandwich and St. Michael's of Toronto.

In the Mother House at Annonay Rev. Father Vincent had just finished his theological course when letters came from Bishop de Charbonell of Toronto urgently requesting that a staff be sent out to lay the foundations of a Catholic College in the Queen City. Rev. Father Soulerin then prefect of studies, having some knowledge of English, was selected by his uncle, Rev. F. Tourville, at that time Superior, to undertake the mission. He chose for assistant Rev. Father Malbos and made a proposal to Mr. Vincent, who was a novice, but not yet in Holy Orders. The latter objected that he was totally unacquainted with the English language, but added that if Mr. Flannery, an Irish student, then studying theology in Annonay, would consent to be his companion, he would volunteer his services for the Canadian mission. The consent of the latter obtained, all four left Annonay for Toronto on the 2nd August, 1852. Mr. Flannery, however, had, two weeks previously, obtained permission to visit his native land, which he had not seen for a period of eleven years, and returned to Havre de Grace on the 6th August, whence all set sail, the day following, on the American Line Steamer, *Franklin*.

Toronto was reached late in September, where Bishop de Charbonell gave hearty welcome to the Rev. founders of St. Michael's College, of whom two were ordained priests and two ecclesiastical students in Minor Orders. As no college existed, a house was rented for the purpose on Queen street east about two doors west from the corner of Church street. The staff consisted of Rev. Father Soulerin, Superior; Rev. Father Molony, Pro-

fessor of belles lettres, Rev. Father Malbos, bursar and professor of Greek; Rev. Mr. Flannery, professor of humanities, and Rev. Mr. Vincent, master of studies.

It should have been mentioned that two years previously, Bishop de Charbonell had, on his way from Rome, where he was consecrated by Pope Pius IX., spent a few days at the College of Annonay, his Alma Mater, and had secured the help and companionship of Rev. J. Moloney, a member of the Order. The latter was a native of the Diocese of Killaloe in Ireland who, after completing his ecclesiastical studies in the Irish College, Paris, obtained permission to attach himself to the Order of St. Basil in France and afterwards, as said above, accompanied the Bishop of Toronto to this city, where he was appointed Archdeacon of the Diocese and Dean of the Home Missions, and where for several years he was distinguished for piety, eloquence and striking amiability of character.

Among the first pupils who entered the University in embryo on Queen street, were Mr. Richard O'Connor, now Bishop of Peterborough; Mr. D. O'Connor, now Bishop of London; Mr. M. Ferguson, now of Assumption College, Sandwich, and Mr. Geo. Northgraves, author of "Mistakes of Modern Infidels" and Editor of the *Catholic Record*.

When a six months' lease of the house on Queen street had expired, the infant college was transferred to the new extension of the Bishop's Palace on Church street afterwards known as St. Vincent's Chapel, and remained there until, with the assistance of the late Captain Elmsley, who donated the site, and with funds sent from the Mother House in France, besides the contributions raised in the Diocese then embracing Hamilton and London, the foundations were laid of St. Basil's Church and St. Michael's College as they now stand on Clover Hill. The important and costly additions since made in no wise interfere with the plan conceived and executed by Rev. Father Soulerin, who was both scholar and architect.

The subsequent history of Rev. Father Vincent is soon told. He and Mr. Flannery were ordained priests by Bishop de Charbonell in St. Michael's Cathedral on the 23rd May, 1853, which day happened to be in that year Trinity Sunday. After the return of Father Malbos to France in 1860, Father Vincent was appointed economer or bursar which position he held until Rev. Father Soulerin five years later on was elected General of the Order at Annonay. Father Vincent then became Superior of the Order in America and President of St. Michael's College.

Nor were his responsibilities limited to college work. He was chosen by the late Archbishop Lynch to be member of his Council and Vicar General of the Diocese. In the faithful performance of his many arduous duties he gained friends every where by his quiet demeanour, his admirable patience under severe trial, and his charity that made no distinction of persons, and that knew no bounds. After a protracted illness which he bore with saintly resignation, he died on the 1st November, 1890, and was interred on his feast day (St. Charles Borromeo) 4th Nov. Archbishops Walsh and Cleary were

present in the sanctuary, also three of his former pupils who are Bishops respectively of Peterborough, Hamilton and London. All the priests of the Diocese and several from the neighboring Dioceses testified by their presence their unwavering devotion to Father Vincent. St. Basil's was crowded with worshippers of every condition in life, the very poorest mingling with Toronto's wealthiest citizens, for all felt under some obligation to the deceased priest and benefactor either for sage and saving counsel given in time of trouble, or for charities bestowed in the hour of need.

Rev. Father Vincent left his mark, and a luminous one on the pages of Church history in this Province. During a quarter of a century his whole being, mind, heart and physical energies were employed without rest, we might say without earthly reward, in the delicate and difficult task of training boys to be men and men to be saints.

That he succeeded, not in every instance it is true, but in measure and numbers even beyond his fondest anticipations, must be acknowledged by all. His pupils occupy the first rank in the professions in every city in Canada, if not all bishops or priests, they are almost without exception, firm and devoted Catholics as they are intelligent and honorable citizens, reflecting credit on their Alma Mater, and the Church to which they belong.

#### Leo XIII. Speaks.

The conferences at the Vatican relative to the proposed union of the eastern church with the Holy See opened on Wednesday, Oct. 24. The Pope presided. The sitting was devoted to fixing the order in which the matters to be considered shall come before the conference.

The Pope made a speech to the delegates. After praising all who had helped bring about the conference, he said:

"We wish that all governments alike had embraced this grand ideal, inasmuch as the work, if achieved, will be for the interest and benefit of the entire world, but political views, and, still more, we regret to say, the unreasonable jealousies of some of the governments, which show in what condition the Papacy is placed, have prevented these reunions from having the large and solid results rightly expected from them.

Above all, we must lament the absence of the patriarch of the Armenians. We shall not on that account, however, recede from our purpose, and, even if we can count only within certain limits on political union, nothing will prevent us from solving the grand problem from the religious side while awaiting more propitious times for the rest of the work."

Mrs. Celeste Cocc, Syracuse, N. Y. writes: "For years I could not eat many kinds of food without producing a burning, excruciating pain in my stomach. I took Parrelco Pills according to directions under the head of 'Dyspepsia or Indigestion' One box entirely cured me. I can now eat anything I choose, without distressing me in the least. These Pills do not cause pain or griping, and should be used when a cathartic is required.

Mr. W. C. Edwards, M. P., has sent a sympathetic letter and a subscription of \$100 to the Champlain Monument Committee at Quebec.