

The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

Reddite que sunt Cesaris, Cesaris; et que sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22: 21.

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ST. BASIL'S NOVITIATE.

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY.

Imposing Ceremonies.—Blessing of Corner-Stone. —Sermon by His Grace the Archbishop, etc., etc.

ON April 30th we gave a sketch of this institution, whose corner-stone was laid Sunday, May 8th, Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph. Seldom have we had the pleasure of witnessing more imposing ceremonies or a larger gathering of Catholics and church dignitaries. Any better day for an out-door ceremony could not be devised, and nearly every Catholic home in Toronto must have been represented at the new building. A few minutes before three o'clock the various societies, who had formed for a procession in the College grounds, moved forward in the following order: The College Band, led by Rev. J. J. Guinane and Rev. A. Martin, followed by about one hundred and fifty students of the College. Then came the Knights of St. John, St. Alphonsus Society Irish Catholic Benevolent Union, Celtic League, Emerald Beneficial Association and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Between the long lines of the procession rode the clergy and citizens in carriages in the following order: Rev. Fathers Walsh, DuMouchelle, Hayes, Lamarche, O'Donohoe, Ryan, Granottier, Frachon, Mr. W. J. Macdonell, Knight of the Order of St. Gregory; Rev. Fathers James Walsh, McBrady, Murray, Teefy, Cushing, Vicar-General McCann, Vicar-General Rooney, Fathers Flannery, Marijon, Provincial of the Community of St. Basil, His Lordship the Bishop of London, His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto; the Christian Brothers and prominent Catholic citizens. On the grounds were also Dean Cassidy and Father Cherrier. The procession must have covered over a mile, and was one of the most orderly demonstrations we have ever witnessed. Everybody moved forward with the order and precision of a soldier's parade. When the building was reached the Bishop of London, vested in pontificals, began the ceremony of blessing the corner-stone. The chants were sung by the clergy and students of the college. As the procession of ecclesiastics passed round the building offering prayers and singing psalms the scene was very impressive, and the whole assemblage looked on in silence and with deep interest. When the corner-stone was declared "well and truly laid" His Grace the Archbishop ascended the platform erected in front of the building. As soon as his venerable form was seen above the heads of the surpliced ecclesiastics an unbroken silence settled down on the vast multitude. Every ear was bent forward to catch every expression His Grace should utter, and every available vantage ground was eagerly seized so as to hear the better. Though we have tried we have not been fortunate enough to secure any authentic report of His Grace's eloquent words. With the master hand of the artist he dealt with his subject, and made an impression on his audience which was exhibited in strong expressions of conviction and approval. He dwelt on that question which to-day, perhaps more than any other, exercises the mind and claims the attention of the rulers of at least two continents, Europe and America, "Who shall educate our children and how shall they be educated?" It was a vital question, on which the Church cannot and will not be silent. To educate the intellect without at the same time educating the heart was a false system, it was the education that brought ruin to the Roman Empire. It was the system which is to-day covering the face of Europe with atheists and freethinkers and scoffers at religion and authority, no matter in whom centered. It was the

system which has given to society its most dangerous elements, before which the thrones of Europe were trembling. Hence the Church of God regards a false system of education as one of the greatest of evils, and hence, she is prepared to make any sacrifice rather than yield up her right to superintend the education of her little ones. Thus in the neighboring Republic, when the State refused to pay over Catholic taxes for the education of Catholic children, Catholics hesitated not. They paid one tax to the public schools, as the law compelled them to do, and then willingly put down their hands into their pockets and paid another tax to educate their children in the Catholic school. Were circumstances such as to require the same sacrifices here in Canada he was sure neither priest nor people would be found wanting. They would do their duty towards their children no matter how great the sacrifice. The Church teaches that religion and education go hand in hand. No other system can possibly succeed.

The church was accused as the enemy of education. That accusation was false. To her Europe owed its most famous seats of learning. Oxford and Cambridge, the great universities of France, Spain, Germany, Italy, that for long centuries were the centers of light and fountains of knowledge for all Europe, were the creatures of the Catholic Church. In the novitiate, whose corner-stone had just been laid, young men would be trained and prepared to continue the work St. Michael's College and the Basilian Fathers had been doing for nearly forty years in this province. He wished the institution every success. There were before him some of the old pupils trained by the Basilians who would say a word after he had finished. He would ask Father Flannery, who had been long acquainted with the Basilians, to make a few remarks. His Grace urged the friends of the good work to be generous in their contributions. He knew the generosity of the people of St. Basil's parish, and he felt convinced they would second the efforts of the Basilian Fathers. When His Grace had closed his remarks Fr. Brennan thanked him in the name of the Community for the active interest he had all along taken in the novitiate. To-day this interest had assumed a very substantial form—His Grace had subscribed one hundred dollars to the building fund. The Bishop of London also subscribed one hundred dollars. This announcement was warmly received and must have influenced other offerings as the collection was quite generous.

Fr. Flannery humorously remarked that he had good reasons to be well acquainted with the Basilian Fathers. They had taken him into their mother house at Annonay when his own country had driven him out. Later on he was one of the pioneers whom France sent to Canada to found St. Michael's College. Of the five who then came four had gone to their reward. Step by step he traced the progress of St. Michael's from the first beginnings on Queen street to St. Vincent's chapel, thence to the present site on Clover Hill. Not only was St. Michael's College able to do its own work, but it had also sent out offshoots which were as prosperous and successful as itself. The founding of the novitiate was the most important work yet. It was the cradle of the community. The Basilians had done much for this province and the neighboring republic. He saw around him to-day representative men who were mere boys when St. Michael's College began its work, and who owed to it their present positions of distinction. He was one of the staff of the College when Bishop Dowling of Hamilton, Bishop O'Connor of Peterborough and his own Bishop of London began their college course. He looked for a bright future for the novitiate, and hoped it would have a most successful career.

Dr. Cassidy had followed with interest the progress of the Basilians in Canada since he had entered St. Michael's a mere boy. But for the fact that the Basilians had settled amongst them in Toronto many of them would certainly not have had

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