

The Catholic Weekly Review.

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

Reddite quæ sunt Cæsaris, Cæsari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22: 21.

Vol. V

Toronto, Saturday, June 6, 1891.

No. 17

THE CONVENT OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD.

The Community of the Precious Blood was founded at St. Hyacinthe, P.Q., on the 14th Sept. 1861, by Mons. Jos. La-Rocque, Bishop of Germanicopolis, and Culti Aurelia Caonette in religion, Rev. Mother Catherine Aurelia of the Precious Blood. The religious of this community lead a contemplative life and the end and aim of their Institute is to glorify the Precious Blood, shed for the salvation of souls, to honor Mary Immaculate, to offer constant adoration to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to pray and immolate themselves for the conversion of sinners. Their life is in a special manner a life of reparation. They live in perfect seclusion from the world and their time is divided between prayer and manual labor. Several hours of the day are devoted to prayer, meditation, recitation of the Divine Office, &c.

From an early hour in the morning until the hour for retiring to rest at night, the sisters keep up a constant adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and at midnight they rise to spend an hour in prayer and reparation before the Tabernacle. To gain their daily subsistence, much of their time is employed in making church linen, vestments, mortuary habits, altar breads, &c., &c. In the year 1869 they were invited by the late Archbishop Lynch to establish a branch of their Institute in the Archdiocese of Toronto and began their mission in St. Mary's Parish of this city. Here they remained two years and then removed to St. Basil's Parish, occupying a house on St. Joseph St. for some years. They opened a novitiate in 1879 and on account of the number presenting themselves for admission they were obliged to seek a larger residence. In the year 1871 they removed to 113 St. Joseph st., where they have now been for ten years. Owing to their extreme poverty and leading a

life hidden and almost entirely unknown to the world, they have not had a regular monastery in Toronto, and at times they have scarce been able to obtain their daily subsistence. However kind Providence has inspired some charitable persons to assist them, and by their alms and the constant labour of the Sisters, they are enabled to gain a livelihood. Still trusting in that Providence which has never failed them in the past, and relying on the charity of their friends and benefactors, they have undertaken to enlarge their monastery and build a new chapel, so that they may fully adopt the strictly cloistered life in accordance with their holy rule and the last approbation of His Holiness Leo XIII. They are now residing at No. 18. St. Joseph st. where they will remain for some months until the completion of their monastery.

The new front addition of the building, the corner stone of which was laid last week by His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto, assisted by His Lordship Bishop O'Mahony and a number of the clergy, will be 73 ft. long and 32 ft. deep. In the

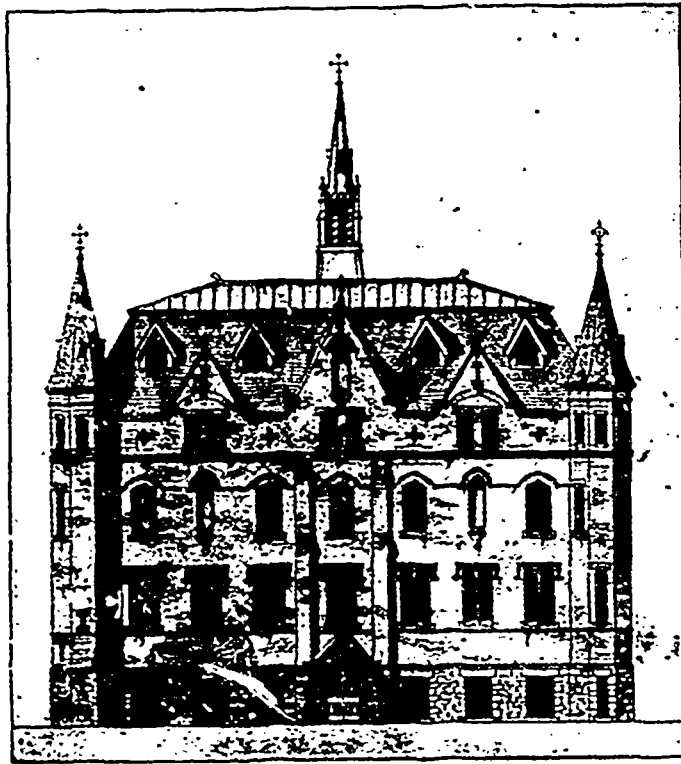
basement will be a spacious Refectory for the nuns, and Reception Parlors; and on the ground floor the chapel and sacristies. The first floor is taken up by rooms for ladies who wish to make a retreat at the Convent, and the upper floors of the whole building contain the nun's cells (or sleeping compartments).

The work will be carried out in the late English Gothic style, the materials to be used being red brick with stone dressings.

The present building will be raised one storey, and the interior remodelled throughout, so that, when finished, the whole will form a complete and perfect conventual institution.

The contractors are Messrs. John McGlue (masonry and brickwork &c.) M. A. Pigott (carpentry) and M. O'Connor (Painting and glazing). The Architects from whose plans and under whose supervision the work will be carried out are Messrs. Post & Holmes, Manning Arcade, Toronto.

It is estimated the building will be ready for occupation about Nov. 1st. next.



CONVENT OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD, ST. JOSEPH ST., TORONTO

DEATH OF CHIEF JUSTICE DORION.

SIR ANTOINE AIME DORION, Chief Justice of Quebec, died at his residence in Montreal on Sunday morning. The Chief Justice was stricken with paralysis on Friday, and hovered between life and death until Sunday, when he passed peacefully away. All the surviving members of his family were with him when he died, and he retained consciousness until the end. A short before death the last rites of the Church were performed and the Chief Justice appeared to be much consoled. He spoke cheerfully to the members of his family and to his son-in-law, Mr. Geoffrion, Q.C. One of last requests was to ask the nurse to raise him up in bed so that he might converse more freely with his family, and he expired in the arms of his nurse. The Chief

Justice literally died in harness. He was most assiduous in attending to his judicial duties, and although he was frequently urged to retire from the bench on account of his advanced age, he persisted in doing as much work as any of the other judges. There will be but one feeling amongst the members of the bar and the public generally, that by the death of Chief Justice Dorion the bench of the Province of Quebec has lost its most distinguished member, and that the Dominion has to mourn one of her most distinguished men, whose name will live in Canadian history. It is a remarkable coincidence that Sir Antoine Dorion, like his great political antagonist of former years, was stricken with paralysis almost at the same time as Sir John Macdonald. The news of Sir John's condition was carefully kept secret for fear it might hasten the end, and the Chief Justice passed away without knowing that the Canadian Premier was also at death's door.

The interment took place on Wednesday last, Archbishop Fabre officiating at the funeral ceremonies.