

on this idea, he left no stone unturned to secure a commutation of the sentence—going frequently to interview Lord Lisgar, the Governor General, on the subject. The prisoner was a friendless Irish Catholic, and had no claims upon the priest save that of being a fellow creature in distress. Father Dawson could not save him, however, and at the appointed time, he was duly executed. The other case was that of a personal friend—the late Mr. W. L. Gane, known in the annals of literature as “The Lowe Farmer”—who lay at the point of death. Mutual friends urged Father Dawson to visit Gane, but as the sick man was a Protestant the former, with that nice appreciation of the circumstances I have previously touched upon, hesitated and held back. At length word came that Gane was *in extremis*, and then putting all other considerations aside, the Father no longer hesitated. In relating the circumstance to me, he said: “I just went to the door of the room, and looking in, saw our poor friend Gane in his bed all propped up with pillows. I waited until I caught his eye, and then, without entering farther, I said to him: ‘Oh! Mr. Gane, have faith in God—put your whole trust in God!’ He nodded his head in assent, and I knew that he had heard me.” Then, who has not heard of his personal exertions as President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. It was acts of kindness, of gentleness, of mercy such as these which made the old man’s life beautiful and blessed, and that doubtless led my friend Robert Haliburton to observe to me, that when he should himself be *in extremis* there was no one he would sooner have near him at that supreme moment than Father Dawson. But I must hasten with what remains to be told. After the departure of the troops, Father Dawson resumed his duties at the Palace, and later, was appointed by the late Bishop Guiges, to be parish priest of Osgoode, in succession to the well-known Celtic scholar, the Rev. Thomas O’Boyle. Here he remained for eight years, and as he had a comfortable presbytery and was surrounded by a prosperous, intelligent and contented people, I take it he was reasonably happy. Indeed, I am sure of the

fact, judging from the tone of his letters to me. Writing July 16, 1873, he says: “Should I miss you on coming to town, the only remedy will be that you come to spend a few days with me in the country. My notions about town and country are far from being Canadian. They are rather *homespun*, and to many people must appear so in more senses than one. I hold to them, however, and would have everybody brought to believe that there is more enjoyment as well as more elegance and refinement in rural abodes than in crowded cities. *Nobis placeant ante omnia sylve.*”

No doubt, the leisure he now enjoyed was turned to good account in more ways than one, and we probably owe to it the preparation of one of his masterpieces: “*Pius IX and His Times*” On examining the list of his works in THE OWL for June, 1892, it will be seen that he contributed to literature a very large number of translations, essays, poems, histories and critical writings, many of which are of great value and merit. His literary fame, as I have said elsewhere, will not unlikely rest upon the work first named, and upon “*The History of the Catholics of Scotland*,” and his “*Temporal Sovereignty of the Pope*,” the latter of which was highly eulogised in the London press by one of the Wilbertforces. Dr. Dawson wrote with elegance, force and vigor, and he had the power of compressing an immense amount of research into a small compass. On looking over some of the papers which have come into my possession, as his literary executor, I find among his early poems one on the massacre of Oszmiana in Lithuania, which he was induced to write by a friend of Poland in 1844. Although the lines were intended merely as an expression of sympathy with the unfortunate Poles, the late Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart, then the vice-president of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland, deemed them of sufficient importance to indite a letter of thanks to their accomplished author. “The Christian and truly noble sentiments,” writes His Lordship, “with which this short poem is replete, and the vigorous and poetic language in which it is expressed, fill me with admiration, and I determined to take the liberty of conveying to you