

The Church in Canada.

Under this heading will be collected and preserved all obtainable data bearing upon the history and growth of the Church in Canada. Contributions are invited from those having in their possession any material that might properly come for publication in this department

CHURCH CONSECRATIONS.

CEREMONY AT THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART,
TORONTO. SERMON BY REV. FATHER NOLIN,
OF OTTAWA.

The new French church, on King street east, known as that of the Sacred Heart, was consecrated on Sunday afternoon last, the 7th inst., with imposing ceremonies, and in the presence of a large assemblage. The altar had been tastefully arranged, and was set off to the best advantage by a well devised distribution of floral wreaths. The walls were partially covered with symbolical and allegorical pictures, and with shields and banners of cloth, on each of which was wrought a Latin inscription, while the ceiling was festooned with immense strips of cloth in red, white and blue. The preliminary ceremonial commenced shortly after 3 o'clock, at the close of which Very Rev. J. M. Laurent, administrator of the Archdiocese, blessed and consecrated the building by sprinkling holy water on the walls. Rev. Father Nolin, of Ottawa, O.M.I., congratulated the French congregation in a few appropriate words, after which he delivered a sermon in English, speaking from the words "Behold thy Mother." He said that the occasion was an imposing and auspicious one. The church which had now been consecrated had changed its destination. Therefore they had all reason to be thankful that they enjoyed the advantages of and belonged to the one true Church of Christ. The Scriptures, the writings of the Fathers, and traditions, all pointed to the Roman Catholic Church as being the one true representative of Christ and His Apostles. It was necessary to perpetuate the religion of Jesus Christ that there should be a visible Church on earth, and the distinguishing marks of the Catholic Church, Catholicity, apostolicity and union, were the essential qualifications of that Church. The Catholic Church in order to maintain that position must be able to trace its origin back to the Apostles, and the fathers and ministers of the Church must be able to prove their credentials, and teach what the Apostles taught. And, as Peter was the chief of the Apostles, it was necessary there should be a succession of men to perpetuate his doctrine. This had always been done by the Catholic Church, by a continuous chain of Popes, up to the last, the glorious Pope Leo XIII. Never has the Church done away with the least truth entrusted to Peter or his successors. The true Church had to be Catholic, as Catholicity meant universality, and the Roman Catholic Church answering to that description her doctrine must be in time spread throughout the world among the rich and poor, the high and low. The rev. father then spoke of the Church's unbounded charity, of its works of unity, of its holiness, as exemplified in the celibacy of the fathers, in the devotedness of the sisters, and in the relics of the saints and martyrs of the Church. He asked the congregation to extend their sympathy to those outside the pale of the Catholic Church who did not enjoy the same privileges which they did, and implored them to have a deep veneration for the holy mother Church.

Rev. Father Rooney gave a brief account of the progress of the Catholic religion in Toronto during the past twenty years.

Vespers were commenced in the evening at half past seven, at which Rev. Father Nolin addressed the congregation in French.

The congregation was established about a year ago, and has continued to prosper ever since. The newly acquired building cost \$12,000, \$3,000 of which has already been paid. The building has a seating capacity for 800.

CONSECRATION OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BELLEVILLE

The fine new church of St. Michael's, at Belleville, was consecrated by His Lordship, Bishop Cleary, at Belleville on Sunday last. The church is 140 feet in length by 62 feet wide, in the pure Gothic style of architecture, with aisles and clear storey. The walls are of limestone, rock faced, and with dressed stone about the doors and windows. In the gable of the front of the building is a large rose window seventeen feet six inches in diameter, of cut limestone, and below it an arcade of Scotch granite pillars and niches for statues. The spire will be built to a height of 175 feet, at a cost of \$20,000. The seating capacity of the building is for 900 persons. The church, as it stands, cost \$50,000; when finished in the style desired, the amount will be swelled to \$80,000.

The Belleville Mission was founded in 1825 by Rev. Father Brennan, under direction of the Rt. Rev. Alexander Macdonell, then Bishop of Upper Canada. In the year 1857-8 the stone church, now about to be removed, was erected.

The dedication services began at 11.30. Bishop Cleary, with a company of priests, blessed the building, after which the multitude was admitted to worship. High Mass was celebrated, and the Bishop read from the 7th chapter of Chronicles, and prefaced his sermon with:—"Thanks be to God, that He has enabled us to erect this house without accident to the workmen. Thank God not only for the material edifice, but for the spirit of unity, of faith, and of charity, for it was because the people possessed these virtues that the building had been erected. He thanked God that the charity of brotherhood was not confined to the Catholic brotherhood of the city; that others, although separated by creed, had given of their substance to aid in the construction of this magnificent temple of the living God." The congregation was largely composed of Protestants.

THE EDITOR OF "LA VERITE" IN IRELAND.

The first of M. Tardivel's letters from Ireland appeared in last week's numbers of *La Verite* and the *N. Y. Freeman's Journal*. M. Tardivel proposes making a careful study of the Irish Question, and the letters of the distinguished Canadian writer deserve to be carefully followed.

CORK, Sept. 17th.

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with your request and my promise, I undertake, though with no little diffidence, to lay before your public my impressions on Ireland and the Irish Question during this my first visit to the Emerald Isle. I am very well aware that the aforesaid impressions have, in themselves, but very little importance, and can throw no new light whatever on one of the greatest social problems of modern times. I was induced to pen these hurried and unstudied lines by the thought that perchance they might, if not instruct, awaken a certain legitimate curiosity in the minds of your readers. It is the first time, if I mistake not, that a French Canadian journalist visits Ireland with the intention of writing somewhat at length, in his own paper and language, upon a subject of all-absorbing interest to the sons of Erin, the present state of the Irish Question. What such a journalist may think and say upon the matter can have, for you and yours, no other merit than that of novelty; but it might possibly have that one merit. That is my excuse for writing.

I first set foot on Ireland yesterday, the third Sunday of September, the Feast of the Seven Dolors of Our Blessed Lady. I was forcibly struck by this coincidence when, after the half-past seven o'clock Low Mass, at the Queenstown Cathedral, the celebrant, in a short, pithy instruction, made a touching allusion to the sufferings of the Irish people—sufferings which he legged of his hearers to render meritorious and worthy in the sight of God, by uniting them with the sufferings of Our Divine Lord and of His Holy Mother.

I only spent a few hours at Queenstown, most of which time I was busy writing letters that I wished to send off by the out-going steamer. I did, however, take a stroll